

Association of Canada
Lands Surveyors



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON
DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

Association of Canada Lands Surveyors



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Introduction

The **Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS)** is the national licensing body for professionals that practice surveying on Canada Lands, which are mainly the three Canadian Territories, the National Parks, First Nations Reserves, and including above and below the surface of Canada's oceans. The exclusive title attributed to these professionals is that of a Canada Lands Surveyor (CLS).

The *ACLS 2023 Annual Report* was produced digitally, with printed copies available upon request. Additional information about our team and what we do is available on our website acls-aata.ca.

We encourage the public to check out our website and social media accounts for information available publicly via our social media accounts including LinkedIn, X, and Facebook.

Should any of the links in this year's Annual Report fail to lead you to the correct web page, please visit the main page of our [website](https://acls-aata.ca) and search by specific interest or contact us directly for assistance.

To obtain a printed copy of the *ACLS 2023 Annual Report*, please submit a request by email to communications@acls-aatc.ca or contact us by telephone at 613-723-9200.

Ce rapport est également disponible en français. Veuillez nous contacter à l'adresse communications@acls-aatc.ca pour recevoir ce rapport en français, sous forme numérique ou imprimée.

Executive Summary

In 2023, the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) continued to successfully fulfill its objectives under the Act; to regulate and govern the practice of surveying on Canada Lands and private lands in the territories, for the protection of the public interest.

ACLS members and stakeholders feel strongly about the need for action to support Indigenous communities and the work of Canada Lands Surveyors. Recognizing that reconciliation requires constructive action on addressing the legacies of colonialism, ACLS is committed to an ongoing process of reconciliation by undertaking a long overdue review of the 94 recommendations within the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*. ACLS has also begun the work of developing tools for staff and members including *Guidelines for Land Acknowledgements and Protocols for working with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and other Indigenous Community Leadership and Members* and a new Terms of Reference for an *Indigenous Youth Engagement Task Force*. Work on these initiatives will be led by Council, through the ACLS *Indigenous Relations Steering Committee*. During its annual in person meeting in late 2023, Council also visited the *National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation* to inform its work and to learn more about the legacy of residential schools, consider the role of surveyors in colonialism and how we can build a pathway forward towards reconciliation through meaningful actions.

Membership attrition and financial stewardship were among ACLS' other priorities for the fiscal year. Despite seven new commissions conferred in 2023, by the end of the year regular membership had declined by 4.2%. However, Council is encouraged by the growth in students registered with the association — an increase of nearly 60% since 2020. Recent initiatives such as the *Towards an Online Degree (TOLD)* project, funded in part by the Government of Canada, and other ACLS labour focused strategies, including robust scholarships for geomatics students and labour mobility supports, are showing signs of success in combatting the supply deficit and increasing access to the education and training needed for new entrants into this labour market.

Operationally, within the context of steeply climbing costs of business and with an operational deficit expected for 2023, ACLS explored and implemented a variety of initiatives to further increase efficiencies and reduce costs, for both the short and long term. Planning for a new website also began, with an emphasis on providing a more public-focused user experience, while delivering increased efficiencies for our members and modernizing and improving our member portal and databases.

On November 1, 2023 a Special Meeting of Members was held virtually, to amend the current Bylaws regarding certain fees and dues. The intent of the meeting was to bring the fees in line with inflation and mitigate potential financial shortfalls in the future -- expected due to the slowly eroding base of regular members. In addition to the fee increases, a Special Levy was proposed by Council to replenish the General Reserves which had fallen below prescribed target levels. The membership approved the fee amendments and the levy proposed by Council — and even went a step further, thus demonstrating their commitment of support for the role of ACLS and its public protection mandate, by tabling and approving additional measures from the floor which reformulated the way permit fees were calculated. The projected outcome of these initiatives will bolster the long term financial health of the organization.

Executive Summary (cont'd)

ACLS' robust Practice Review work continues to show positive findings that demonstrate consistent consultation with Indigenous partners, well-recorded quality control procedures, good business communications, and health and safety protocols continue to be commendable among the majority of members reviewed. Records management challenges related to industry specific software changes or obsolescence were noted. With survey firms increasingly having staff work remotely, and more information and data is being stored digitally, the Practice Review department continues to encourage members to employ protocols to reduce the risk of lost, misfiled, unscanned, or discarded information, in order to maintain good records and ensure future retrieval of data.

While we wait for Parliament to pass Bill S-6 which will introduce much needed amendments to the *Canada Lands Surveyors Act*; the By-laws and Legislation Committee completed their work on a draft of the new ACLS By-laws and Council is in the process of sending the By-laws to legal review. Once this work has been completed, in 2024 a comprehensive bilingual consultation of the draft Bylaws will be undertaken with the membership, stakeholders and the public.



The ACLS office is located on the ancestral lands of the Omàmìwininiwag (Algonquin) First Nation.

Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS)

ACLS is the national licensing body for professionals that practice surveying on Canada Lands, which are mainly the three Canadian Territories, the National Parks, First Nations Reserves, and including above and below the surface of Canada's oceans. The exclusive title attributed to these professionals is that of a Canada Lands Surveyor (CLS).

Mandate of the Association

The mandate of the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) is to regulate and govern the practice of surveying on Canada Lands and private lands in the territories, for the protection of the public interest, in accordance with the *Canada Lands Surveyors Act*, SC 1998, c. 14.

