

SECRETARY/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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International Interests

It is my pleasure to again welcome you to *The Scrivener*. I know these pages will provide you with an educational and informative experience.

This issue has an international flavour. If you are like me, when you think “international,” many images come to mind . . . possibly the white sandy beaches of the South Pacific, the Caribbean, or Mexico or other exotic destinations like Thailand or Mauritius! Or maybe you envision the haunting ruins of the Roman Empire, the Greek Parthenon, the modern delights of Singapore or Brasilia or the mountains of Peru, the jungles of the Amazon, or the horrors of poverty in Africa.

Each week I have the opportunity to sign many documents that come in from the members of our Society. The documents have been taken to our Notaries’ offices by clients requiring assistance with their international documents. They may be documents for commerce or for a legal purpose or a document required because the client is to marry a person from his or her home country.

In this sphere, my job is to make certain the Notary who has provided *the proper identification of the client* is a member in good standing of The Society. I then provide a declaration to that effect and review the presentation of the group of documents and assist our member and his or her client.

I am thankful for the keen eye of our Julie Boness who is so very diligent about

viewing the documents to make certain they are properly executed and presented. Julie brings any discrepancy or possible problem to my attention immediately.

The Consulates of the various countries have specific requirements for the way documents are to be presented. Does the Consulate need a Letter of Good standing from the Notary who signed them? Need the documents be sent to the Lieutenant Governor for her signature? Has each page in the set of documents been identified? Has the Notary applied his or her impression Seal?

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This is very detailed work. Clients depend on their Notary to be exact. They will not have the opportunity to come back the next day to correct an error or fix a page. Sometimes it takes months for documents to be returned from foreign jurisdictions.

Our members are asked to handle dozens of different types of transactions for use in other countries. As I review these various documents each week, I am always interested to see what they are for and to whom they are addressed—not only to what country they are being sent but for what purposes. Many of the technical companies in BC and manufacturers of

medical equipment or health care materials must first present their submissions to a Notary to be certified and have statements of the contents of their products sworn before a Notary.

Many young Canadians are adopting children from other countries; this process produces a multitude of documents for the adoptive parents to present; some countries’ requirements can fill a small binder!

I often wonder as I sign these documents about the people on the other side of the paper—the lives, the revenue possibly being generated in their country by the transaction, the employment being provided—and I think about how they live. The BC Notary is providing a service that is useful and that adds value to the lives of their clients.

In this issue, you will read impressions of Notaries around the world and thoughts and insights from our Notary friends in the USA, Puerto Rico, and England.

Although BC Notaries are a relatively small group, they belong to an international corps of respected professionals who, as our Editor so eloquently states in her Keynote article, “...Notaries have protected the interests of the people, clarifying the complexities of the law and making it more accessible. Notaries to this day have maintained the qualities that have been constant throughout history: a person of impeccable integrity who can be trusted.”

BC Notaries: Good people to know! ▲