

Ken Sherk

# BC Notaries: *Unique in All the World*

It's an honour to occupy this column in *The Scrivener* for a second tenure within 6 years.

I am the first “recycled” President in The Society’s 80-year history. My colleagues have honoured me with the distinction of a second term as President of The Society of Notaries Public.

The most challenging part of my position, as was the case last term, will be filling this space each quarter. So here are the first musings of my second go-round.

**Unique BC Notaries** is the theme of this issue. Members of our Society are unique because they are members of a self-governing professional organization that is unique to the rest of Canada, and The Society is unique in its standing with Notaries Public throughout the world.

At this writing, our membership is 287, with an average age of 54.

Today’s Notaries have enjoyed at least one previous career. Individuals come to us from all walks of life with a rich variety of life experiences to offer their clientele.

Many of our Notaries are—or were—CAs, CGAs, surveyors, and lawyers. Many have come from countries throughout the world. This affords the general public who use our services the opportunity to receive the advice of an experienced legal professional from a well-rounded background.

Many Notaries speak several languages and are able to serve the ethnic diversity of our province.



The role of the BC Notary in North America is itself unique. Within the common law system, no other Notaries possess the powers to act within the legal system of their province or state as do Notaries in BC. This has afforded British Columbians the option of choosing between two different legal bodies for many of their legal services.

In the world order, BC Notaries are now recognized as a unique body that has attained membership within a world community of Civil Code Notaries. In conjunction with the *Québec Notaires*, BC Notaries have been granted OBSERVER status to the International Union of Latin Notaries (UINL). This privilege will permit The Society to participate in the ongoing functions of the UINL, an organization that oversees the role of Notaries from over 75 countries.

Through this association, the BC Notary is in a position to better represent the needs of the public and to do business within a global economy that requires—with increasing frequency—the services of Notaries Public throughout the world to authenticate and verify important transactions and documentation.

I urge you to read the Cover Story article on Dr. Bernard Hoeter, long-time Secretary of our Society. He is one of those exceptional individuals who, once you have met him, will leave a lasting impression on you for a lifetime.

Dr. Hoeter is representative of everything that is unique about being a Notary Public in British Columbia. ▲

- Affidavits for All Documents required at a Public Registry within BC
- Authorization of Minor Child Travel
- Business Purchase/Sale
- Certified True Copies of Documents
- Commercial Leases and Assignment of Leases
- Contracts and Agreements
- Easements and Rights of Way
- Estate Planning
- Execution/Authentications of International Documents
- Health Care Declarations
- Insurance Loss Declarations
- Letters of Invitation for Foreign Travel
- Manufactured Home Transfers
- Marine Bills of Sale and Mortgages
- Marine Protestations
- Mortgage Refinancing Documentation
- Notarizations/Attestations of Signatures
- Passport Application Documentation
- Personal Property Security Agreements
- Powers of Attorney
- Proof of Identity for Travel Purposes
- Purchaser’s Side of Foreclosures
- Representation Agreements
- Residential and Commercial Real Estate Transfers
- Restrictive Covenants and Builder’s Liens
- Statutory Declarations
- Subdivisions and Statutory Building Schemes
- Wills Preparation
- Wills Searches
- Zoning Applications

Some BC Notaries provide these services.

- Marriage Licences
- Mediation
- Real Estate Disclosure Statements

***Over 280 locations to serve you!***

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**1-800-663-0343**

**or visit [www.notaries.bc.ca](http://www.notaries.bc.ca).**