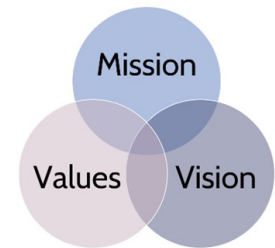
The practice of the ACLS membership is monitored through a practice review process, while professional conduct and competence are held to high standards and subject to investigation and adjudication when called to question. Mandatory professional development, licencing & permitting requirements, minimum insurance requirements and strong Council oversight over the regulatory aspects and association operations, all contribute to the mandate of protecting the public interest.

Who We Are

The Association was created through an Act of Parliament in 1998 bringing full self-regulation to the ACLS through powers of regulation over its members, a clear duty to always serve the public interest and clear governance oversight of the association through its Council.

The current Association is the continuation of the previous Association of Canada Lands Surveyors, namely one established in 1985 to enhance the practice of professional land surveying and related spatial disciplines, through establishing standards of qualification, knowledge, skill, ethics and conduct among its members. This Association was itself the continuation of other ones that existed from time to time since the early days of surveying in Canada.

Today, under the powers delegated through The Canada Lands Surveyors Act, SC 1998, c. 14, (the Act), which is under the authority of the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, as a self-governed professional association and a regulatory body, the ACLS's mandate ensures members are competent in providing the services that society has entrusted to them and to elevate, within the public's interest, the value the profession brings to those reliant on the professional services of our members.



Vision:

Instilling public confidence in the regulation of Canada Lands Surveyors.

Mission:

Remaining true to our mandate, we build trust and mutual respect through strong governance, effective self-regulation and individual proficiency.

Values:

Integrity: We can be trusted to protect the integrity of Canada Lands and land tenure while remaining fair and impartial.

Accountability: We follow through on our commitments and own our actions.

Competence: We are professional, knowledgeable and maintain ongoing competency through practice review and continuing professional development.

Innovation: We keep pace with new and emerging technology, transforming and changing as required to bring the greatest value and efficiency to the general public and our members.

Excellence: We are committed to quality and continuous improvement. We strive toward high performance, setting high standards for our members and ourselves.

How We are Governed

The ACLS Council is comprised of elected members and appointed members of the public. As the governance entity for the ACLS, the Council ensures that all manner of regulatory requirements are approved and monitored for Association admission, member's practice activities, conduct & competency, licensure requirements, investigation & discipline and more.

The Council has ultimate oversight of the ACLS with respect to managing the affairs of the Association, acting on behalf of the Association, regulatory oversight, setting the organization's strategy, managing risk, meeting statutory objectives and being accountable to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources who holds ultimate oversight over the Act.

How we Measure Success

The ACLS is successful and the profession itself succeeds, if through appropriate regulatory standards, member's ethics, and strong oversight, we are able to elevate society's trust and esteem for the profession. We succeed if we meet our objectives in a fair, transparent and just manner.

Welcome to the Land of Surveying

Cadastral Land Surveying involves measurement for the creation of new boundaries or the retracement of existing boundaries between contiguous (or adjacent) parcels of land.

Surveyors apply mathematics, property law and the latest measurement technology to real-life situations. These professionals are enablers of industries that invest billions into the Canadian economy annually. Because of their expertise, land surveyors are required whenever there is a need to establish boundaries of new parcels of land, establish boundaries of tenure on parcels of land or to re-establish these boundaries.



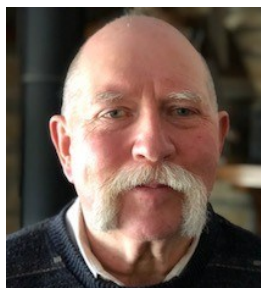
As per Section 6 of the *Canada Lands Surveyors Act*, the objects of the Association are:

- (a) to establish and maintain standards of qualifications for Canada Lands Surveyors
- (b) to regulate Canada Lands Surveyors
- (c) to establish and maintain standards of conduct, knowledge and skill among members of the Association and permit holders
- (d) to govern the activities of members of the Association and permit holders
- (e) to cooperate with other organizations for the advancement of surveying; and
- (f) to perform the duties and exercise the powers that are imposed or conferred on the Association by this Act.

Council Members 2023-2024



MAX PUTNAM
President



ROBERT HALLIDAY
Past President



REID EGGER
Vice President



CHRIS DE HAAN
3rd Year Councillor



ANDREW LEYZACK
2nd Year Councillor



MARYNA HANNA
1st Year Councillor



GORDON MACINNIS
Lay Councillor



ANGIE DERRICKSON
Lay Councillor



JEAN GAGNON
Surveyor General



CHRISTINA NICHOLS
Executive Director

Operational Change 2023

With the retirement of long time Executive Director, Jean-Claude Tétreault, mid-way through the fiscal year and after an exhaustive search for his replacement, in May 2023 Council appointed Christina Nichols to the role of Executive Director and Treasurer. Christina has over 30 years experience in the national not-for-profit and charitable sector, and extensive experience in business development, strategic planning, financial management, national standards, accreditation and credentialling programs. She also has experience in the financial services sector. Christina is a *Certified Association Executive*, a *Fellow of the Institute of Canadian Bankers* (now the *Canadian Securities Institute*), and she has an MBA, specializing in financial services and small/medium enterprise studies, from l'Université du Québec à Montréal.



Board of Examiners

The Board has the responsibility to approve the acceptance of those applying as candidates for a CLS commission.

