

The Party Chief in North Eastern Ontario

March 15, 1975

To the North Eastern Regional Group

Submitted by

A. B. McLENNAN, O.L.S.

The question of who is considered competent to perform the duties of a Party Chief has been brought into question by resolution of Council, August 9, 1974 — Section 3, sub-section (d) involving the Code of Ethics. I would like to point out that in North Eastern Ontario the eligibility for certification at Senior Technician level in the Association of Certified Survey Technicians and Technologists of Ontario is not very satisfactory and the following points are noted to support this viewpoint. The qualification of a Community College graduate with two years' experience on job training as a competent Party Chief should also be covered by a letter of reference from an Ontario Land Surveyor who has been his employer for at least six months.

Basically, the Ontario Land Surveyor is responsible to the public and to his Association, and even to the government of Ontario, in actuality, to provide competent land survey service to the public and governments. Why then is part of his authority really usurped, as

in Section 3, (d) aforesaid, by the said Association of Certified Surveyor Technicians and Technologists of Ontario?

I ask you to consider my impressions of the situation:

(1) The A.C.S.T.T.O. has a Director in Huntsville, who is not apparently able to contact the technicians and Land Surveyors in our N.E. Region on any meaningful basis; nor has any other representative to my knowledge maintained any contact with land Surveyors and their technicians in the said region.

(2) The requirement of our Region involves to a large extent Land Registry and strict examination for legal plans. The majority of the A.C.S.T.T.O. have not been in areas where this situation exists, unless quite recently and, therefore, are not familiar with the real requirements of legal surveys as practised in our Region.

(3) I personally know several excellent Party Chiefs, who have been employed for a number of years with great competence and dependability, for almost all the legal survey organizations

in our group north of the French River. Very few of the men are expected to be members of the A.C.S.T.T.O., yet these same Party Chiefs are the backbone of efficient, competent and economical service provided by the Ontario Land Surveyor in North Eastern Ontario.

(4) The subjects required by the A.C.S.T.T.O. as far as I can ascertain do not really reflect very closely and, with the proper emphasis, the skills required of a competent legal survey Party Chief in our Region.

I recommend that official recognition of the status of Party Chief could be arrived at in our Region in a manner better adapted to provide essential competence for the Ontario Land Surveyor and, therefore, maintain and increase his service to the public. This would involve the North Eastern Region establishing a certification committee composed of the senior instructor in the Legal Survey Course at Northern College, two Ontario Land Surveyors in private practise, and one Land Surveyor employed by the government or a private corporation. All, of course, would be members in good standing of the North Eastern Group.

Finally, the lack of communication and service provided by A.C.S.T.T.O. for northern potential members, and the very great expense in seeking contacts by travelling to Toronto, is no doubt responsible for the almost complete disinterest of the majority of survey Party Chiefs in the northern regions.

Our own North Eastern Regional Group certification committee could certainly, as proposed above, seek liaison with the other Regional Group (e.g., North Western) and the A.C.S.T.T.O. representatives.

In a letter accompanying his article, Mr. McLennan said that his submission "was not officially dealt with at the Council meeting with the northern surveyors at Sudbury, March 5, 1975. However, copies were distributed and some informal discussions were held."

His letter goes on to say, "Another aspect regarding continuing education is to be sponsored by the legal survey course at the Northern College, Porcupine Campus, in Timmins. This would be a way of upgrading certain experienced and competent field men, and all personnel in fact, in co-operation with the North Eastern Group and Northern College. The officials and staff at Northern College have indicated their whole-hearted support along these lines."

He concludes his letter by saying, "It has been suggested that an ad hoc committee composed of R. G. Theyers, O.L.S. of Northern College and D. Ogilvie, O.L.S. of Sudbury (or his appointee) and myself prepare a submission for our next group meeting in April, 1975."

Continuing Education of Members and Students pursuant to O. Reg. 35/73 under The Surveyors Act

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THOSE INTERESTED IN ENROLLING IN THE ABOVE COURSES SHOULD CONTACT MRS. M. H. COOPER, REGISTRATION OFFICE ERINDALE COLLEGE, MISSISSAUGA, Ontario (828-5244)