




Association of Ontario Land Surveyors

***Professional Standards and Practice
Commission Report***

Andy Shelp, Commission Chair

Annual General Meeting
March 4, 2022



COMMITTEES

Complaints	Screens, investigates and considers complaints
Discipline	Hears and determines allegations of professional misconduct and/or incompetence
Fair Fees for Notes	Makes recommendations regarding pricing survey Field records
LRO Task Force	Addressing changes to LRO practices
Monument Protection	Addresses potential and real losses of monumentation
Professional Standards	Develops, maintains and provides advice with respect to standards of practice
PSRI	Maintains and enhances the PSRI and develops policies
Survey Review Department	Reviews and recommends practices for the Survey Review Dept.
Underground Utilities	Initiates and pursues strategic activities that would improve public safety and the efficiency and safety of cadastral survey activities related to underground utilities

Complaints Committee

Chair: Kevin Thom

The Committee currently has 9 members, 2 council liaisons & 2 lay councilors.

Major Achievements for 2021

- In 2021 we had 20 formal complaints.
- The statutory Committee currently has 9 files in progress;
 - 4 files have decisions circulating
 - 2 files are being held in abeyance due to ongoing litigation or matters before the courts
 - 3 files are awaiting responses to the Committee or additional submissions
- Addressed amendments regarding how we deal with complaints against former members.
- It requested a legal review of options available under 4(3)b. of the Surveyors Act “take the action that it considers appropriate in the circumstances and that is not inconsistent with this Act or the regulations or by-laws”
- The Committee continues work on amendments to its manual.
- Upcoming Challenges to be addressed
- Will consider options available under 4(3)b as noted above and recommendations from the Steinecke Report
- Need to find a better way of collaborating on complaint decisions

Complaint Committee Statistics

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total complaints:	14	21	30	20
Nature of Complaints:				
Sketches Issue	1		1	
Right-of-Entry	1	1		4
Contractual – (Protracted Timeline / Communication)	6	5	5	4
Incl. Client aware of the complexity of a project and the nature of fees?				
Includes undertaking work that is beyond the member’s resources to complete in the time agreed upon?				
Professional Misconduct	3	2	9	7
SRD Referral	1	3		
Incorrect Survey?	1	9	9	5
CAD File – Grid vs. Ground	1			
Incompetence			3	
Not Truly a complaint (Who is responsible ?)		1		
Disgruntled complainant seeking additional information on old complaint			5	
Complaint initiated by another OLS			4	2

Some of the above complaints do not readily fit within one category. Professional Misconduct and Incorrect Survey tend to be catch-all’s.

2 of the professional misconduct complaints were initiated by other members.

Only 20% of completed files were referred to Council

Committee: Discipline Committee

Chair: Dave Kovacs

Committee is currently comprised of 17 members which includes 2 Lay Councilors.

Major Achievements for 2021

- 1 hearing was held in 2021
- Completed a risk review
- Five more members of the Discipline Committee completed both the basic and advanced modules of the Discipline Orientation Workshop offered by the Health Profession Regulators of Ontario (HPRO).
- Five members took Advanced Skills for Discipline Tribunals by Field Law
- Invited the AOLS legal Counsel to meet with the Discipline Committee and provide recommendations for change
- Have been working on updating practice manual

Upcoming Challenges to be addressed

- Committee is reviewing and updating its practice manual to bring to Council regarding some administrative issues that arose as result of recent discipline hearings and court decisions.
- They will review recommendations made in the Steinecke Report

Fair Fees for Field Notes Task Force

Chair: Andrew Mantha

Committee is currently comprised of 6 members.

Major Achievements for 2021

- Completed another on-line survey of members to understand current fees being charged and satisfaction with the current bulletin
- Initiated a study to determine costs of maintaining and providing survey records

Upcoming Challenges to be addressed

- The Task Force will be reviewing the results of the costing project and deciding appropriate action.

Land Registry Office Task Force

Chair: Rick Miller

Committee is currently comprised of 9 members.

Major Achievements for 2021

- They have continued to monitor Land Registry services since the closure of counter services
- They reviewed a new service to allow surveyors to view a degrade picture of survey plans prior to purchasing them and provided advise to MGCS
- They reviewed the proposed regulation changes to move plan corrections to a digital service and doing away with the need for separate copy of a paper plan with the plan submission form

Upcoming Challenges to be addressed

- Continuing to monitor MGCS service levels and work with the Ministry to keep them reasonable

Monument Protection Committee

Chair: Mart Himma

Committee is currently comprised of 12 members.

Major Achievements for 2021

- They focussed their work this year on a Deferred Monumentation Policy
- They crafted a set of regulation changes that would allow deferred monumentation to be used on plans of subdivision
- Prior to moving forward with the policy recommendations to Council conversations were had with government staff which resulted in a decision to consider “Coordinates as Monuments” prior to recommending the regulation changes for deferred monumentation
 - This was due to the large number of subdivisions that have further subdivision by reference plans that would still have required monumentation
 - The deferred period varies by project and may still result in destruction of monuments
 - Improvements in georeferencing capabilities

Upcoming Challenges to be addressed

- The Committee will be considering the notion of “Coordinates as Monuments”

Professional Standards Committee

Chair: Joseph Young

Committee is currently comprised of 12 members.

