January 27, 2020

Quarterly Report – Year End 2019

PSC Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors has undergone some changes this past year. We welcomed Mike Fretwell as a new Director from Alberta and Wayne Tremblay as a new Director from PEI.

Hal Janes has stepped down as Chair, and Michael Thompson is our new Chair, while Jordan Litke has been appointed as Vice-Chair. Courtney Tripp has stepped down to better fulfill his role as President of the SLSA. Derek French has stepped down from the board of Directors but continues his work as a Director on the PLI Committee. Brandon MacDonald will be stepping down as our New Brunswick representative in March. We thank Courtney, Derek, and Brandon for their tireless efforts and contribution to our profession and to this organization.

Board of Directors:

Michael Thompson, Chair, ACLS	Gabriel Arancibia, QC
Jordan Litke, Vice-Chair, BC	Claude Levasseur, QC
Hal Janes, Past-Chair, AB	Brandon MacDonald, NB
Darren Patkau, Treasurer, SK	Mike Williams, NS
Mike Fretwell, AB	Ray Guy, NL
Wilson Phillips, MB	Wayne Tremblay, PEI
James Dorland, ON	

National Surveyors Conference - 2019

We had a very successful National Surveyors Conference in Halifax in partnership with the Association of Canada Lands. A key collaboration in this years' conference was the presentation of the Responding to Change – The Evolving Boundaries of Practice Workshop. This one-day workshop provided a wide-ranging perspective on the changing landscape of surveying in Canada in response to advancing technology, evolving social attitudes, and trends in legislation and government policy affecting the self-regulating professions. PSC would like to acknowledge the contribution of the over two dozen professional land surveyors from across the country who participated in our working groups over a period of several months to compile the material presented at this workshop.

The workshop was attended by approximately 170 land surveyors from across the country who engaged in a vigorous and positive discussion on the priorities and focus of the land surveying community required to communicate the value of our community to government and society, and to continue to maintain and enhance the effectiveness of our land survey and registration systems in response to accelerated and disruptive change.

A full Report from the proceedings of the workshop called "*The Evolving Boundaries of Practice Workshop*" has been finalized and is available on the PSC website in the members Documents and Links section.

National Surveyors Conference - 2020

We will be continuing our partnership with ACLS and are currently preparing material for the 2020 National Surveyors Conference to be held in May in Mont Tremblant, Quebec. The theme for the Summit is "International and Indigenous Perspectives for Sustainable Land Governance".
As in 2019 we will hold our AGM at the conference allowing for our members to participate in person while hosting it as a teleconference allowing all our members across the country to participate.
Hope to see you there.

Underground Infrastructure

Our work with underground infrastructure was extensive in the last few months. We were given the opportunity to present our position to the Senate Committee that was reviewing Bill C-69 in early May. One of two proposed amendments by PSC was included in the recommendation package of the Independent Senators Group, but the amendment did not get through the full committee clause-by-clause review. While our proposed amendments did not make it into the final version of the Bill, we received tangible support from several Senators and raised awareness of Land Surveyors as experts to be consulted on matters of land management among legislators.

Bill C-69

Ministerial Order MO-040-2019 was issued on September 14, 2019, offering interim regulations for powerline safety and damage prevention. The definition of prescribed area in these regulations differs from the NEB Act regulations and limits the prescribed area to the surveyed right-of-way of a facility. *This **effectively implements the recommendations of PSC** to the Senate for amendments to Bill C-69.* This measure protects landowners from being affected by a linear facility without having received notification or compensation for the encumbrance and is a direct result of PSC's efforts to maintain the integrity of the cadastre and to protect the public interest.
Although this initiative is unlikely to affect the day to day business of professional surveyors, all of our members are mandated to protect the public interest, and by proxy so is Professional Surveyors Canada. This is a shining example of our profession's mandate being executed through effective communication with government

CSA Standard S250

CSA Group has released the New Edition for CSA S250 Mapping of Underground Utility Infrastructure for public review and comment. PSC has prepared and submitted a response on behalf of our members and are currently working on a position paper to further improve the standard. Once the paper is completed it will be available on our website.

One of our recommendations is that given the CSA Standard S250 is called ***Mapping of Underground Utility Infrastructure*** the term used to describe the process should be reflective of this. Subsurface Utility Mapping, SUM, is a better term. SUE encompasses the term 'engineering' which is a tightly controlled and trademarked term in Canada. Professional Surveyors Canada has fielded complaints in Ontario that SUE is

being used to prevent non engineering practitioners from surveying underground infrastructure. This is surely not the intent, but it is the effect. Using the term 'Engineering' alone suggests that the entire scope of mapping UI and referenced boundaries can be completed by a professional engineer.

