

Law Amendment's Committee

December 10, 2010

Good morning Mr. Minister and members of the Committee

I am **Glenn Myra, President of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors** and I am pleased to be here to speak in support of Bill 124, the Land Surveyors Act.

The creation of a new Act for Nova Scotia Land Surveyors serves a number of very desirable goals:

1. It confirms that the Association which regulates surveyors has a paramount duty to protect the public interest.
2. It brings in members of the public to sit on the governing Council and key regulatory committees.
3. It brings the Association in line with requirements established by the Fair Registration Practices Act for fair, open, objective and transparent registration processes.
4. It complies with the Agreement on Internal Trade, allowing for mobility of surveyors from other parts of the country to be registered as surveyors in Nova Scotia.
5. It updates the complaints and hearing processes to ensure these processes are fair and transparent to complainants, the members who are subject to the complaints, and to the public
6. It broadens the mandate of practice reviews, to provide a quality assurance mechanism for the practice of professional land surveying,.
7. It creates a process to stop the unauthorized practice of surveying by individuals who are not registered as Nova Scotia Land Surveyors.

8. It re-structures our governance documents to allow government to take responsibility in the Act for the key features of regulation; it allows Cabinet to have the responsibility for regulations setting out the details of key regulatory processes such as registration and discipline; and then allows the members to have responsibility of matters involving the setting of practice and ethical standards as well as for internal issues such as the conduct of meetings.

These are very positive developments for the Association of NS Land Surveyors; for the present and aspiring members of our profession; and most importantly for the public, who can be assured that surveyors are being governed by modern legislation that sets standards; enforces standards; promotes good practice and prevents poor practice.

I also emphasize that these amendments have been widely discussed by surveyors throughout the Province, both at local and provincial meetings. There has been valuable feedback obtained from this consultation process that has been implemented in the Bill before you. I can say that there has been widespread support for these amendments throughout this process and the members are anxious to see it passed.

We look forward to your support in passing this Bill in this sitting of the Legislature.

Respectfully

Glenn Myra

President of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors