

BC OnLine Offers New Services

It's been a busy summer at BC OnLine. Our BC OnLine data partners have implemented a number of new services, with a couple more still to come. The Personal Property Registry and the Corporate Registry have made substantial changes. The Land Title Branch plans to implement a new advisory service this Fall.

The Personal Property Registry is now delivering all of its services electronically, solely through BC OnLine. Services such as Company and PPR searches and Corporate Name Reservations are no longer accepted by mail, fax, or telephone. The public can set up their own BC OnLine account to do these functions, or they can use the services of someone—such as a BC Notary—who has access to BC OnLine. These changes have allowed government to reduce operational costs while enhancing service availability.

A good example of the government's direction to make full use of the Internet and electronic service delivery is the way annual reports for BC companies are now filed. As of July 2, 2002, annual reports for BC companies must be filed electronically through BC OnLine. Paper submissions of BC company annual reports to the Corporate Registry are no longer accepted.

Annual reports for BC companies will now be filed over the Internet through the BC OnLine Website, using a BC OnLine account or a credit card.

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Not everyone feels comfortable using the Internet, and some individuals will not wish to use a credit card on the Internet. Thus, there will always be those who prefer to deal with professionals such as Notaries Public to properly file government forms on their behalf.

The scope of government services moving to electronic delivery is constantly expanding. Both the Corporate Registry and the Land Title Branch are currently working on projects to completely automate their operations over the Internet. Both projects are long term and are probably a year or two away from completion, but work is being done today

to achieve complete automation over the Internet. The first phase of automating the corporate registry is the electronic filing of BC company annual reports.

The Land Title Branch is planning to launch their new Title Advisory service through BC OnLine in the Fall of 2002. This service is the first step toward completely automating the transfer of property through BC OnLine over the Internet. The Title Advisory Service will allow customers to “tag” a property for a specified period of time. Once tagged, the customer will be alerted by email if any documents are filed in the Land Title office against that property during the specified time frame.

These two new BC OnLine services, Title Advisory and Corporate Registry electronic annual report filings, show that government is moving quickly to expand electronic delivery of services. Professionals such as Notaries who have the knowledge and experience to effectively use these new online services will be instrumental in helping the public to access e-government.

For more information about these services, and to find out more about BC OnLine, visit our Website at www.bconline.gov.bc.ca and check out the articles in the News tab. ▲