



## Association of Ontario Land Surveyors Policy on Company Transparency

It has come to Council's attention that some companies have several historical or related companies with phone numbers directed to their active company and that there is a lack of transparency with the public that these are all the same company. This has resulted in concerns from the public where they thought they were getting independent estimates for work, but this was not the case. The intent of this bulletin is to ensure that the public is not misled by the illusion of competition.

### Requirements:

When answering the phone or providing estimates, the current company name should be included in public responses (i.e. do not answer the phone "survey company").

While it is recognized that former companies have a life of their own on the internet, over time companies should work to include the name of the current company providing the services on any advertising, yellow pages, etc. (e.g. ABC Surveyor (**now operated under BCD Surveyors Inc.**)).

It is also recognized that surveyors have multiple offices or interests in multiple companies. While this is acceptable, if offices do not operate independently in terms of preparing estimates, they must identify their estimates as coming from the parent company. Where offices or companies prepare estimates independently, they must not share information on estimates among the companies.