There are 130 active CLS candidates registered with the Board, including 94 Labour Mobility candidates and 9 foreign-trained candidates (2 of whom are also Labour Mobility candidates).

The following examinations were written in 2023:

Regular CLS candidates wrote 28 examinations, and four obtained commissions. Labour Mobility candidates wrote 28 modules and three obtained commissions.

Commissions Recommended:

In accordance with the Act and Regulations, the Board informs the Council of those candidates who have completed the requirements for a CLS Commission and recommends the granting of a Commission. The Council then offers the successful candidates a Commission.

In 2023, the following persons received a Commission:

Simpson, Bailey	2051	2023-03-16	Yellowknife NT
Skea, Patrick	2052	2023-04-18	Regina SK
Mattrwd, Fares	2053	2023-04-21	Edmonton AB
Foote, Dylan	2054	2023-06-28	Yellowknife NT
Odunaike, Olalekan	2055	2023-09-12	Victoria BC
Khan, Tanya	2056	2023-11-20	Maple Ridge BC
Kattan, Firas	2057	2023-11-20	Edmonton AB

Other Board Activities:

In addition to meeting its obligations for examining Candidates and recommending successful Candidates for a Commission, the Board monitors the examination syllabus and availability of syllabus study materials as well as the bank of questions for online professional examinations. The Board also grades any required projects.

Practice Review

Section 39 of the Canada Lands Surveyors' Regulations reads as follows:

A review of the surveying activities of members of the Association to ensure the maintenance of minimum standards of surveying shall consist of a review of survey plans, documents and drawings pertaining to surveys made by those members, and may include any of the following:

- (a) a field inspection of the work depicted in the survey plans, documents and drawings;*
- (b) an examination of files and other documents pertaining to the production of survey plans, documents and drawings of the members of the Association and permit holders; and*
- (c) a written report of each plan review, field inspection and examination conducted under this section.*

The ACLS set up its Practice Review Department in 2004. Licensed Canada Lands Surveyors who have performed CLS work for the public are subject to review on a three to four years cycle. Some site examinations are usually performed annually in different regions of Canada, at the discretion of ACLS Council. A committee of volunteers provides support to the practice review department manager. If issues come up, the Practice Review Committee will recommend that the ACLS Continuing Professional Development Committee to either present an educational webinar or in person seminar at a national surveyor's conference.

Practice Review Committee

The Practice Review (PR) Committee met virtually five times in 2023 (February, April, June, August, and October). The Practice Review Manager has provided written reports to the committee prior to each meeting.

Some issues that were identified as part of the Practice Reviews were discussed in general terms by the Committee. While 71% of the reviews were exemplary, in approximately 29% of the reviews one or more of the following was noted:

- Field crew did not record everything that was observed, measured and completed.
- Field records were only partially created.
- Field records were not retained.
- No sketch or diagram of the fieldwork was present.
- The member was unable to provide field records in a reviewable format.

Despite being noted as issues, in all cases it was determined that clear and direct communication with each surveyor should be an acceptable strategy to address these deficiencies. The issue(s) per file were not sufficient to provoke additional file requests to the surveyors for review by this department.

Some discussion also centered around statistics related to the number of surveyors that were obligated to revise their checklists over the last 5 years. Approximately 31% of members were required to amend their checklist frequently which means that 25% of their checklists required revision to "A", "B", or "C". It was noted that surveyors that produced very few plans over a 5 year period had no revisions while those surveyors completing a larger number of plans appear to more commonly require revision "A". There are various reasons why a checklist amendment may be required. Occasionally, it is a result of bilingual language conversion but generally it is due to a change in scope by the First Nations client or the Surveyor General Branch, or the introduction of a new requirement.

Practice Review Manager

Regions Reviewed in 2023 were British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Total Council approved budget for 2023 was \$121,220, within which:

- 25 reviews were completed
- An additional 8 files that were received in 2023 were carried over to be completed in early 2024, including 3 files for Alberta, 2 files in Saskatchewan, and 3 files in Manitoba.

These numbers are consistent with some previous years and typical review cycles.

Positive Findings in Reviews:

- Consistent consultation with Indigenous partners, well-recorded quality control procedures, good business communications and health and safety protocols continue to be commendable among the majority of members reviewed.
- The majority of the reviews indicated exemplary procedures by our members.

Issues Identified in Reviews:

- Occasionally findings of instances of poor accuracy in reporting of accurate survey execution dates and the search for and labeling of existing survey evidence; there are some who will show evidence from previous surveys, without confirming it for their current surveys.
- As in past years, there are some members whose field records are either not being created, or are not being retained. The department has identified an apparent difficulty for some members to retain and provide their observational data, possibly due to changes to the software that comes with the equipment. It is hoped that this concern can be addressed with future educational opportunities.
- Survey firms are increasingly having staff work remotely, and more information and data is being stored digitally. The Practice Review department continues to encourage members to employ protocols to reduce the risk of lost, misfiled, unscanned, or discarded information, in order to maintain good records and ensure future retrieval of data and records.

Field Sortie 2023:

Eleven sites were reviewed in First Nation communities in British Columbia. Permission to visit the proposed sites was received. The Lands Managers and clients indicated satisfaction with the work of the members. However, some Lands Managers indicated that some preliminary field work appears to be taking place without consultation; it is not clear if this work was being done by surveyors, or by engineers.