P.Surv

A draft sublicensing agreement has been sent to the provincial licensing associations for use of the P.Surv. trademark by all professional members. This agreement will work in the same manner that P.Eng. is sublicensed by Engineers Canada to provincial engineering professional associations. We will be taking the concerns of the licensing associations into account and finalizing the agreements for associations and individual professional members of PSC over the next few months. We are excited to be one step closer to a new and effective communication tool, to broaden the recognition of our profession with government and the public. Another example of a PSC initiative that in the best interest of the public, and in the best interest of the profession.

Public Awareness

PSC continues to work toward raising public awareness of the important work land surveyors do on behalf of the public. We ran an advertising campaign in June designed to maximize our reach and ensure a low cost per visit to our website where the public can learn more about land surveying and how it can help them. We are also currently working on a Q&A section for the website that will have three separate sections, one for our members, one for the public and one for the media. This should be rolled out in early 2020.

Videos – Whiteboard

We currently have a total of 2 white board videos that are designed to educate the public. The first one looks at why you should get a survey done at the time of purchase of property, and the second deals with the role of a surveyor when planning to subdivide a property whether it be a parcel of land or a building.

Currently in the late stages of production is a whiteboard video looking at the difference between Title Insurance and a survey. The public does not understand the different assurances these two products provide. Two main points are being made to protect homebuyers. First, that a lender's policy does not protect them in any way. Second, that title insurance is not a replacement for a surveyor's certificate or real property report.

Videos – Underground Infrastructure

We also have produced 3 videos dealing with underground infrastructure. These are very short approximately 30 seconds each and are of a public service announcement nature. These videos are in support of legislation for the inclusion of provisions and regulations requiring the "as built" survey of all new underground installations, the registration of easements describing their location, and the implementation of mapping standards supporting open and publicly accessible mapping of all new underground infrastructure installations.
The videos are "Location of Underground Utilities", "Minimum Distance from Utilities" and "Buried Depth of Underground Utilities".

All 5 of our videos and our ads (in gif format) are available on our website, our You Tube channel and to any of our members who may wish to display them on their own websites. Please contact the office at info@psc-gpc.ca for information.

National Geomatics Competition

For the first time ever, PSC sponsored the NGC which this year took place in February in Calgary. Two of our Board members were in attendance, one sat as a judge on the panel and the other made a presentation about PSC and land surveying. Our Director were impressed with the high caliber of the students and the project they were assigned to resolve. While we believe that this is an excellent opportunity for the students the board has decided to continue supporting this event but at a lower level and cost to us, as our organization has limited resources that need to be spent elsewhere.

Professional Liability Insurance

The PLI committee has continued maintaining and improving the insurance program and monitoring claims progress with the insurer. The retirement portion of the program has been updated, with a new product developed for special circumstances. For the policy year ending May 31, 2019, claim numbers as of October were about on par with recent years and the loss ratio is slightly down. This bodes well for the sustainability of the program. In late 2019, the committee received the actuarial review commissioned earlier in the year. Some interesting ideas were presented by the new consultant that the committee will be following up in 2020.

Bylaw changes

The directors of PSC have reviewed and made changes to PSC's bylaws to better address succession in the organization. These changes will be presented in detail at our next member's meeting in the spring, but should you wish to review the changes prior to that time, please follow this link to the members area on our website where we have posted the Bylaws and a brief outlining the changes. Bylaw changes are subject to ratification by the membership at our next AGM.

Membership Dues

Effective January 1st, 2020 our annual membership fee will increase to $249.00 for members in All-In Associations and $299.00 for individual members. PSC membership fees have not increased since being established in 2013, and this increase will allow us to continue to serve the membership and the public with the level of professionalism that is expected of our organization. For the all-in associations that ratify PSC dues on an annual basis, this increase will not apply until it is ratified by your membership by the usual means.

PSC has been operating under an individual membership model since 2013. Prior to this we were entirely funded by the provincial licensing associations and as such we were working for and representing the Land Surveying Associations. The decision to switch funding models was based on the need for an organization to openly communicate the importance of Canada's land survey, land registry and land administration systems to the general public, various industry sectors and to the government. And this is precisely what we have been focusing on.