PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS CANADA
GÉOMÈTRES PROFESSIONNELS DU CANADA

Report to Membership October 2020

The pandemic continues to affect our lives and how we work but this does not mean that we are not busy and moving forward with several initiatives.

Our Board has a new Director from Alberta

The Board of Directors continues to evolve as time goes on. New Brunswick Director Dave Parkhill has retired and stepped down. A big thank you to Dave for his help on the board. Colin Keir has joined our Board of Directors as the new director from Alberta. We are still in the process of finding a new director to represent New Brunswick. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the office should you wish to serve on the Board or help with one of our Committees.

Our Strategic Planning is in Full Swing

Over the last few months, we have completed an extensive Strategic Planning process to identify and streamline our focus in how we serve our members. The strategic plan will guide PSC initiatives over the next three years (2021-2023) and is the first plan completed by PSC since 2011.

We would like to take a moment to thank all those who have weighed in with their comments and ideas either through the survey that was sent out, or through the stakeholder interviews conducted by McLaughlin and Associates, the consultants who were hired to work on this with us. Your input was tremendously helpful.

During the planning process we were also able to reword both our Vision and Mission statements. These statements are not so much new, as refined, simplified and stated in a clearer manner with a direct focus on serving our members.

Our new Vision Statement is:

All Canadians understand and value the role of the professional surveyor.

Our new Mission Statement is:

PSC advances the influence, relevance, and value of the professional surveyor by:

- **Advocating on behalf of our members and the profession**
- **Promoting the importance of the profession to the public**
- **Supporting our members through membership services and benefits**

We will hold a virtual town hall style meeting in November exclusively for our members where we will share the particulars of the strategic plan with you and give you the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Please watch for this announcement.

Unauthorized Practice of Surveying – Town of Birch Hills Issue Resolved

As reported in our previous Quarterly Report; the Town of Birch Hills, Saskatchewan, on their website was offering a lot corner location service for its residents at a low cost. The Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association approached the Town regarding the unauthorized practice of surveying, but no retraction of survey monument location services was made. In July 2020, Birch Hills ceased locating survey monuments for their citizens.

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 PSC's goal is to effectively communicate this message to municipal leaders in a positive manner.

PSC Responds to Canadian Space Agency

PSC was invited by the Canadian Space Agency through Natural Resources Canada to provide our industry's input into direction on Space Based Earth Observations (SBEO). Given a timeline of eight days, PSC quickly convened a member-driven group to review and respond to the notice with emphasis on investment in the NRCan Precise Point Positioning service and future real time, civilian level absolute positioning services. Our response is posted in the position paper section of the website.

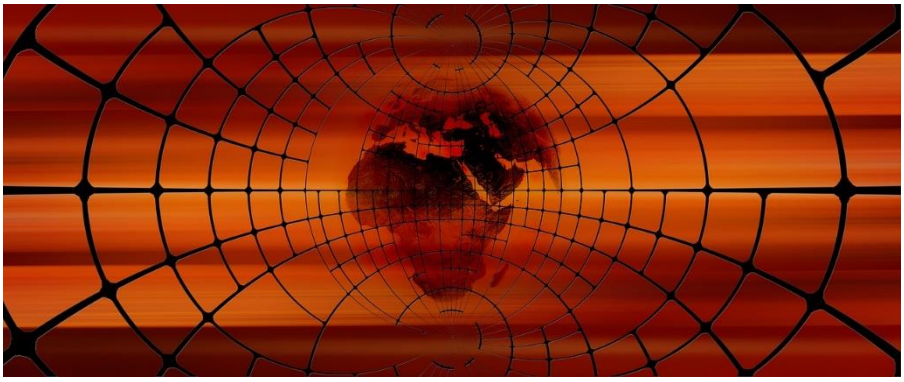
The Board extends special thanks to Barry Vey, Robyn Ash and Dan Gerard for helping us put together an effective response in an exceptionally fast time frame.

Professional Liability Insurance

The PLI committee continues to monitor all claims within our program and the insurance market in general. There has been a significant reduction in the number of claims in 2020. We are not sure if this is a result of business operations differing due to COVID or if this is an anomaly, similar to the anomaly in 2011 – 2012 where we saw an increase in the number and severity of claims.

The insurance market in general has become significantly tighter in the last couple of years and it appears that this will continue for a couple more years at least. You have likely noticed this in your personal home insurance and perhaps in your business general liability insurance. We are working with our actuarial consultant, as well as the broker and insurer, to continue to provide the most comprehensive and best coverage at a reasonable price.

International Collaboration



PSC and Consulting Surveyors National (CSN), our sister organisation in Australia, have set up a quarterly cultural exchange. Topics will vary but will be relevant to the professional survey industry in both countries.

The first exchange took place on September 10th and the discussion was about the surveying similarities and differences between Australia and Canada. This discussion lead to a connection between CBEPS and the University of Southern Queensland. USQ has offered correspondence and online education for professional surveyors since 1980 and has become one of the top four-year degree programs for professional surveyors in Australia.

The proposed expertise exchange between AEGEX (Spain) and PSC has been postponed until international travel is once again normalized.

If you are a current member of PSC and are interested in participating in future exchanges, please contact the PSC office at info@psc-gpc.ca and you will be sent the information regarding the next meeting once it is set up.

Public Awareness Campaign

While the situation in Birch Hill has been resolved, unauthorized practice continues to be an issue occurring in many Canadian municipalities and as such this topic will be addressed in our next public awareness campaign.

We have sent out an RFP and have selected a firm with which we will determine the best way and medium with which to get this important message out.

All 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 and become a subscriber to our You Tube channel.

Website updates

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.

PSC's web-map initiative will quite literally put members on the map. This initiative has been long in the works and is finally coming to life. As surveyors you will not be surprised by how much planning goes into mapping, but rest assured I can report that the map will be to scale and north will be up. ☺ Our volunteers have been working with a web mapping company to make sure the web-map features assist members and the public. We are sure you will like the web-map as it will allow more people to find the services you offer.

A reminder to our members that the PSC Job Bank is available to our membership for posting open positions or for notifying the membership that your business is for sale.

P.Surv.

The trademark application for P. Surv was submitted two years ago. We have been assured that our application will be reviewed shortly but that things are running behind schedule due to pending ratification of the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) and included trademark clauses. PSC has written letters to Minsters with mandates related to trademarking and international trade. We continue to monitor the situation, and hope for registration of the P.Surv. trademark in the first quarter of 2021.

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