Most sites had very well marked evidence. Some plans neglected to indicate features close to the boundaries, such as fencing. Two sites had significant construction performed after the date of the survey that essentially obliterated the placed monuments.

Scanning and archiving old reviews:

The administrative staff of the department devoted time this year to ensuring that reviews from previous years were digitized and uploaded to ACLS's secured server.

Practice Review Manager (cont'd)

Other Committee Activities by the Practice Review Manager:

- Worked in collaboration with the ACLS Standards of Practice Committee to provide a presentation at the 2023 National Surveyors Conference in Mont Tremblant: “File Retention and Archiving Files”.
- Chaired the Ontario Survey Review Department committee. This relationship with a sister regulator association provides excellent insight and collaboration for our work.
- National and Provincial Practice Review Managers Group: This is a collaborative group consisting of professionals from the 11 surveying regulatory bodies. Meetings provide opportunities for practice review managers from regulatory bodies to discuss common issues and share best practices, thus supporting the objects of the Association 6.(e) to cooperate with other organizations for the advancement of surveying.

Indigenous Relations Steering Committee (IRSC)

The Steering Committee met sixteen times during the year for regular meetings. The Registry Working Group Work continues on developing materials to address the areas of need with regards to the knowledge and use of the three Indigenous land Registries (ILRS/FNLRS/SGFNLRS). There are five working groups addressing the areas identified at NSC 2022.

At the AGM 2023, the following motions from the floor were received that directly impacted the IRSC:

Motion 1: For the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors to consider incorporating a meaningful and respectful land acknowledgement at each AGM. Topic areas could include:

- The Indigenous people to whom the land belongs,
- The history of the land and any related treaties,
- Using past, present and future tenses,
- Using the land acknowledgement as a living celebration of Indigenous communities, and
- Illustrating what concrete steps the association is taking to support Indigenous communities (i.e. work of the IRSC and other committees?)

Action undertaken by ACLS: Developed *Guidelines for Land Acknowledgements and Protocols for working with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and other Indigenous Community Leadership and Members*. A draft was sent to IRSC for review in September 2023. Work is ongoing.

Motion 2: For the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors consider establishing a new committee that would work in co-operation with the Indigenous Relations Steering Committee and the Member Recruitment Committee where the primary focus of the committee is to suggest and implement (with the support of Council) ways to engage with Indigenous youth and Leadership as to increasing awareness of the Association and interest in becoming a Canada Lands Surveyor.

Action undertaken by ACLS: Drafted a Terms of Reference for the Indigenous Youth Engagement Task Force. Draft was sent to IRSC for consideration at the end of September 2023. Work is ongoing.

National Surveyors' Conference 2024 — The IRSC has been hard at work developing a half-day of seminars with a focus on communication and Indigenous perspectives related to the role of land surveyors.

ACLS Membership—The Future is Bright!

While the number of regular members continued to decline by 4% in 2023, primarily due to an aging workforce, ACLS is encouraged by 14% increase in 2023 for students registered with the association. Recent initiatives such as the Towards an Online Degree (TOLD) project, partially funded by the Government of Canada, will serve to combat the supply deficit and increase access to the education needed for new entrants into the profession.

ACLS has committed to the following strategies to help increase the supply of Canada Lands Surveyors:

- * Attracting foreign trained land surveyors (FTLS) from overseas.
- * Engaging youth and liaising with post-secondary schools where possible to ensure surveying is promoted as a career and is supported by curriculum.
- * Leveraging the outputs from the Towards an Online Degree (TOLD) project to increase access to education through online pathways towards a degree in surveying/geomatics.
- * Offering multiple annual robust academic scholarships to post-secondary students to encourage a career in surveying.
- * Engaging with other survey regulators to facilitate and promote labour mobility.

ACLS Membership Statistics

Membership	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Regular members	340	354	377	388	397	396	414
Retired members	94	102	85	89	90	98	79
Associate	11	10	7	7	7	6	5
Honorary Life members	12	12	13	11	11	10	9
Students	137	120	92	86	77	79	58
Honorary members	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	595	599	575	582	583	590	566
Licences and permits							
Licence holders	284	314	305	307	307	327	
Permits	151	148	143	151	150	157	
CLS Candidates							
New Candidates	14	21	18				
Active candidates	123	122	120	105	121	117	

Determining Future Demand for Canada Lands Surveyors

Cadastral surveying and mapping services does not constitute its own industry in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). NAICS 54 captures the Professional, scientific and technical services industry; within it, NAICS 541370 captures the Surveying and mapping (except geophysical) services industry (Ballantyne, 2023). There is no further breakdown for surveying, meaning that it is not feasible to build a demand analysis model using Statistics Canada NAICS data to forecast occupational demand.

While Statistics Canada does provide a wealth of data by National Occupation Code (NOC); however, Statistics Canada definition of "Land Surveyor" is too broad, including non-cadastral surveyors. Working to address to address the NAICS and NOC issues to isolate the data collected about be beneficially to help ACLS and other surveyor regulators to properly forecast occupational supply and demand.

ACLS Stakeholder Survey Feedback

In 2022, ACLS conducted a research study titled “ACLS 2022 Stakeholder Perception Audit”. Near the end of 2023, a **Stakeholder Survey Taskforce** comprised of Council members and staff, considered the consultant’s report, the responses to the 28 multiple choice questions, as well as the open-ended questions, and developed seven strategic recommendations to help us respond to the feedback.

