



Network in NIAGARA



The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) and Professional Surveyors Canada (PSC) are proud to announce that the ninth National Surveyor's Conference will be held from June 19 to 21, 2013 in the beautiful Niagara Falls, Ontario at the Crowne Plaza Hotel!

The annual golf tournament will be held on June 18 at the Thundering Waters Golf Course with a stunning view of the falls.

To open our Conference we are lucky to have keynote speaker Summer Mortimer (shown left), a Para-Olympian swimmer who won four medals at the London 2012 Games! Summer will share with us her life experience which is an inspiring story of courage and determination.

We have put together an exciting program, which includes:

- **HDS and Mobile LiDAR**

This seminar is designed to talk about High Definition Scanning and Mobile LiDAR and the technology used in both in practical terms including the project planning, the setting of survey control, the point cloud data collection and the subsequent data modeling.

- **“Recruiting the Best and Brightest”, facilitated by Professional Surveyors Canada (PSC)**

This Interactive National Forum is part of a larger advocacy based initiative to share best practices, identify challenges, and inform regarding initiatives which will enable our community to recruit, support, and retain the best and the brightest to a career in surveying. The workshop will include presentations by expert panellists, panel debates on specific topics, and interactive discussion between panel and participants.

- **Third module of Getting it Right**

Preparing for Field Work
In the Field
Documenting the Results in the Field
Back at the Office

The two first modules are available on the GeoEd Distance Learning postal at: www.geoed.ca

- **The Role of the Canada Lands Surveyor in Marine Surveys**

The role of CLSs in marine surveys in the offshore, the inshore and inland waters
The equipment and techniques that CLSs use in marine surveys
How do we get it right?

- **Surveying on Parks Canada Lands**

What are Parks Canada Lands?
Legislation, Regulations, Administration and Policies
Requirements for Surveys on Parks Canada Lands
Survey and Title issues
Surveys Projects
Rouge National Urban Park

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- **Search for the Franklin Expedition**

Andrew Leyzack, CLS will present his story on last summer's search for the lost ships of Sir John Franklin's 1845 mission, a vast project involving various government agencies and private industry focused on finding the "Erebus" and the "Terror" in the waters off King William Island in Nunavut.

The engaging accompanying persons program will include:

- Hike around beautiful Niagara Parks trails
- Journey Behind the Falls and Maid of the Mist tours
- Shopping at Canada One Factory outlets
- Trip to Queenston to see the Butterfly Conservatory and explore wineries
- Excursion to gorgeous Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Conference will end with a Gala dinner on June 21, where we will be presenting new commissions and the David Thompson Awards, celebrating excellence in the field of geomatics! For more information on the David Thompson Awards, please see here: <http://www.acls-aatc.ca/en/node/27>.

Register here at <https://www.acls-aatc.ca/en/register/conf/register!>

Summary of Council Meetings

September 18, 2012: Go to Meeting

- Council approved the recommendation of the Board of Examiners that a Canada Lands Surveyor Commission be offered to Guillaume Dubé.
- Council discussed the changes to the bylaws and legislation that would be needed if a hydrographic certification program was put in to place.

October 9, 2012: Go to Meeting

- Planned enhancements to MyCLSS were approved.

November 15 and 16, 2012: Face to Face Meeting

- Council accepted recommendation of the Complaints Committee to forward Complaint Case 12-01 to the Discipline Committee.
- Council discussed changes to the legislation that would potentially streamline the complaints and discipline process and open discipline hearings to the public.
- Council moved that candidates for a CLS commission with an AOLS commission no longer be required to write an additional hydrographic surveying exam.
- Council approved the report to the Minister.
- Council decided that an electronic voting system would be used as a test at the 2013 AGM.

December 11, 2012: Go to Meeting

- Council approved the recommendation of the Board of Examiners that a Canada Lands Surveyor Commission be offered to Shawn C. Klimchuk and Manjit S. Sangha.
- Council rejected the proposed changes to the current discipline process that would merge the Complaints Committee and Discipline Committees.

January 29, 2013: Go to Meeting

- Council discussed their concerns with Regional Groups having the ability to send letters to government on ACLS letterhead without Council's prior knowledge.
- Council discussed the proposed changes to the complaints and discipline process.
- Council accepted the recommendation of the Complaints Committee to dismiss Complaints Case 12-02.

February 25, 2013: Go to Meeting

- Further discussions on the proposed changes to the Complaints and Discipline process.
- Council discussed potential changes to the membership categories to accommodate any certification processes that the ACLS puts into place.
- Council approved the holding of a face to face Board of Examiners meeting at the Conference in Niagara Falls.
- Council received the report of the Nominating Committee.