Major Achievements for 2021

- Survey Business Practices Checklist created
- Construction Surveys guideline created
- Best Practices Document for topographic surveys started
- Field Note guides consolidated into a new draft that is well underway
- Office Calculations and Drafting Seminar provided to the Continuing Education Committee who are currently seeking instructors

Upcoming Challenges to be addressed

- Completion of topographic surveying best practices considering a variety of technologies
- Revised Field Notes guide

Province Wide Survey Records Index Committee

Chair: Joseph Lin

Committee is currently comprised of 11 members.

Major Achievements for 2021

- Continued to guide the development of the Provincial Survey Records Index (PSRI) with some enhancements:
 - Implemented new filtering in Survey Manager to help find records
 - Improved speed of search returns in Survey Manager
 - Improved georeferencing capabilities and added error messages where conflicting location information was included
 - Implemented Practice Areas within tabular searches
 - Changed searching to allow multiple plans to be searched in a single query
 - Search by PIN enhancement completed to display PINs in cases of a non-assessable parcel such as road segments
 - Bulk load template modified to show which records should be included in the PSRI
- For the 2021 calendar year –
 - 332,424 new records were added to the PSRI
 - 31,905 record searches were performed
 - 53 error observations were recorded
 - 227 firms have credentials, but many have not been actively using the system

Upcoming Challenges to be addressed

- There are still a few firms that have struggled to enter records and will require support

Survey Review Department Committee

Chair: Gabriel Laframboise

Committee is currently comprised of 8 members.

Major Achievements for 2021

- Implemented new log sheet to ensure appropriate reviews of multi-office firms
- Reviewed all post-review surveys
- Started moving the filing of LRO plans from paper to digital
- Struck a sub-committee to determine how best to determine if additional sampling of cadastral surveys with no plans is warranted

Upcoming Challenges to be addressed

- Consolidating and updating the SRD Practice Manual
- Moving forward with review of registered members and of construction projects
- Considering if there is a need to address cadastral surveys that do not include plans

Underground Utilities Committee

Chair: Peter Lamb

Committee is currently comprised of 8 members.

Major Achievements for 2021

- Reviewed the ORCGA (Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance) dirt report for 2020.
- Prepared a draft of the utility service report (for services running to dwellings) in the form of a sketch which might be a new product for surveyors
- Preparing guidelines as to how surveyor's products can meet the new CSA requirement
- Participating on a new national committee trying to establish a Canadian Utilities Information Registry

Upcoming Challenges to be addressed

- Ensuring surveyors have access to provide services

Committee Members

Complaints

Kevin Thom: Chair

Trevor McNeil | Saša Krcmar | Bret Magee | Brian Kerr | Eduardo Linhares | Peter Feren | Jeremy Matthews | Steve Balaban | Kirsten Greenfield | Travis Hartwick | John General (LGA) | Peter Meerveld (LGA) | Kevin Wahba (Registrar)

Discipline

Dave Kovacs: Chair

Nancy Grozelle | Gerhard Auer | Ophir Dzaldov | Bob Jordan | Richard Miller | Terry Dietz | Bob Fligg | Doug Hunt | Tom Kristjanson | Bruce Parker | Paul Edward | Leslie Higginson | Julia Meldrum Smith | Paul Miller | David Wilton | James Hunt (LGA) | Andrew Dowie (LGA)

Committee Members

Fair Fees for Field Notes Task Force

Gavin Lawrence: Chair

Andrew Mantha (Vice-Chair) | Ron Berg | Amar Loai | Susan MacGregor/Bruce Clark

Monument Protection

Mart Himma: Chair

David Lamont | Simon Kasprzak | Sabir Ahluwalia | Paul Benedict
| Dave Bianchi | Grant Stidwill | Scott McMorran | Shawn Leroux
| Hugh Coutts | Shan Goonewardena | George Zervos

Professional Standards

Joseph Young: Chair

Paul Wyman | Ronald Berg | Daniel Gautron | Chris Bunker | Ted Williams | Normans Taurins | Tom Packowski | Anna Aksan | Simon Kasprzak | Brian Maloney (staff) | Kevin Wahba (staff)

Committee Members

Province-Wide Survey Records Index

Joseph Lin: Chair

Spiro Sinnis | David Brubacher | Dean Dunlop | Saša Krcmar |
Phillip Swift | Ali Gholami | Edwardo Linhares | Ron Querubin |
Ganesh Sundar | Brian Maloney (staff)

Survey Review Department

Gabriel Laframboise: Chair

Andrea Tieman | Rob McKibbon | Amar Loai | Julia Meldrum
Smith | Paul Francis | Laura Gibson | Tom Packowski/Paul
Wyman (staff)

Underground Utilities

Peter Lamb: Chair

Gary Auer | Paul Benedict | Dave Kovacs | Peter Skuro | James
Dorland | Nigel Day | Maureen Mountjoy