



From the **Surveyor General**

Fall Surveyor General’s Report

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I’m happy to provide you with my fall report on LTSA operations and projects. This is a summary of information shared at the regional group meetings.

The LTSA continues to implement COVID-19 preventative measures while moving towards post-pandemic operational planning. We reopened front counters on September 27 with new visiting procedures. Appointments are required and can be booked through our Customer Service Centre.

Many LTSA staff are transitioning to a hybrid of office and remote work. We’ve found through our COVID-19 response that we’re well positioned as an organization to support remote work without compromising our customer experience.

A new office space has been selected in Kamloops and we are preparing for the move in January 2022. The move of the physical records to the Victoria vault was completed in October. Significant work has gone

into digitizing the Kamloops and Nelson Land Title District’s records to improve digital access, including the scanning of all microfilm records. The Scan on Demand service will continue to be available to assist customers with retrieving records that have not yet been digitized. The LTSA continues to make substantial investments in conservation and digitization of historic records.

The Historic Records Advisory Committee continues to advise LTSA

TABLE 1

Land Titles – Plan Intake				
	Q2 July-Sept 21/22	Q2 20/21	Q1 April-June 21/22	Q1 20/21
Plan Intake	2383	2265	2566	2112

TABLE 2

Surveyor General Services - Number of work items received				
Type	Q2 July-Sept 21/22	Q2 20/21	Q1 April-June 21/22	Q1 20/21
Crown Grants	22	15	14	13
Survey Plans	192	152	165	84
SG Applications	81	107	81	80

on conservation and accessibility of historic records in our care, with a focus on records of significance to First Nations research. The LTSA is also developing a comprehensive research guide to records of significance to Indigenous Peoples, which will provide a description and location of historical records of Indigenous interest, including records from LTSA and other related organizations.

Customer Operations

Initially the pandemic brought a great deal of volatility to plan submission volumes, with unusually low volumes at the beginning of the fiscal year in 2020, offset by significant increases over the final half of the year. The high transaction volumes have persisted so far through 2021 and have only

recently shown any sign of easing. The volume of land title plans submitted in the first quarter of this year (April through June) were 21% higher than the same period last year and in the second quarter (July through September) volumes were 5% higher than last year. We've had several record breaking months for LTSA revenue. (see table 1)

For Surveyor General operations, we have seen an increase in plans compared to last year, but the volumes remain lower than historic averages, primarily due to fewer oil and gas related plans. In the first quarter of 2021 we received 96% more plans than the same quarter in 2020. In the second quarter plan volumes were 26% higher than last year. (see table 2)

I'm very appreciative of the work that the Deputy Surveyors General and the technologists do every day to support land surveyors and ensure that we are focused on continuously improving our systems and processes.

Boundary Commission

This year three projects were completed for the BC/Alberta Boundary Commission, including an inspection of 7 monuments at North Fork Pass, an inspection of 14 monuments at Tonquin Pass and a restoration survey of 35 monuments at Tent Mountain to Crowsnest Pass.

Pictured are two monuments from the inspection at North Fork Pass.



Two monuments from the inspection at North Fork Pass.

ParcelMap BC

The ParcelMap BC operations team continues to maintain turn-around times of one day or less. On top of day-to-day operations, the team has been completing spatial adjustments for many areas throughout BC. We have received interest from specific municipalities in improving their areas and these municipalities have provided the PMBC team with additional data to assist in the spatial improvements. The Spatial Improvement Assessment app provides a visual assessment of parcel fabric accuracy and is publicly available on our website. You can see in the application which geographic areas are prioritized for improvement.

For the titled roads project, approximately 20,000 out of 32,000 road parcels with active PIDs have been integrated. The majority of the parcels integrated so far are within the City of Vancouver.

We continue to work towards increased adoption of PMBC with municipalities across BC. We're currently targeting adoption by larger municipalities.

Web Filing / Survey Plan Services Modernization

Most land title and Surveyor General PDF forms have now been retired, with the exception of certain plan related forms, including the SPC, DSPL and CLRS forms. These forms will transition as part of Survey Plan Services Modernization.

After a pause in this project we are now planning the build and release schedules. The LTSA has recently consulted with a group of land surveyors to further understand existing workflows and inform our planning. I will be providing information as we work through this project to allow land surveyors to be prepared for upcoming changes.

Integrated Survey Area Program

We have completed a review of the Integrated Survey Area (ISA) Program and have reached out to municipalities to ensure that they are aware of their commitments to work with GeoBC to maintain their ISA. We have asked municipalities to provide us with letters that acknowledge their commitment or to advise us if they wish to annul their ISA. For municipalities that do not currently have an adequate density of monuments, we are not requiring immediate rectification, but to initiate the process of monument replacement under the guidance of GeoBC.

Another project that was completed in late spring was an update of all ISA boundaries in ParcelMap BC. In order to simplify the ISA boundaries, parts of some ISAs have been redefined to more closely follow the municipal boundaries in areas where monuments are within a reasonable distance to the municipal boundary. Circular Letter No.486 was published on May 19 and the published ISA boundaries in PMBC are now the official definition for all ISAs. All previous definitions

of the ISA boundaries are superseded and this includes historic mylar maps; which were previously available on the LTSA website in PDF format. To ensure you know when integration of legal surveys is required, please closely review the updated boundaries for those ISAs you regularly work in.

Over the past several years we have contracted surveys within some ISAs to provide GeoBC with data to improve the accuracy of coordinates. We have recently contracted survey work within the Vernon ISA for this purpose. This new survey information is now with GeoBC for processing.

Post-Quake Boundary Restoration

Thank you to the land surveyors that participated in the post-quake boundary restoration project's focus group in the spring. Your experience and insights are helping us form the action plan. Recently we have met with GeoBC to start a plan for addressing the effect of a significant earthquake on the provincial coordinate control system. We continue to work on implementing the feedback from land surveyors and other stakeholders.

The aim is to reduce the risk of uncertainty and support economic recovery post-quake.

In closing, thank you to everyone for your continued support. I am looking forward to engaging with the membership as we continue to progress on projects. ❖