Executive Director's Notes

New CLSs

Congratulations to the following people who were awarded a CLS Commission since the last issue of *Communique*:

- Robert Brent Seymour, Victoria, British Columbia
- Guillaume Dubé, Québec City, Québec
- Shawn Cory Klimchuck, Fort St. John, British Columbia and
- Manjit Singh Sangha, Vanderhoof, British Columbia.

Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD)

The ACLS Mandatory Continuing Professional Development bylaw section came into effect on January 1st, 2011, so all ACLS license holders have to accumulate at least 45 hours of relevant CPD over the three year cycle ending on December 31st, 2013.

It is mandatory for all licence holders to report every year using the on-line MCPD Tracking System available on the ACLS Web site. Those licence holders who have not yet entered their CPD activities for the year 2012 will have their licence revoked on May 1st, 2013.

Modernization of the Manual of Instructions

The SGB is presently working on major changes to the Manual of Instructions for the Survey of Canada Lands.

The new instructions should be in place by next summer, so there is not much time for consultation with the ACLS membership.

A PDF file containing a summary list of changes has been reviewed by the ACLS Standards of Practice Committee who decided that further consultation should be done with the grassroots membership by way of upcoming regional group meetings. A meeting of both the Yukon and Ontario regional groups was held in February. This will be repeated at the March meeting of the British Columbia regional group and the Alberta one in April.

All members who are interested in getting a copy of the list of changes should get in touch with me and I will e-mail it out.

Complaints and Discipline

The ACLS received two complaints in the year 2012. Both were dealt with in January.

Complaint case number 12-02 was dismissed for lack of evidence and case number 12-01 was dealt with during a hearing of the Discipline Committee held on January 25th, 2013. The Canada Lands Surveyor was found guilty of professional misconduct. A summary of the decision was posted in the member's only section of the ACLS Web site in the Publications portion of the Tool Box.

ACLS Web site

The ACLS Web site was built in the year 2009 with the 5.7 Drupal content management system. We have had issues with the old CMS for a while and we decided to go ahead with migrating the web site to the Drupal 7.

In addition, the electronic voting system is being added. So the next Council elections will be digital through the ACLS Web site.

Don't forget to join our list of [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) followers and share the stories with your friends.

Jean-Claude Tétreault, CLS, a.-g., P. Eng., MBA
Executive Director

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David Thompson Awards



Celebrating excellence in the field of geomatics in Canada, the David Thompson National Geomatics Awards was introduced in the winter of 2006-2007. The program was developed in cooperation with Professional Surveyors Canada (then Canadian Council of Land Surveyors).

The next awards will be presented to winners during the Gala Dinner at the upcoming National Surveyors Conference in Niagara Falls, Ontario on June 21, 2013 for the following categories:

- Innovation in Geomatics
- Contribution to Society
- Unusual Applications in Geomatics

Deadline for submissions: April 1, 2013

For more information about the David Thompson Awards, and the application process, please see [here](#).

GeoEd



GeoEd is a collaborative program that seeks to include all provincial and federal surveying associations in Canada to promote accessible continuing professional development. The initiative was conceived and developed by the ACLS (Association of Canada Lands Surveyors) when it recognized the need of a national portal for CPD. ACLS continues to maintain the portal in what will hopefully become a cooperative effort to share resources and expertise towards the development of national learning.

GeoEd is mainly used as an online system for course delivery. Courses on a wide variety of topics are available at your fingertips! These courses can consist of live interactive webinars, or be self-study with recorded video and other digital materials. Surveyors are able to sign up for any course and complete it at their leisure.

Currently available through GeoEd is a course that focuses on How to do Business with the Federal Government, 10 modules of Offshore Property Rights, Natural Boundaries, and Getting it Right. Although some of these courses require payment, GeoEd offers some of the courses for free! New courses are always being developed and added, and GeoEd monitors the forums for suggestions posted by members. Some upcoming courses to watch out for are: Field Notes, Expert Witness, and Business Law.

Another part of this initiative is a forum that anyone can register in at www.geoed.ca/forum. Here you can search by jurisdiction to find seminars that are happening near you, as well as post upcoming ones for others to find. You can chat to professionals across Canada about seminars you have attended and what sort of seminars you would like to see in the future. Using the forum ensures that every person can have a voice in how future CPD opportunities develop!

