

The Surveying Profession

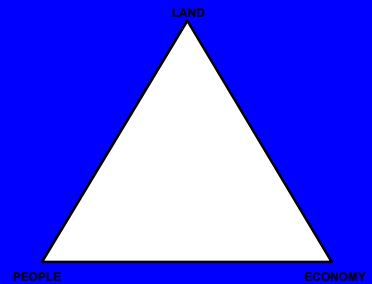
G. K. (Ken) Allred, ALS, CLS

The Professional Association

Guardian of the Public Interest

“Land and people are our two most important resources”

Barlowe
Land Economics



“ . . . Land is the habitation of man, the storehouse upon which he must draw for all his needs, the material to which his labor must be applied for the supply of all his desires . . . On the land we are born, from it we live, to it we must return again - children of the soil as truly as the blade of grass or the flower of the field. Take away from man all that belongs to land, and he is a disembodied spirit.”

Henry George
Progress and Poverty

Land is the surveyors drawing board

“Geomatics is a field of scientific and technical activities which, using a systematic approach, integrates all the means used to acquire and manage spatially referenced data as part of the process of producing and managing spatially based information.”

[Gagnon 1990]

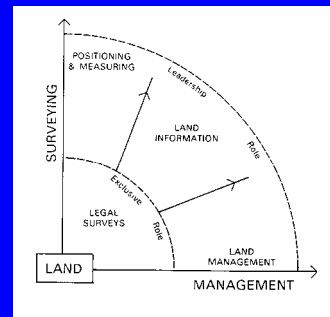
Role of the Professional Surveyor

- The surveyor is a data gatherer, a fact finder
- The surveyor is a public officer
- The surveyors duty is to seek out the truth
- The surveyor may be engaged by his client but he works for society as a whole
- He may be engaged by one landowner but he also is responsible to that client's neighbour and potential adversary

Responsibilities of the Professional Surveyor

- He (or she) must be competent
- He must be innovative
- He must be open and responsive and consider all evidence before him
- He must have integrity
- He must be independent
- He must maintain high ethical standards

The Expanded Survey Profession



The Professional Association

“Self-government is a privilege delegated to a professional group by the Legislature only when it is clear the public can best be served by delegating this authority.”

[Chichak, 1972]

“The principal object of the Association is to regulate the practice of professional land surveying and to govern its members . . . in order that the public interest may be served and protected

Shared and Controlled Activities

- exclusive scope of practice
- protection of right to title
- controlled acts system - regulation of specific activities

Exclusive Field of Practice

Land Surveyors Act (Alberta)

3. (1) No person except an Alberta land surveyor, surveyor's corporation, surveyor's partnership shall engage in the practice of land surveying

(4) No Alberta land surveyor shall sign a plan or document in the practice of surveying unless it is prepared by the surveyor or under the surveyor's personal supervision, direction and control.

Land Surveyors Act

1. (j) “practice of land surveying” means
- (i) the survey of land to determine or establish boundaries;
 - (ii) the survey of land to determine or establish the boundaries of any right or interest in land or in air space;
 - (iii) the survey of air space to determine or establish boundaries;
 - (iv) the survey of land to determine the location of anything relative to a boundary for the purpose of certifying the location of the thing;
 - (v) the survey of lakes, rivers or watercourses to establish or determine their boundaries;
 - (vi) the survey by any means, including photogrammetric, electronic or astronomic methods, of land, water or air space for the purpose of preparing maps, plans and documents connected in any way with the establishment or determination of boundaries delineating any right or interest in land, water or air space;
 - (vii) cadastral operations and compiling and recording information related to the matters specified in subparagraphs (i) to (vi);
 - (viii) establishing and maintaining a network of geodetic points of any order of precision and establishing photogrammetric controls for the purposes of the work specified in subparagraphs (i) to (v);
- including the preparation of maps, plans and documents and the giving of advice with respect to any of the matters specified in this clause;

Land Surveyors Act

1. (j) “practice of surveying” means
- (i) the determination, establishment or recording by any means of the positions of points, natural features or features made by persons on, over or under the surface of the earth,
 - (ii) the determination of the form of the earth,
 - (iii) the practice of land surveying,

and includes the preparation of maps, plans, systems and documents and the giving of advice with respect to any of the matters referred to in this clause;

Protection of Right to Title

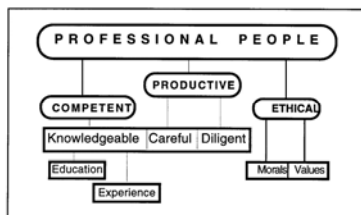
- 4 (1) No person except a practitioner shall
 - (a) use the name “Alberta land surveyor”, “surveyor” or “land surveyor” or any abbreviation of them either alone or in combination with any other word.

