PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS CANADA
GÉOMÈTRES PROFESSIONNELS DU CANADA

Report to Membership July 2020

The professional surveying community has seen many changes and adaptations, due to the new normal, since our last quarterly report in April. Necessity is the root of invention and I hope that the adaptations you have made will strengthen your skillset, whether that is with technology, business models, or health and wellness.

Thank you, Mike

Mike Fretwell stepped up to serve as your Alberta Director on the PSC Board in 2019. Mike is moving onto a new position with the Federal government and will stepping down from the Board. Mike has implemented positive ideas and changes to our organisation in his short tenure, and we wish him the best in his new position.

Unauthorized Practice of Surveying – Town of Birch Hills

The Town of Birch Hills, Saskatchewan, is offering a lot corner location service for its residents at a cost of $50. The Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association has approached the Town regarding the unauthorized practice of surveying by the Town, but no retraction of survey monument location services has been made and the Town clearly has no intention of discontinuing the service. The Town's policy can be found on their website. The Town of Birch Hills does not employ a professional land surveyor.

Professional Surveyors Canada has engaged a Saskatchewan based lawyer to research the liabilities and legalities associated with the unauthorized practice of land surveying by municipalities, and to write an article on the matter to be published in a manner targeting municipalities across Canada. These practices result in significant liability for municipalities and their residents with negligible benefits, and our goal is to effectively communicate this message to municipal leaders in a positive manner.

CSN Collaboration

PSC and Consulting Surveyors National (CSN), our sister organisation in Australia, have set up a quarterly cultural exchange which will commence in the next month or so. Topics will vary but will be relevant to the professional survey industry in both countries. These online meetings will have a limited capacity. If you are an active member of PSC and interested in participating, please contact us for more information.

AEGEX Collaboration

The practice of cadastral surveying in Canada is limited to registered professionals, but the expanded profession is not regulated. In Spain this is the opposite case. The Asociación Española de Geómetras Expertos (AEGEX), our sister organisation in Spain, has members that are experts in fields such as BIM that are not yet prominent in Canada, as these practices are mandatory for many projects in Europe.

AEGEX has been advocating for the regulation of cadastral surveying in Spain. This past year has seen the first degree program in cadastral surveying in the country being established. Consequently, their members are looking for guidance in the practice of cadastral surveying. In the words of the past president of AEGEX Pedro Ortiz, looking at

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the Canadian management of cadastral surveying is like looking at science fiction. We have had regulated cadastral surveying for more than a century.

PSC and AEGEX have agreed in principle to an exchange of expertise, where survey companies from each country will trade staff for a period of time, perhaps 1-3 months, in order to transfer practical knowledge that each country is lacking. PSC is currently exploring possible support of this initiative under the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The program is proposed to run during the summer of 2021, dependent upon the global travel situation.

Ligado

The United States Federal Communications Commission has approved the use of band spectrum adjacent to the L1 Band for GPS by Ligado (formerly LightSquared) for the purpose of 5G networks. L1 band is hundreds of times less powerful than ground-based signals and will be affected by the Ligado network.

Although this same decision has not been made in Canada, we have contacted the federal government to express the implications of Ligado's 5G spectrum encroachment. Canada is indirectly affected in the reliance of NRCan's PPP service on US based control stations and signal leakage across the international border. Our letter to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada can be found here. PSC has been opposed to spectrum encroachment by Ligado since 2011.

Strategic Planning

PSC has started the strategic planning process for the period of 2021-2023. This will be the first strategic plan completed by PSC under our current brand. If you receive a request for interview or online survey, please take a few minutes to provide us with your thoughts and feedback. The strategic planning process will extend into October.

Public Awareness Campaign

We ran a successful spring advertising campaign. This was an opportune time to maximize online usage as people were mostly social distancing and staying home. The campaign ran for four weeks and generated over 13 million impressions which in turn generated approximately 65,000 clicks. A click is when a person clicks on the ad to learn more. This then takes them to our website.

COVID-19 Advocacy and Website updates

PSC has been corresponding with various federal and provincial bodies regarding the essential work of professional surveyors during COVID-19 protocols. We have established a dedicated COVID-19 advocacy page.
A specific FAQ section for PSC members has also been added to the website. This contains information on the P.Surv. brand, PSC membership, and the PSC Professional Liability insurance Program – whose web section has also been revitalized. New too are FAQs for the public.

Questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome and can be sent to info@psc-gpc.ca .