GeoEd exists to help surveyors succeed, but it will need surveyors from across the country to participate if it is to become a truly national resource. Join a discussion in the forum! Talk about an amazing course you've been on! Take an online course to advance your continuing professional development credit!

We are glad to announce our Registered Providers!

- ABCLS
- ACLS
- ALSA
- AOLS
- Four Point Learning

GeoEd is the tool that surveyors across Canada will use to make educational opportunities as easy and accessible as possible. Please visit GeoEd at: www.geoed.ca

Tribute to our volunteers

Our volunteers do the bulk of the work for the ACLS and do not get the recognition they deserve.

In this issue, we want to highlight the contribution of both the Standards of Practice and Practice Review committees who look after documenting CLSs high standards and making sure that they are respected.

Standards of Practice Committee

The purpose of the Standards of Practice Committee is to provide clear, effective, and up to date standards in respect to all disciplines for the ACLS membership. To achieve this purpose, the Committee:

- Identifies issues that require General and Technical Standards of Practice
- Maintains and updates the ACLS Practice Manual (PM)
- Promotes the use of the Practice Manual by the membership
- Liaises with Surveyor General Branch on matters related to standards and the maintenance of the PM & the General Instructions for the Survey of Canada Lands.

The Committee is currently working on standards for survey reports and for GPS based surveying. It is also monitoring the updating of the SGB Manual of Instructions.

The chair of the Committee is Julia Meldrum Smith who runs a private practice called Meldrum Surveying Ltd. in Cornwall, Ontario. The remaining members are:

- The ACLS current President, Ivan Royan, a partner in Underhill & Underhill and a director of Underhill Geomatics Ltd., based in Kamloops, BC
- Calvin Bourassa, Branch Manager with Altus Geomatics in Saskatoon, SK
- Kyle Harrington, Project Surveyor with GENIVAR in Dartmouth, NS
- Chris Bunker, licensed surveyor with T. A. Bunker Surveying in Gravenhurst, Ontario
- Katie Munroe owner of Highland Geomatics in Whitehorse, YT
- David Young, Project Manager in the Land Survey Department with Stewart, Weir & Co. Ltd. in Sherwood Park, AB
- Sylvain Lelièvre, Senior Land Surveyor, Cadastral services East, Surveyor General Branch, NRCan in Ottawa, ON.

Practice Review Committee

The purpose of the Committee is to monitor the running of the ACLS program of review of surveying activities and provide advice and assistance to the Practice Review Manager in all matters pertaining to practice review. The Committee was also involved in the design and implementation of the ACLS electronic checklist system which is available through the MyCLSS portal. Since implementation of MyCLSS, the Committee oversees the enhancement of the electronic checklist system.

The Chair of the Committee is Rob Pinkerton, Project Manager, Can-Am Geomatics in Calgary, AB. The remaining members are:

- Current ACLS Vice President, Estelle Moisan, Partner responsible for the Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures branch of the firm Groupe VRSB and she is also the firms' Secretary Treasurer. She is based in Québec City, QC.
- Caroline Anderson, Project Manager at Eclipse Geomatics & Engineering Ltd. in Calgary, AB
- Doug Dodge, past chair of this committee, owner and President of Exton and Dodge Land Surveying Inc. in Williams Lake, BC
- Martha Burchat, Senior Surveyor, Cadastral services East, Surveyor General Branch, NRCan in Ottawa, ON.
- Gordon Gamble, Manager, Practice Advisory Department, Association of BC Land Surveyors

Our Practice Review Manager, Jim Gunn provides invaluable help to both committees

In the name of all ACLS members, we wish to thank each member of both the Standards of Practice and Practice Review committees their hard work and guidance.

ACLS Practice Review Conducts E-Checklist Audits.

Since the recent implementation of the new MyCLSS collaborative website and its electronic checklist process, the number of plans being rejected by NRCan dropped dramatically. NRCan continues to review each plan for what it considers "critical issues" but after that, the overall quality of the product and its adherence to the General Instructions (e-edition) is now left to the profession.

ACLS Practice Review has been mandated to conduct random audits on these products based on a minimum of one plan per member per year. 125 of these special e-checklist audits have been completed to date. About 30% of the audits resulted in "positive comments" while the other 70% prompted various recommendations for plan construction, use of digital seals, legend notes, georeferencing, redundancy etc.

When a plan attracted a number of comments an annotated plan much the same as the old "marked up copy" was sent to the member for future consideration. Following each audit the member was asked to provide feedback to the association through a brief on-line questionnaire. So far, feedback has been very positive.

