

Through our agreement with the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association, the *TILMA* process for labour mobility went into effect January 1, 2009. I am pleased to say that so far, one candidate has written the nonmaterial jurisdictional exam and has passed. Rich Nixon was sworn in at our AGM on February 25 and received his commission. By the time this article is published, more candidates likely will have written, passed, been sworn in, and deemed eligible to practise land surveying in BC.

Another initiative on which the Association of BC Land Surveyors is working is the development of an Online Exam to allow applicants to write the jurisdictional exam in a location suitable to the Host Association, to provide instant access to, and turnaround of, the results. This initiative is about 95 percent complete; we trust it will be

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in operation by the time this article is published. Once the concept has been proven, the OnLine Exam will be shared with Alberta and hopefully other Associations across the country.

Initially, I was concerned about the labour mobility initiatives and whether they would be seen as lowering the bar. I am now convinced this initiative will help provide more flexibility for land surveyors in their daily practices. A land surveyor commissioned in both BC and Alberta would be of major benefit to a company undertaking surveys in both provinces.

It would provide for a flexible work force, allowing them to move crews and land surveyors to areas where the need arises. Because we are currently experiencing a downturn in the economy, companies would be able to move staff in to assist crews in places like Fort St. John, for example, which has been experiencing a boom for a number of years and where surveying work is still backlogged.

I look forward to future developments and especially working with members across the country as we strive to develop a refined process for the labour mobility of our members. ▲

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