Key Takeaways from the multiple-choice questions:

- ⇒ Stakeholders feel familiar with ACLS and have had multiple points of contact over the preceding 12 months.
- ⇒ For every line of inquiry (overall, services, values, strategic objectives, mandate), stakeholders consistently offer positive and rarely negative views of ACLS performance.
- ⇒ Where favourable ratings are lower, it is almost always due to inability to offer a response rather than actually holding negative opinions.
- ⇒ The vast majority assume they know the mandate of ACLS, but understanding of the socio-economic impact seems relatively low.
- ⇒ With the performance ratings already fairly high, there is limited room for realistic improvement, however, there are some areas where raising awareness may be beneficial and further strengthen the relationship with stakeholders.

Key Takeaways from open-ended questions:

The summary of issues and suggestions from the responses to the Open-Ended Questions provide important insight into the thinking of our stakeholders, however, in some cases, the responses weren’t specific and/or were unclear. The responses can generally be categorized into seven broad themes:

1. Website
2. Path to becoming a CLS/Recruitment
3. Indigenous Issues
4. Education
5. Legislation
6. Communication
7. The seventh grouping of comments can be loosely categorized a ‘Collaboration’, with a few general comments about pricing of ACLS good and services.

Using the data from the multiple-choice questions and the open-ended questions, the **Stakeholder Survey Taskforce** made the following recommendations for Council’s consideration. These recommendations were accepted by Council on September 12, 2023 and work is now underway to address the recommendations.

Recommendation 1

ACLS should establish a Communications Committee to undertake a variety of tasks, including but not limited to:

- Educate members about the role of self-governing organizations and the role of government.
- Provide clear and timely information about legislative changes and requirements.
- Communicate to the public about the role of ACLS and the work of Canada Lands Surveyors.
- Communicate the findings of the ACLS Stakeholder Perception Audit (a.k.a. the Survey) and related actions.
- Consider the design and functionality requirements for a new ACLS website, to create a modern and efficient information portal to better meet the needs of the public, as well as current and future members.

ACLS Stakeholder Survey Feedback (cont'd)

Recommendation 2

Currently inactive, having fulfilled their mandate and completed their assigned tasks on September 9th, 2021, the Recruitment Committee should be reactivated, with new directions from council, to consider the feedback and gaps identified through the survey, including but not limited to:

- Fostering regional opportunities to recruit members
- Leveraging local CLS' to communicate directly with their colleagues, especially youth, at the sister organization AGMs and tradeshow, throughout Canada.

Recommendation 3

“Reconciliation requires constructive action on addressing the ongoing legacies of colonialism that have had destructive impacts on Aboriginal peoples’ education, cultures and languages, health, child welfare, the administration of justice, and economic opportunities and prosperity.”

(Principle #4, Principles of Reconciliation, What We Have Learned: Principles of Truth and Reconciliation. https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Principles_English_Web.pdf).

ACLS should commit to an ongoing process of reconciliation by undertaking a review of the 94 recommendations within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action [https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf] and determine a pathway for ACLS and its members to work collaboratively with Indigenous organizations, communities, and stakeholder groups, to ensure we undertake appropriate and meaningful actions on the TRC calls to action.

Recommendation 4

Members and stakeholders share an array of concerns about actions to support Indigenous communities and the work of Canada Lands Surveyors. Council should share the relevant feedback and information with the IRSC and ask that they share their advice and recommendations with Council, to better address the feedback from the survey.

Recommendation 5

A professional surveyor has the education and experience to meet the needs and protect the interests of the public. The feedback received through the Stakeholder survey was broad and may inform the activities of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Committee. Council should extract and provide relevant sections of the survey responses to the Continuing Professional Development Committee, for their consideration. A response and action plan should be prepared by the CPD Committee, to address the survey results.

Recommendation 6

Council should consider opportunities and strategies for increased collaboration:

- between surveyor regulators, partners, members, and stakeholders
- between ACLS committees and council
- with allied professions

Recommendation 7

Council should ask the Finance Committee to determine appropriate strategies for fees associated with monuments, membership, permits, etc. and consider establishing policies to create stability and consistency for rate increases.

ACLS International Hydrographer Certification Scheme



Hydrography may be related to ACLS for subsea cadastral applications, and used as a tool in defining the extent of the interests in sub-surface land. ACLS is a national, bi-lingual, self-regulated, non-governmental, professional organization which holds jurisdiction over cadastral surveys on Canada Lands, including the offshore, and has the capacity to provide effective administration as the Secretariat Office supporting the national certification model.

In 2023, there were 11 certified hydrographers, 7 more in training, and 2 applications for certification pending. Recently, the Canadian Hydrographic Service made the decision to support the implementation of mandatory certification in the next RFP for Hydrographic Services and a renewed (2025) Hydrographic Survey Supply Arrangement (HSSA), and desire the use of both Level 1 and Level 2 certifications for in-charge hydrographers, depending on the nature and scale of the project. This support is expected to have a favourable impact on the number of certified hydrographers in Canada, thus increasing public protection and enhancing the capacity and competitiveness of Canadian businesses involved in this work. CHS is consulting with its field survey managers in the regional offices to determine to appropriate application of Level 1 or Level 2 and to formulate an advance notice for PSPC posting.

Which organizations may certify hydrographic surveyors?