Functions of a Professional Association

- determination of entrance requirements
- provision of a system of registration
- licensure of professional practitioners
- maintenance of competency
- codes of ethics
- standards of practice
- adjudication of complaints
- discipline

Need to Maintain Competency

- responsibility to public
- protection of financial assets
- public confidence in profession



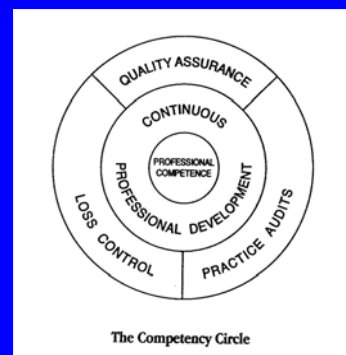
The professional association must clearly stand up as the protector of the public interest and must actively operate to ensure that all its members fulfil their obligation to the public.
(Allred)

Competence

“... A combination of skill, knowledge and performance. Its attainment is evidenced by an individual’s ability to apply the necessary knowledge, skills, and judgment in his or her practice.”

Competence

“competent professional practice is as dependent on communication skills, organizing ability and practice settings as on professional knowledge.



The Competency Circle



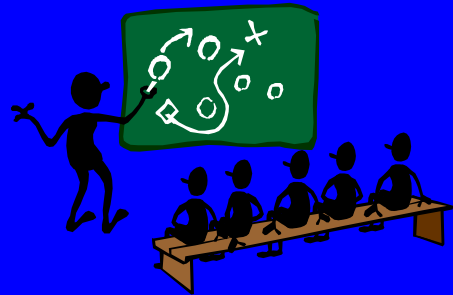
What is Practice Review?

- Peer Review Program aimed at education
- All active members reviewed
- All aspects of a practice are examined
- Program established by Council
- Practice Review Board (PRB) administers program
- Director of Systematic Practice Review manages the program

Practice Review is not a policeman



Practice Review is a coach



What is the Objective?

- Ensure that interests of the public and the profession are maintained
- How is this accomplished?
 - Detailed examinations of all operations of practices
 - Examinations of services and products
 - Providing encouragement for professional development

How does it Operate?

- Program administered by Practice Review Board
- PRB statutory body - Land Surveyors Act
- PRB appointed by Council + one Public Member
- Powers and duties spelled out in Act (sec. 12-14)
- Director appointed by PRB
- Director conducts the reviews for the PRB

Internal Audit

- Director schedules and conducts reviews
- Internal Reviews consist of a review of:
 - Staff experience & education
 - Types and volumes of work
 - Field and office equipment used
 - Quality control processes
 - Supervision

External Audit

- Examines plans
- Examines field notes
- Conducts field inspections
- Checklists are used in all examinations and inspections

What are the positives?

- Facilitates the sharing of expertise
- Improves public confidence in the profession
- Proactive approach that helps land surveyors who need help
- Assists members in identifying their own strengths and weaknesses

What are the negatives?

- Expensive
- Difficulty in selling the idea to the membership initially
- Funding may not be evenly distributed among all members

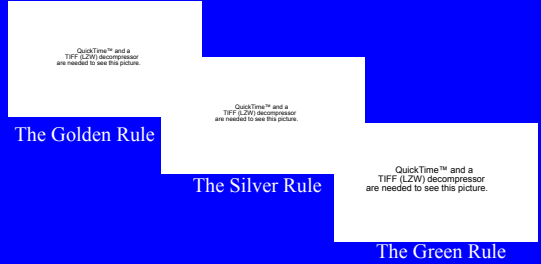
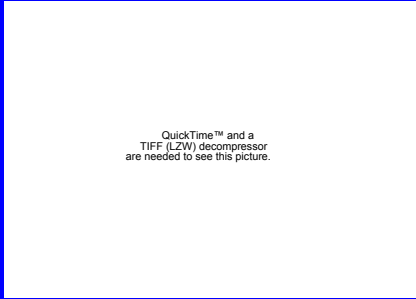
Does it Work?

- Program now well accepted by the members
- Noticeable Practice improvements from Phase 1 to Phase 2 and now into Phase 3
 - Fewer Practice Review Board hearings
 - Fewer follow-up reviews
- Sole practitioners now call Director to discuss survey problems or interpretation of standards

Codes of Ethics

“professional ethics are that branch of moral science which treats of the duties which a member of a profession owes to the public, to his professional brethren and to his client.”

The Principles of Ethics



Discipline



Unprofessional conduct and unskilled practice

- 35(1)** Any conduct of a practitioner that, in the opinion of the Discipline Committee
- (a) is detrimental to the best interests of the public,
 - (b) contravenes a code of ethics of the profession as established under the regulations,
 - (c) harms or tends to harm the standing of the profession of surveying generally,
 - (d) displays a lack of knowledge of or lack of skill or judgment in the practice of surveying, or
 - (e) displays a lack of knowledge of or lack of skill or judgment in the carrying out of any duty or obligation undertaken in the practice of surveying,

whether or not that conduct is disgraceful or dishonourable, constitutes either **unskilled practice of surveying or unprofessional conduct**, whichever the Discipline Committee finds.

“In place of the cautionary admonition of the market place - caveat emptor - let the buyer beware!; professional practice should substitute the encouraging injunction - credat emptor, - let the buyer trust!”

Questions?

