



## *Advocating for an integrated and dynamic Canadian surveying profession.*

**Dear friends,**

I am excited. I am excited about a new national surveyors' organization and with reason.

As I write this article, a large number of volunteers from across the country are investing their time to build a survey community that is 3000 members strong - a survey community that we will be proud to call Professional Surveyors Canada. As I look at the work they are doing, I ask myself why? Why are these surveyors willing to invest their time doing this? And I ask, is it important for me to be part of this, to invest in the building of this community?

I see what the volunteers want to accomplish. They want to build a survey community that has the strength to speak for all surveyors; a community with influence. They understand that relying on a small community of surveyors with limited resources isn't a viable option in today's world. We have 11 such communities in Canada. Not only are their resources limited, but their legislated mandates limit the scope of their advocacy efforts. I get that. We are a profession worthy of recognition. The more resources we pool centrally within an organization that has a focused mandate, the more recognition the profession will receive and therefore, the more influence we will have in shaping the public's perceptions of our profession. I want to be part of a community like that!

Our volunteers want Professional Surveyors Canada to advocate for the profession. They want the public to understand who we are and what we do. They want the public to recognize and value our work. They want the public to recognize the leadership roles we play within our communities. As surveyors, this has never been one of our strong suits. We absolutely need to hire experts to accomplish this. I get that. Our volunteers have a plan. They want to hire communication consultants who are experts in speaking to the public, building a rapport with the press and other professionals, building a brand for surveyors that can be recognized anywhere in the country, anywhere in the world and celebrating our successes. This plan is being implemented right now. This is something that I can get excited about. I want to be part of a surveying community that invests in advocating for the profession!

All of us want to advance our careers within this dynamic profession. Whether we are self-employed or working for a firm, school or government, a strong sense of purpose and accomplishment is key to a successful career. So is relevancy. We want to be relevant, adapt to the needs of our clients, our employers. We want to grow as professionals. Our volunteers building Professional Surveyors Canada understand that. They want to build a surveying community that grows and is relevant, in step with your needs, your client's needs, your employer's needs. At the outset, our volunteers want to hire a member services coordinator to maintain a central job bank, build an online equipment exchange forum, and canvas you to find out what is relevant to you, your employer and your local community to find ways to meet your needs. Our volunteers want to provide professional development courses. They want to ensure that our surveying community continues to update and harmonize educational requirements, enables labour mobility both nationally and internationally and monitors national and international trends to keep you relevant and informed. I want to be part of a surveying community that keeps me relevant!

How can I be sure that this is going to work? I thought of that. For example, I looked at how our volunteers hope to manage professional development courses. They want Professional Surveyors Canada to deliver professional development courses at a reasonable cost for all surveyors. When I look across the country, I realize that I am paying to have courses developed in my province specifically for my province, and so is my colleague in British Columbia, and my colleague in Nova Scotia, and my colleague in Québec, and so on. Why? Why can't we develop one course for the entire country, pay for its development once and save money? Now that makes sense. This is what our volunteers are trying to accomplish. I think our volunteers

are moving in the right direction and there are so many other initiatives where this makes sense. I believe in what our volunteers are trying to accomplish and I want to be part of the surveying community that supports them!

As I said earlier, I am excited and this is just the beginning. I am fully supportive of this community called Professional Surveyors Canada. I urge you to invest in this community by becoming a member. Our volunteers have many ideas but they can't implement them without additional resources and your input. This is your opportunity to be part of that community, and an integral part of Professional Surveyors Canada. Give our volunteers the support they deserve, give yourself a professional community that you deserve, become a member, encourage your colleagues to join, spread the word.

Help build a strong, ethical, professional surveying community. Invest in our future.

Denis Blais  
Interim Chair