Only four organizations are currently permitted by the IBSC to certify individuals to become Certified Hydrographic Surveyors, although others may apply for such recognition:

Geospatial Council of Australia (GCA) Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel (AHSCP) Certification Scheme, recognized since 2012 and renewed in 2019. <https://geospatialcouncil.org.au/hydrographic-certification/>

Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) International Hydrographer Certification Scheme (IHCS) for Certifying and Recognizing the International Competency of Individuals as Hydrographic Surveyors, recognized since 2016 and renewed in 2022. <https://www.acls-aatc.ca/students-home/canadian-hydrographer-certification-program/>

International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS) Hydrographic Professional Accreditation Scheme (HPAS), recognized since 2022. <https://hydrography.earth/hpas/>
<https://ths-uki.org/hpas/>

National Society of Professional Surveyors in association with The Hydrographic Society of America (NSPS-THSOA) U.S. Hydrographer Certification programme, recognized since 2022. <https://www.nsps.us.com/page/Certification>

Complaints and Discipline

ACLS received two complaints in 2022, one was dismissed and one complaint was directed to the Discipline Committee to be heard by a Discipline Panel in 2023. The Discipline Panel made no finding of professional misconduct on the part of the respondent.

ACLS received one complaint in 2023. It was dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction.

Modernization of the Canada Lands Surveyors Act

Bill S-6, *An Act respecting Regulatory Modernization* proposes much needed amendments to strengthen the complaints and discipline processes and streamline the regulatory regime under the Canada Lands Surveyors Act. The Bill currently sits at Second reading in the House of Commons. The Association is hopeful that Parliament will pass this important piece of legislation.

The ACLS *By-Laws and Legislation Committee's* multi-year work has culminated in production of a draft By-Law which is expected to be reviewed by a lawyer in 2024. Following which, a national bilingual consultation will be undertaken on the proposed By-Law, to seek input from members, stakeholders and the public.

Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS)

ACLS continues to serve the whole Canadian surveying profession by providing the secretariat and registrar services for the [Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors](#) (CBEPS).



CBEPS establishes, assesses and certifies the academic qualifications of individuals who apply to become land surveyors and/or geomatics professionals in Canada, except for Quebec.

CBEPS members mark some of the examinations and the remainder are marked by Special Examiners. These Special Examiners are recommended by the CBEPS Examination Committee and appointed by the Board of Directors.

CBEPS Candidates

The Board, through the Registrar, has the responsibility to approve the acceptance of those applying as candidates for a CLS commission. There are 371 active candidates registered with CBEPS.

ACLS has a strong core competency in the fields of candidate management and examinations and wants to continue to make these resources available to the whole surveying community.

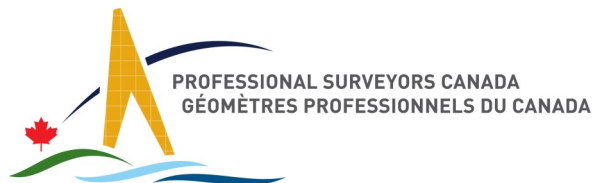
See page 21 for additional information about CBEPS and the *Towards an OnLine Degree (TOLD) in Surveying/Geomatics* initiative.

Collaboration with other geomatics related Organizations



In addition to providing administrative support and Registrar services to the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors, the ACLS collaborates with the following organizations:

Professional Surveyors Canada (PSC): Every year since 2019, the ACLS and PSC host a joint National Surveyors Conference.



Canadian Hydrographic Association (CHA): since the beginning of 2021, the ACLS has been providing administrative support and web site maintenance for the CHA, which does not have staff.

Canadian Institute of Geomatics and the Canadian Remote Sensing Society do not have a physical office space, so ACLS provides them with a secured space to store their files and both organizations use the ALCS postal address for mail.



The courses posted on the GeoEd distance learning portal are available to surveyors of all jurisdictions of Canada. In addition, both the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors and the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association members also use the GeoEd mandatory CPD tracking system (*see page 21 of this report for more details about courses and ACLS licensed member usage*).



National Surveyors Conference

The National Surveyors Conference (NSC) annually brings together seasoned and new professional surveyors from across Canada, local First Nations community members, leading industry experts, academics, and researchers, to build capacity, share insights and expertise.

New commissions are honoured, surveying projects that exemplify the innovation and extraordinary contribution to society are celebrated, members are engaged and cooperate on issues and solutions, representatives from surveyor regulators from across Canada assemble and collaborate, and the business of the ACLS Annual General Meeting is conducted.

NSC 2023 – In collaboration with *Professional Surveyors Canada*, the 2023 edition was held in Mt Tremblant Quebec, from May 10th to 12th, 2023. The conference was presented in a hybrid format, with simultaneous interpretation. Attendance was 119 in person, 80 virtually. The theme for NSC 2023 was “**Indigenous Perspective for Sustainable Land Governance**”.

The program for this conference included the following sessions:

- Dr. Niigaanwewidam Sinclair, Professor in Native Studies, University of Manitoba
- Jeremiah Linton, Local Land Registrar, Cree Nation of Mistissini and Éric Groulx CLS, Assistant Director East, Surveyor General Branch, Natural Resources Canada
- Westbank First Nation, Angie Derrickson, TMPD Manager, LabRC
- Maxime Volland, from the Innu First Nation of Pessamit, Board Member of The National Indigenous Economic Board
- Offshore: First Nations – Trusted Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry (TCSB) in Northern Vancouver Island, British Columbia (BC) British Columbia Guillaume Morissette CIDCO & Barbara Dinning, Marine Planning Coordinator, Nanwakolas Council
- Standards of Practice: File Retention and Archiving Files round table discussion with panelists

Future Dates & Locations

NSC 2024— In collaboration with *Professional Surveyors Canada* and *Association of Prince Edward Island Land Surveyors*, NSC 2024 will be held in Cardigan, PEI, May 21-24, 2024. The theme for NSC 2024 is “Adaptation: A Requirement in today’s environment” with the sub-theme “**Water and Fire: How do these elements affect the surveying profession?**”.

NSC 2025— Victoria, British Columbia, May 6th—9th, 2025.

NSC 2026— ACLS considering proposals to host the conference in the greater Toronto region or southern Ontario. Dates to be confirmed.

NSC 2027— ACLS is presently working with *Professional Surveyors Canada* and the *Alberta Land Surveyors Association* on a joint surveyor conference in Alberta. Dates to be confirmed.



2023 Scholarship Recipients

Every year, the ACLS Scholarship Foundation Inc. awards four scholarships of \$2,000 each to students enrolled in a post-secondary institution in the field of Geomatics. The 2023 ACLS Foundation Scholarship recipients are:



Erik Speziale
University of
New Brunswick



Dylan Conley
University of Calgary



Zachary Economou
University of
New Brunswick



Marie-Claude Boulet
Laval University

David Thompson National Geomatics Awards

Celebrating excellence in the field of geomatics in Canada, this award was introduced in 2006-2007 to recognize projects that exemplify the innovation and contribution to society that surveyors make every day, for the betterment of all Canadians. This award was named after David Thompson, an explorer and surveyor who almost single-handedly mapped Canada's vast, unknown interior 200 years ago.

The recipient of the 2023 David Thompson Award:

Rob Yates

**Mapping the Unknown:
Autonomous LiDAR Drone
Tunnel Inspection of the
Rio Tinto Tailrace.**

David Thompson National Geomatics Awards
Mapping the Unknown: Autonomous LiDAR Drone Tunnel Inspection of the Rio Tinto Tailrace

- 1 DJI Matrice 300 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) with Hovermap technology.
- 2 Flight path to the tunnel entrance.
- 3 UAV entering the tailrace tunnel after successfully navigating approach obstacles.
- 4 UAV's pointcloud of tailrace entrance.
- 5 3D model showing condition of extruded rock and concrete support.
- 6 3D model of the tailrace tunnel showing the exposed rock and concrete sections.

Follow this link to experience the technology for yourself.

<https://vimeo.com/802077359>

McElhanney

Towards an OnLine Degree (TOLD) in Surveying/ Geomatics

Funded by the Government of Canada, through *Employment and Social Development Canada*, this project had 3 objectives:

1. Modernize the CBEPS National Syllabus to meet changing societal needs and priorities, and adapting to a future driven by technological change;
2. Develop a modern CBEPS Accreditation and Exemptions Processes;
3. Develop a clear path to an online Canadian surveying/geomatics engineering degree.

This project was carried out over three years, concluding at the end of 2023. In the final year of the project, a new candidate handbook, in English and French, and new accreditation processes were prepared and are now ready for deployment in 2025. A streamlined and fresh bilingual website was launched for domestically and foreign trained candidates applying to become land surveyors and/or geomatics professionals in Canada (excluding Quebec).

The success of this project hinged on the collaboration of numerous participants including academics, land surveyors and the other 10 provincial survey regulators from across Canada. From the recent feedback from foreign trained land surveyors, this project has changed the landscape in a favourable way, and we are grateful to all who contributed their time and resources towards the outcomes of this ambitious project.

This project is the logical follow-up to the project *Pathway to Foreign Credentials Recognition* (PFCR). Both projects were funded by the *Government of Canada* under the *Foreign Credential Recognition Program*. The TOLD project resulted in a new syllabus for CBEPS called “2023 Syllabus”, a modern accreditation process, and a clear path towards an online degree in surveying/ geomatics.

The new accreditation process developed by CBEPS uses 6 criteria to evaluate programs: Support for students, Curriculum content, Faculty, Facilities, Graduating Students, Sustainability.

The new process recognizes 3 levels of accreditation:

- Full accreditation = 6 years
- Partial accreditation = 3 years, some issues need to be addressed
- Short accreditation = 1 year, many issues need to be addressed

The University of New Brunswick has been leading the way in Canada with online courses. UNB has received provincial approval to deliver a Bachelor of Geomatics totally online with a Cadastral Option leading directly to a CBEPS certificate of completion once the program has been accredited. The University of Calgary is looking at options to provide some of its courses online. BCIT has a number of courses available online and its own program is scheduled for accreditation in the fall of 2026. Other institutions in Canada also have a number of courses available online and these can now be recognized by CBEPS as acceptable for portion or all of a section of the 2023 CBEPS National Syllabus.



