

FIG COMES TO CANADA IN 1986

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THE 18th Congress of the International Federation of Surveyors will be held in Toronto, Canada from June 1 to 11, 1986. This is only the second time that a Congress has been held in North America in the 108-year history of FIG, an event unlikely to occur again this century.

WHAT IS FIG?

The initials FIG come from the French name for the organization — Fédération Internationale des Géomètres — which was founded in Paris, France on July 18, 1878. Delegates representing seven national associations of Surveyors from Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom created FIG with the objective of interchanging views and technology as well as other matters of general interest to the surveying profession.

FIG grew slowly over the next 50 years, and was largely a Federation of European survey associations. During the war years from 1914 to 1918 and 1939 to 1945 all activities of FIG came to a standstill. Only 25 national associations were members in 1961 when Canada joined FIG through the Canadian Institute of Surveying. Today, there are 50 member countries in FIG, and 53 associations representing close to 200,000 surveyors, appraisers and valuers from around the world.

So FIG is a Federation of national survey associations like other international societies such as the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, the International Cartographic Association and several others.

HOW IS FIG OPERATED?

The administration of FIG is the responsibility of the FIG Bureau (an executive committee in effect) comprising seven members — the President of FIG, three Vice Presidents, the Secretary-General, the Treasurer and the Congress Director. The Bureau is nominated by the member country associations and holds office for a three year term. One Vice President serves from the previous country responsible for the Bureau and one Vice President from the next country to operate the Bureau. Since FIG has no

permanent office, the Federation is run effectively from the host country of the President and the other four Bureau members. The Canadian Bureau for the term 1985 to 1987 is:

President — C. H. Weir, Canada
Vice President — T. D. W. McCulloch, Canada
Vice President — I. S. Katzarsky, Bulgaria
Vice President — J. Talvitie, Finland
Secretary General — C. W. Youngs, Canada
Treasurer — M. Gaudreault, Canada
Congress Director — S. E. Daykin, Canada

Permanent Committee Meetings began in 1920 and are held annually in various countries around the world. Member associations appoint delegates to P.C. meetings varying from a minimum of 2 to a maximum of 5 delegates depending on the numbers of members in each association. The P.C. meetings nominate the Bureau, accept membership applications, review Congress sites, fix association fees, nominate Commission officers and conduct other FIG business.

General Assembly Meetings are held every three years, usually during the Congress in the host country of the President, where all surveyors from the member associations ratify the suggestions and recommendations from the P.C. meetings. It is therefore the individual surveyors from around the world in effect who govern the affairs of FIG.

Nine **Technical Commissions** were established in 1965 to organize the technical and scientific activities of FIG. They cover the range of interests of Federation members and include:

Commission 1 — Professional Practice, Organization and Legal Surveys
Commission 2 — Professional Education and Literature
Commission 3 — Land Information Systems
Commission 4 — Hydrographic Surveying
Commission 5 — Survey Instruments and Methods
Commission 6 — Engineering Surveys
Commission 7 — Cadastre and Rural Land Management

Commission 8 — Urban Land System: Planning & Development
Commission 9 — Valuation and Management of Real Estate

Commission Chairmen from various countries are nominated from the national associations, and serve for three years, organizing symposia at P.C. meetings, and assembling the technical and scientific papers for Congresses. Other countries may appoint committee members to serve on any or all commissions.

Congresses are now held every three years, generally in the middle year of the three year term of office of the Bureau, and in the host country of the Bureau. Here surveyors from around the world assemble to exchange experiences by means of technical papers, poster sessions, commercial exhibits, displays of national activities and to participate in General Assembly and P.C. meetings.

Congresses have been sporadic over the years, beginning in 1878 in Paris, with the next Congress held 32 years later in 1910. Three Congresses took place between the first and second World Wars, resuming again in 1949. The 14th Congress was held in Washington, D.C. in 1974 and subsequent Congresses were held in Sweden, Switzerland and Bulgaria, with the 18th Congress to be held next year in Canada.

HOW IS CANADA INVOLVED IN FIG?

As mentioned earlier, CIS became a member of FIG in 1961, twenty-five years ago. Therefore all CIS members are automatically members of FIG, and all surveyors from the many surveying disciplines in Canada are eligible and welcome to attend the 1986 Congress. CIS membership is not a prerequisite for attending a congress but only CIS members can participate in other FIG activities such as P.C. meetings or by serving on commissions.

There are a number of Canadians who are now or have been involved in FIG, most notably:

Charlie Weir, President of FIG 1985-1987, Vice President from 1982 to

1984, has served on Commissions and as a CIS delegate to FIG on a number of occasions.

Tom McCulloch, Vice President from 1982 to 1984, Chairman of Commission 4, 1980-1981, and a CIS delegate to FIG.

Hans Klinkenberg, Chairman of Commission 2 from 1973 to 1975.

Angus Hamilton, serving as Vice Chairman of Commission 3 from 1985 to 1987.

And eight CIS members from Alberta to New Brunswick presently serve on the other eight Commissions. Of the five Canadian Bureau members, three are Past Presidents of CIS and on the Congress Organizing Committee four of the

seven members are also Past Presidents of CIS.

Gord Gracie, Canada's representative on Commission 2.

Ross Douglas, Assistant Congress Director on Commission 4.

FIG Congress '86 in Toronto next June provides a unique opportunity for surveyors in Canada to participate in a major international meeting and to share experiences and interchange ideas with other professional surveyors from around the world.

But YOU can only appreciate what FIG is all about and experience the interchange of ideas and the fellowship generated at a FIG Congress by attending and the opportunity will not be in North America again for many years. ●