



"LACK OF RESEARCH"

Research is the basic requirement of any survey. Any lack of research prior to or during the undertaking of a Survey is of great concern to Council.

It has been reported to Council by the Committees and Departments of the Association that too many surveyors are refusing to undertake proper research of other surveyors' notes, prior to undertaking the survey as well as refusing to undertake proper title research and field research.

It is unreasonable that certain members put the public at risk by not undertaking the research, unless pressured by the Association.

The Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct, together with the Standards for Surveys, which require adherence to Case Law and Statutes, outline in detail the minimum research that must be carried out. The minimum is clear. The member does not have a choice, but must carry out and obtain the applicable Information.

The resources of the Association are being taxed to the limit by those members who constantly refuse, unless pressured, to research. The excuses given are time-worn and unacceptable. Time must be allotted for research. You cannot give a professional opinion without complete research.

Council therefore advises the membership that failure to carry out research as set out in the Standards and the Code of Ethics, which are minimum Standards constitutes a serious breach of the Standards of Conduct and Code of Ethics and that further substantial complaints of such a nature must be dealt with harshly.

Please review the practices in your area and in your firm. Meet with the other surveyors in your area to set up a system that will assist you in doing research. In some areas the surveyors now all have "Fax" machines and the notes requested are simply "faxed" to each other.

If you have problems obtaining notes, according to the Standards set up by the Association, a copy of which is attached, let the Association clear up the matter in your area. Meetings can be held that are most effective in clearing up research problems.

COUNCIL- ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

July 26, 1988

u. Availability of Survey Records:

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- i) A member shall ensure that proper indices are maintained for all of the records in his possession or for which he is responsible in order to facilitate prompt retrieval.
- ii) Survey Records are to be made available for delivery to another member requesting same within five working days of such a request.
- iii) Mail is an acceptable method of delivery unless another means is specified by the requesting member. The responsibility for arranging an alternate method of delivery rests with the requesting member.
- iv) The member supplying the survey records shall ensure that the necessary research is performed by a competent person.
- v) The member supplying survey records shall ensure that the information supplied is drawn from all of his records, however only records owned by the member shall be distributed unless an agreement to the contrary exists.
- vi) The information supplied shall be complete and reflect the final decisions made during the survey. The information supplied may include field notes, reports and plans.
- vii) For surveys using electronic data collection methods, the submission shall include field notes and point plans identifying point numbers and their descriptions in conjunction with a co-ordinate listing and an identification of evidence accepted.
- viii) Reciprocal agreements between members are preferred. Charges for providing survey records are for the retrieval, reproduction and transmittal of the information. The policy for the charges shall be available. A reasonable charge is between one half hour and one hour at the hourly rate for a licensed member as recommended by the appropriate guidelines. In exceptional cases such as where the contract was not completed and the survey was not paid for, the charge shall be negotiated between the parties. Where a fee cannot be agreed upon, resort may be made to the Practice Advisory committee of the Association for arbitration.
- ix) Any member working in an area remote from his normal area of practice shall provide a copy of his survey records for such survey to a local surveyor unless (a) the survey is deposited or registered in the local Registry Office or (b) a mandatory field note index is in place.
- x) Survey records may be transmitted to an employee of the firm requesting same with proper identification or to a courier **service**.
- xi) All copies of survey records supplied shall be of good quality.