Funded by the Government of
Canada's Foreign Credential
Recognition Program

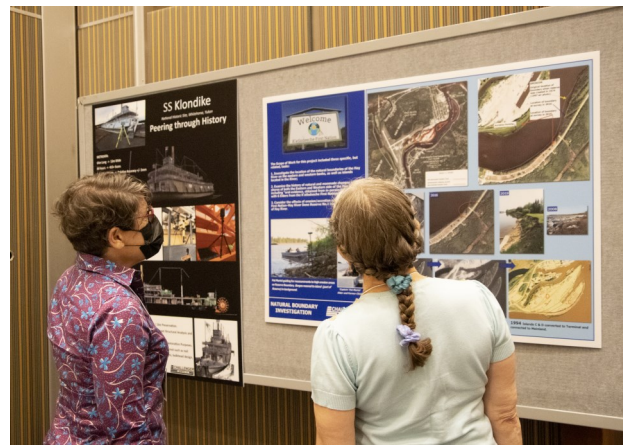


Continuing Professional Development

ACLS' **Continuing Professional Development Committee**, together with the Registrar, identifies and evaluates professional development opportunities in response to the requirements of the By-laws, Council and members, and with the approval of Council, prepare, have prepared, or acquire professional development training opportunities for members.

The committee met seven times during the 2023, to discuss continuing professional development training opportunities and assist with planning content for the National Surveyors' Conference. The committee also polled ACLS members to explore if there was interest in providing some business related webinars to serve their CPD needs. Respondents indicated that these topics would be beneficial to their knowledge building.

The committee was advised that ACLS Council would make funds available to begin the adaptation and customization of the online virtual **Getting it Right** workshop, previously offered in BC. Work has therefore begun on this initiative. This workshop will be offered over four consecutive days and will include approximately 14 hours of learning for each participant. It will focus on quality control and working as a team on a survey project, taking the participants through the whole cycle of the survey from field through office work to submission, with an emphasis on how each role and each step of the process fits into the overall quality of the survey product. The material also encourages all members of the survey team to adopt a quality mindset as well as a supportive mindset so that each member of the team is looking out for the others and encouraging good work. In addition to several other webinars, we are looking forward to being able to offer this workshop, in both French and English, to our members in 2024.



Webinars

Attendance for ACLS hosted 2023 Continuing Professional Development webinars. Total enrolment was 1832 seats, across the following sessions:

February 9, 2023 — Restorations

Number of Attendees: 136

Purpose – Provide surveyors and candidates with knowledge on how the identification and evaluation of evidence is being done.

March 14, 2023—Tools for accessing the CLSR

Number of Attendees: 484

Purpose: Tips for non CLSs working near Canada Lands

September 20, 2023—Updates to MyCLSS 2023

Number of Attendees: 144

Purpose: This webinar demonstrates a typical project workflow (request survey instructions, complete checklist and submit documents to SGB) using MyCLSS.ca. In addition, we highlight the changes that have been made to the site over the last few years and discuss how to avoid common issues.



Continuing Professional Development (con'd)

November 20, 2023 - Riparian Boundaries

Number of Attendees: EN 225

Purpose: Canada Lands are bounded within each of the 13 jurisdictions using the principles (i.e. terms and features) from that jurisdiction. The principles come mostly from the courts. Thus: Was parcel initially bounded by watercourse, has watercourse shifted, what was direction/rate of shift?

Chippewas of Nawash v Canada (ONCA – 2023), Chippewas of Saugeen v South Bruce (ONSC – 2023), Fipke v Kelowna (BCCA – 2023), Herold Estate v Canada (ONCA – 2021), Douglas Lake Cattle v Nicola Valley Club (BCCA – 2021), Michel v Saskatchewan (SKCA – 2021).
Shot Both Sides v Canada (SCC – October 12, 2023)



December 7, 2023: Reference System Modernization: Canadian plans and timelines

Number of Attendees: English 392 French 451

Purpose: In this presentation and panel discussion, we will review the latest plans and timelines for the release of CGS products and tools leading to federal modernization in 2025. We will also present recent efforts towards unified reference frame adoption across jurisdictions, including provincial migration options.



Recognizing the geographically dispersed nature of our membership, ACLS continues to enhance the offerings available for continuing professional development through our distance learning portal, GeoEd. This includes courses offered through partnerships with sister associations, academic institutions, government, and private organizations.

GeoEd is a collaborative initiative that includes several provincial and federal surveying associations in Canada that continue to promote accessible continuing professional development. The initiative was conceived and developed by the ACLS, and it is financially self-sufficient. ACLS continues to maintain the portal and shares resources and expertise towards the development of national learning.

Courses include webinars, online-learning modules, recorded conference sessions, and interactive content, however, most courses are self-guided learning opportunities with recorded video and other digital support materials. Login is personal and secured, with content available to surveyors to complete at their leisure. The portal is bilingual and includes CPD Tracking System to help members report professional development hours to their respective regulators. Over 3500 users are currently registered to GeoEd, from surveyor regulators across Canada.

GeoEd now has 275 courses listed; 13 of which were new courses added in 2023 and included recordings of the *Geodetic* and *MyCLSS Update* webinars from NRCAN; 3 courses added by the ACLS *Continuing Professional Development Committee* and 8 pre-recorded workshops from the *National Surveyors Conference*.

Demonstrating strong engagement and commitment to their profession, in 2023 ACLS' 284 licensed members recorded an impressive 9470 hours of continuing professional development within the GeoEd CPD Tracking System, of which nearly 20% were GeoEd hosted courses. Licensed members also track CPD hours for courses taken at academic institutions, seminars and workshops with other professional organizations, attendance at committee and taskforce meetings, governance participation, presentations and academic papers, and professional practice research.



**ASSOCIATION OF CANADA LANDS SURVEYORS / ASSOCIATION DES ARPEN TEURS
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