Along with the changing roles of ACLS and NRCAN in the plan checking process, some clients are taking a much more active part in the management of their lands. Therefore more emphasis is being given to producing plans that are more “user friendly” to the client and to the other non-technical people who may have occasion to use them.

A simple example is to show perpendicular offsets from improvements to nearby boundaries rather than showing a table of angles and distances to the improvements. Another example is to show less traverse information on the plan that might simply confuse the client. Key plans are also a great help for anyone trying to locate the property for the first time.

Thanks to the e-checklist and the cooperation of the members, the rejection rate on first submissions to NRCAN had dropped to about 25%. This number is still too large of course but many of the members are still on the learning curve. Next year should see that number cut in half or even lower.

MyCLSS Critical Issues

Since the implementation of the ACLS checklist in August 2011, over a thousand checklists have been created by ACLS members. Approximately 700 plans associated with those checklists have been received by SGB.

With the introduction of this new checklist practice, the Surveyor General has implemented a revised review process to ensure the quality of plans being recorded in the CLSR. A “Critical Review” is now performed by SGB staff using a list of 28 items deemed to be critical for a plan to be acceptable for recording in the CLSR.

Since the implementation of the ACLS checklist and the SGB critical review process, the percentage of plans being rejected prior to recording has dropped from 80% to 27%.

In an effort to increase the quality of plans being submitted and to decrease the number of plans being rejected, an assessment of the three most common critical issues occurring to date has been completed. The ACLS is asking members to pay particular attention to these three items as part of their regular plan review and before submitting a final plan for recording to the CLSR:

3 main issues (critical issues):

1. New parcels are adequately described geographically: Occurrence 11%

In the title, parcels must be adequately described geographically. Examples of descriptors include 1/4 section, township, range, meridian; concession, grid area, quad, block, community name, subdivision, Indian Reserve and National Park names; Province etc.

This also includes having the legal description of an underlying parcel affected by limited interest properly addressed in the title.

Example: *Right of Way over lot xxxx*

2. All boundary dimensions shown including curve data: Occurrence 11%

On the face of the plan, all dimensions and direction of a segment of lines or boundaries of the lands dealt with must be properly shown as well as the dimensions and directions of tie lines to adjacent monuments or posts. When dealing with curves, the chord and its direction must also be shown.

3. Acceptable digital file of survey: Occurrence 10.5%

Digital file (dwg) and txt file (where necessary) must comply with Appendix E5 of the General instructions. Digital files with significant errors or problems will be rejected as a critical issue.

Particular attention should be paid to:

- File naming specifications
- Digital file report information
- Spatial information contained in the digital file must match information shown on the plan
- Grid distances and bearing in the digital file must match those on the plan
- Digital file must be properly Geo-referenced
- Acceptable layer names

- Structure
- No topological errors (overshoots, undershoots etc.)

Use of the CLS professional designation

The title “CLS”, or “Canada Lands Surveyor”, is reserved to individuals who hold a CLS commission and who are members in good standing of the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS).

Until recently, the only pre-requisite to being able to use the title “CLS” officially was the possession of a CLS commission. However, section 25 (1) of the Canada Lands Surveyors Regulations was amended on December 6, 2011 to say that the right to use the title “CLS” is possessed only by those who both hold a CLS commission and are current members of the ACLS.

Many will be surprised to learn that, unlike other professions, in the past CLS’s did not have to be members of the ACLS to be able to use the professional title. However since December 2011 this is no longer the case.

ACLS Elections

The Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend the following Canada Lands Surveyors for the membership’s consideration as candidates for the following positions on ACLS Council in accordance with section 6.1 (2) of the General Bylaws. The official list is as follows:

- a) For the position of President: **Estelle Moisan**, a.-g., CLS, Québec City, Québec
- b) For the position of Vice President: **Gord Stark**, CLS, MLS, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- c) For the position of First and Second Year Councillor:
 - Tania Bigstone, CLS, PEILS, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
 - Tim Martin, CLS, ALS, Medicine Hat, Alberta
 - Lorne McNeice, CLS, Morden, Alberta, and
 - Joe C. Iles, CLS, Whitehorse, Yukon

Section 6.2 (1) of the General Bylaws states that the Registrar will accept other nominations for the various offices by any member eligible for election, if received at least 35 days before the Annual General Meeting. The nomination must be signed by six voting members and accompanied by a written consent signed by the candidate. The next Annual General Meeting will be held on June 21, 2013. So according to the Bylaws, the Registrar must receive the nominations no later than May 17, 2013. Please visit the ACLS Web site for the General Bylaws sections on the election process.