

**G. Wayne Braid**



## BC Notaries in a Global Economy

One of the things I do as Secretary of The Society is administer the many, many international documents our members prepare for their clients' use in commerce and in their personal lives around the world.

Most of the documents require authentication by the Secretary of The Society. These documents must satisfy the reader in the country where the document will be used that, indeed, the Notary in British Columbia:

- has properly identified the person signing the document;
- is in good standing in the Province of British Columbia; and
- has properly attested or drawn the documents being used.

In an average week, we process 60 to 70 international documents. These documents may consist of sworn statements for people travelling back to their home country to find a bride or a groom. Or, they may consist of contracts and bills of lading and other mercantile instruments of business that our members' clients must have certified—to indicate to the destination country that the documents are “true” copies of an original registration in BC, and that the documents can be relied upon to represent the business the client will be conducting in the destination country.

This authentication process has impressed upon me the importance of

our relationship with the governments of these different countries, their Consulates, and their Notaries.

The Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia has for a number of years taken steps to establish those relationships. We are involved in the process of becoming a member of the UINL (Union of International Notaire Latin). Our becoming a member of this group will establish the British Columbia Notary as an accepted participant in the confirmation and practice of the exchange of international documents.

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### *Citizens and businesses throughout the world trust in the work of their Notary.*

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As we continue to celebrate our 75th anniversary, and I communicate with our International Notaries and business partners, I realize how “young” we BC Notaries really are. During a conversation with a Notary from Mexico, I learned that the first Notaries in his country practised in the early 1500s. They were the recorders of the history of the people, the recorders of the law as determined by the Emperor, and the scribes that recorded the business transactions between/among citizens. The Board of Directors of the

Society of Notaries of Mexico City meets every Monday for lunch to conduct the business of the Society. They have done so since the Society was chartered. Despite war, weather, economic conditions, and natural disasters, the Board has not missed one single Monday meeting since 1792!

Recently one of our members had a client who needed some documents registered in England. Through a referral from our Secretariat office in Vancouver, we were able to put our member in touch with a UK Notary, who was in turn able to complete the transaction to the satisfaction of all parties, through the efficient use of email and authentication.

As the citizens of British Columbia become more involved in commerce in their country of origin or in other countries where they wish to sell their products, it will become increasingly important that we, as Notaries, have credibility with international clients and their business partners.

When a client is purchasing or selling property or conducting business in Germany, France, Mexico, Italy, China, the Philippines, or the Czech Republic, it is essential that the Notary in that country has a trustworthy and competent contact in BC. Citizens and businesses throughout the world trust in the work of their Notary. British Columbia Notaries are continuing that *Tradition of Trust.* ▲