PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS CANADA
GÉOMÈTRES PROFESSIONNELS DU CANADA

PSC Activity Report December 2015

What's the latest…

Professional Surveyors Canada has implemented changes to better reflect its mandate. Wilson Phillips is our new chairperson and we have a very energetic board which has been very busy. We have board members from every province, all with good ideas. Teleconference meetings were held in August, September and November. The annual face-to-face meeting of the board was held in Ottawa October 2nd to 4th. From this meeting a renewed focus on advocacy in all forms was set. There are other initiatives that are ongoing like the Professional Liability Insurance program, but advocacy is our main focus.

We are drawing on the strength and expertise of committed land surveyors in all regions of Canada. For our advocacy involving advertising we are using the expertise of companies in that field. We are confident that the changes implemented, reflect the wishes of land surveyors across Canada. The following report highlights current initiatives and activities of the board and committees of Professional Surveyors Canada.

Promoting Surveyors – Do what works

The board identified and has implemented a schedule for direct public promotion of the important roles that Land Surveyors play in communities across Canada. Professional Land Surveyors' work as surveyors, planners and expert advisors to property owners. This message and messages surrounding it need to be brought to the attention of the public and government alike. This will be the primary focus of PSC in the coming year.

We have heard multiple times from land surveyors across Canada that they feel land surveyors and their work is not understood and underrepresented in Canada. In the coming months you may see billboard or bus advertisements in your area. These are not part of the larger campaign, but are important. These ads will be test cases for a broader campaign and will only be done in test areas. In early 2016 a firm will be selected to design the national campaign. This campaign will tie into local advocacy initiatives wherever possible. PSC has marked a significant portion of the 2016 advocacy budget to this initiative. The website will also be amended to reflect the campaign.

Advocate this!

Advocacy on behalf of land surveyors is PSC's most important role. At times there are land surveyors who want advocacy for the property systems we all use or other related specific matters. Advocacy can take several forms such as direct advocacy on specific matters or general promotion and advertising. Advocating in the public interest on property related issues, and ensuring the integrity of the property fabric will be done by PSC on specific matters, however these are secondary to the promotion of land surveyors and their expertise. Both are important, but priorities must be set.

Active engagement in national discussions of issues affecting land surveyors and the integrity of our land survey systems is ongoing and necessary. Without representation decisions will not have the correct and important input from land surveyors across Canada.

The future of our profession and industry cannot be left in a voiceless vacuum. There seems to be no shortage of issues to consider, and certainly we prioritize our efforts. Recent activities on the advocacy front not directly related to the promotion land surveyors and their services include the following:

- The Board is presently reviewing a draft discussion paper prepared by the PSC Advocacy Committee on issues to be considered in the implementation of coordinate based cadastres.
- Gabriel Arancibia, PSC Director for Quebec, represented PSC as an invited attendee at the Ontario Parcel Exchange Round Table Panel Discussion hosted by ESRI Canada at the ESRI Canada User Conference in Toronto in October.
- Fred Hutchinson, executive director of the ANSLS, made a presentation to the PSC Board in October on the government initiatives in Nova Scotia to privatize the Nova Scotia land registry system.
- The PSC Advocacy Committee has produced a public information pamphlet on the importance of preserving survey monumentation.
- Gabriel Arancibia, PSC Director for Quebec, made a presentation to the PSC Board in October on the status of the Quebec Cadastral Reform Initiative, lessons learned, and next steps.

Communicate this

Communications with the membership have improved substantially to ensure that our members know exactly what we are doing for you. Briefing notes such as this one will be sent out quarterly and interim updates will be sent when important changes occur. This is in addition to the weekly Horizon newsletter that members receive.

The membership lists for PSC have been updated. There was an issue regarding land surveyors who either paid or signed up but did not go to the website to register. We have added everyone we could and will not require people to register unless they need to update their information. If you pay your dues, we will register you with the information we have. This required substantial effort by our staff and volunteers. The email updates do have an unsubscribe button if you decide you no longer wish to receive communications from PSC.

Virtuous Circles

Membership is the primary way PSC pays for its activities. Growing membership is a virtuous circle. If we have sufficient funding and support, together we can do cool stuff. The cool stuff allows land surveyors to project their place and importance in Canada which will lead to land surveyors having their voices being heard. The counter is unfortunately true. The public and government don't care about issues that they haven't heard of. For the past few years PSC have had the support of all registered land surveyors in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, PEI, Newfoundland and until recently New Brunswick. Membership in Ontario and Quebec has been supported by dedicated land surveyors who have seen the benefits in PSC's work.

Substantial financial resources have been used to set up PSC and make it compliant with changes to new Not-For-Profit regulations. It cannot be overstated how many hours have been spent by staff and volunteers to get PSC to the stage it is at now. The brunt of this effort has been borne by a disproportionate group of land surveyors. Other funding sources are being sought to assist PSC activities.

Professional Liability Insurance Program

The Board received a report from the Professional Liability Insurance Committee in August, 2015. The report recommended the formation of a "not-for-profit" corporation to manage the PLI program going forward. This recommendation follows from a 2014 actuarial study, and legal advice that an incorporated entity is required to enable the PLIC to enter into formal contracts and agreements with the various parties to the insurance agreement. The Chair of the PLIC attended the September 2nd Board teleconference to discuss the recommendation.

After due consideration the Board at its October 3rd meeting moved to approve the PLIC recommendation in principle, subject to PLIC obtaining further legal advice on the recommended structure of the entity and how its relationship with PSC and our members would be maintained.

Advisory Representation on CCOG

The Third National Cadastral Roundtable held in May of this year in Winnipeg identified the need for coordinated discussions between the CCOG and the survey professions and suggested that PSC play an important role as liaison. This would allow government to connect to industry by having a PSC representative attend future CCOG meetings in an advisory and collaborative capacity. PSC is supportive of national dialogue on the many changes affecting cadastral systems and the land survey profession in Canada today. Accordingly, the Board has submitted a letter to the Chair of the CCOG offering to provide a liaison representative to attend future meetings of CCOG. We anticipate a response in the coming month.

Geomatics Sector Scan & Economic Value Study

The Third National Cadastral Roundtable identified a need to conduct additional research, augmenting the results of the NRCan Geomatics Sector Scan & Economic Value Study, to better quantify the value of the land surveying component of the geomatics sector. Recognizing that this work would directly support the aims of the national communication outreach strategy PSC has contacted Peter Sullivan, Surveyor General, NRCan to offer our participation in this important research effort.

Other Activities

The Board has initiated a review of the PSC website, Horizon newsletter, and eCommunique to improve communication with our membership.

The Board has identified as a priority item for 2016 the initiation of discussions leading to the formalization of working MOU's with the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors and GeoAlliance with respect to strengthening cooperation among our associations on overlapping initiatives and activities.

Efforts to increase membership in Ontario and Quebec continue in consultation with the provincial associations in those provinces. The board is also crafting a campaign to increase corporate membership and participation in PSC.

In Closing

Below you will find a list of our current Directors, and we welcome you to contact us with any feedback or questions you may have at info@psc-gpc.ca

Wilson Phillips, MLS, CLS, Chair
Guy Craig, SLS, Past –Chair
Gabriel Arancibia. a.-g.
Ray Guy, ALS, NLS
Marissa Moore, BCLS
Shelly Leighton, CLS
Hal Janes, ALS, CLS, Vice-Chair
Frederick Hutchinson, NSLS, CLS, Treasurer
Derek French PEILS, CLS
Brandon MacDonald, NBLS
Tom Jones, OLS, CLS

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and very Happy New Year!