

Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors

The Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors regulates the profession of land surveying within the Province of British Columbia. Created in 1905, the Association is governed by the Land Surveyors Act, a Provincial statute which sets out the framework within which the association and its members operate.

The Association is a self-regulating body which develops bylaws and guidelines for the conduct of its members, establishes and administers the requirements for entry into the profession, and liaises with government bodies and other professional and technical associations in a continuous effort to improve the quality of service to the public.

A British Columbia Land Surveyor is an individual commissioned as a land surveyor by the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors, and is authorized to carry out legal surveys within British Columbia. Many British Columbia Provincial statutes specifically designate B.C. Land Surveyors as the only persons entitled to perform legal surveys of land pursuant to the particular Act. British Columbia Land Surveyors enter the profession after undergoing a rigorous pre-professional education and subsequent training as an articled pupil. Many BC Land Surveyors have obtained university degrees in geomatics and survey sciences prior to pursuing their careers as a land surveyor, followed by a period of articles. As a result, the British Columbia Land Surveyor is well grounded in the science of surveying and the application of this knowledge.

1. Please tell us what you think is working well with the current professional reliance model in B.C., and what is not.
 - As related to the practice of land surveying, the professional reliance model helps to assure protection of the public from unqualified practitioners attempting to determine legal property boundaries. The consequences of errors in determining legal boundaries are detrimental to the economic development of British Columbia and to maintaining public order and public safety.

2. What changes, if any, are needed to maintain or improve public trust in the professional reliance model?
 - Ensure additional policies are in place provincially and municipally to ensure that only a regulated commissioned British Columbia Land Surveyor can conduct work in relation to legally determining and establishing legal property boundaries.

3. Do you have any other observations or recommendations you would like to make about this review?

- Clarify the criteria for professional associations included under this review. It is unclear if a commissioned BC Land Surveyor subject to provincial regulations, survey rules, and membership requirements to adhere to a code of conduct and evidence continuing professional development annually is intended to be included within the scope of this review.

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