

Leta Best



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The Pleasure of Your Company

Time passes so quickly. It's hard to believe this is my final column as President of The Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia.

On September 19, we held our Annual General Meeting in Cranbrook, BC. Our newly elected President is Chris Dupuis, from New Westminster. Chris was an outstanding Vice President and will serve The Society well as President.

With the First Peoples theme of the Fall issue of *The Scrivener*, it's timely that we held our conference at the Delta St. Eugene Mission Resort; the hotel and golf course are located on First Nations property. The setting was beautiful and the accommodations, food, and service excellent. Our time spent there was exceptional.

During my term as President, the provincial government reviewed the number of Land Title Offices in British Columbia and looked at closing the Victoria Land Title Office. It was my pleasure during negotiations with the government on this

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issue to work with members of the First Nations communities on Vancouver Island, along with many other stakeholder groups. We worked toward a mutually beneficial resolution.

The outcome was the new Land Title and Survey Authority. Included on the first Board of Directors will be a representative of the First Nations Summit as well as our Society. This new Authority will benefit the public, preserve the Torrens Land Title System, and embrace the Cadastral Survey System.

Another opportunity for me as President was attending a stakeholders' meeting of the Integrated Land and Resources Registry (ILRR). The ILRR project will result in a single, comprehensive register of all legal interest in the lands and

resources of British Columbia. This will enable government, business, and public interests to operate more efficiently by replacing the current array of unrelated registries with an accessible electronic and cartographic data system.

It was a distinct pleasure during my term of office to participate in the these discussions and help advance the way we deal with real property in BC. I felt there was good communication among the stakeholder groups themselves, as well as with our government, to bring about these innovative changes to our province. It is important that the various levels of government work with all the people of British Columbia to improve the quality of services provided in the management of land and resources.

To the membership of our Society, thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your President. These past two years have provided me with so many good memories.

I have enjoyed myself immensely. I wouldn't have missed being your representative for anything. It was one of the highlights of my life. ▲