

President

Leta Best



Honesty and Integrity Earn Public Trust

Recently I had the pleasure of addressing the Notary graduating class of 2003. It gave me the opportunity to reflect upon the years I have spent as a Notary and the important leadership role that we as BC Notaries play in our community.

The pledge and oath of office taken by our new Notaries reminded me just how consequential our profession is to the people of British Columbia. We are charged with the responsibility of always practising our profession in the best interest of the public.

Our pledge counsels us to seek and maintain an equitable, honourable, and cooperative association with fellow members, other practitioners, and all others who may become a part of the Notary's business and professional life.

As new Notaries open their practices and begin to interact with fellow Notaries and allied professionals, they will appreciate the importance of that aspect of our pledge. It is essential to cooperate and work as a team; a collaborative approach is appreciated and will be

reciprocated. The kinder and more respectful we are to others, the greater ease we will experience in gathering the information we require to complete our transactions in a timely manner.

*Honesty and integrity are the cornerstones of our profession.
A Notary must not compromise integrity.*

We must remember to extend professional courtesy to all—be they other Notaries, lawyers, Realtors, bankers, mortgage brokers, land surveyors, registry agents, insurance brokers, property managers, tax and utility authorities, or title insurance issuers.

Our pledge goes on to state: "I pledge myself to place honesty and integrity above all else and to pursue my practice with diligent study and dedication in order that my service to my

clients shall always be maintained at the highest possible level."

Honesty and integrity are the cornerstones of our profession. A Notary must not compromise integrity. A Notary must not be afraid to say no. BC Notaries must not let anyone intimidate them into doing something they don't want to do. If it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. When in doubt, don't.

Our pledge and oath of office immediately set the tone for us to be the leaders in our communities. We must maintain a high standard for ourselves and our employees. We are asked to affix our signatures to documents pertaining to passport applications, authentication of documents, immigration, and adoption, as well as all manner of *affidavits* used in court applications, both within British Columbia and Canada and in foreign jurisdictions.

A Notary's word is his or her bond. We have a noble history of being honest and trustworthy. We will continue to honour and respect the public trust we have earned. ▲