

## Surveys and Finding a Surveyor:

Although an Operational First Nation is managing their lands under their Land Code, the lands “continue to be a reserve within the meaning of the *Indian Act*”<sup>1</sup>.

As a Reserve is included in the listing of Canada Lands, it is therefore is subject to the *Canada Lands Surveyors Act* (CLSA), and would require:

- a Canada Lands Surveyor to conduct the survey\*
- Survey Instructions from the Surveyor General Branch (SGB) of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to conduct the survey;
- The plan is to be recorded in the Canada Lands Surveys Records (at NRCan)

\*For surveys involving interior boundaries, a Surveyor must be commissioned and licenced as a Canada Lands Surveyor (at a minimum). Where the survey involves a common boundary with Provincial lands (jurisdictional boundary), the surveyor will also require a provincial survey commission/licence to perform the survey.

If you require a surveyor with both commissions, you would need to find the Surveyors name on both the ACLS members listing and the applicable Provincial Association members listing:

**To find a CLS - Association of Canada Lands Surveyors:** <https://www.acls-aatc.ca>

- Click on: Public
- Click on: Find a Surveyor in your area

**To find an OLS – Association of Ontario Land Surveyors:** <http://www.aols.org/>

- Click on: Directory

**To find a QLS - l'Ordre des arpenteurs-géomètres du Québec:** <http://www.oagq.qc.ca/>

**To find a NBLS – Association of New Brunswick Land Surveyors:** <http://www.anbls.nb.ca/>

- Click on: Find a Surveyor
- Click on: Land Surveyor Members

**To find a NSLS – Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors:** <http://www.ansls.ca/>

- Click on: Members – Roll **OR** Members – Location

**To find an NLS – Association of Newfoundland Land Surveyors:** [www.anls.ca/](http://www.anls.ca/)

- Click on: Find a Surveyor

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<sup>1</sup> Section 4.1 of the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management

Upon request, the local SGB office may be able to assist in providing a list of qualified Surveyors for the project.

### **Starting the Survey Project**

Some of the documents and information that a Surveyor will need to prepare an estimate and eventually start the survey are: *(refer to Appendix K of the Land Governance Manual for examples of each document)*

- Sketch of the area to be surveyed
- Permission to enter the Reserve to conduct the survey
- Land Status Report – even though a Land Status Report is no longer a “requirement” in the process, it is recommended to prepare one to ensure proper due diligence (for both the First Nation and the Surveyor)
- Details for the project – written scope of work and/or contract, timeframes, expectations, parties involved, etc.

Factors that may affect the cost of a survey:

- The lowest priced estimate may not always be the best estimate
- It may be beneficial to have multiple survey projects (group the survey projects) carried out at once to reduce travel costs and time.

#### **Location:**

- travel costs – travel time for the survey crew to the location (from the office or accommodations), mode of transportation at the survey location (truck, helicopter, boat, snowmobile, etc.)
- Accommodations – are they required? Are they close to the location?

#### **Timeframe and time of the year**

- Winter (weather) conditions – will the surveyor need to dig through snow/ice to locate the survey evidence? Can the surveyor easily access the location all-year?
- Priority – is the timing for the survey well-planned? Or does the survey have to be conducted now?
- Amount of field time – dependent on terrain, weather, access, availability of survey evidence, condition of survey evidence, etc.

#### **Availability of Survey evidence/monuments:**

- Age of previous surveys – type of monuments used, possibility of the monuments being located, land development that has occurred since the last survey

- Type of monumentation – some monuments are easier to locate than others, some monuments may last longer than others (i.e. wooden post compared to a steel bar in concrete)

**Survey Specifics:**

- Type of boundary (natural, rectilinear) – may limit time of year that the survey can be done, the amount of time required for the survey, the type of transportation required, etc.
- Type of equipment that can be used (GPS, conventional) – some equipment may speed up the time required to conduct the survey, if the survey location conditions permit the use of certain equipment (i.e. tree covered areas would not permit the use of GPS equipment, as this equipment requires a clear view of the sky)

**Experience of Surveyor:**

- Familiarity with area – has the Surveyor worked near this location or on this Reserve before (may have a better idea of the location of survey evidence, access, etc.)
- Knowledge of survey requirements and processes – some Surveyors do not conduct a large volume of CLS work, therefore they may require additional time to confirm their understanding of the processes and requirements (as they can differ considerably from Provincial survey work)