

## Notice to Canada Lands Surveyors from The Canada Centre for Cadastral Management

### New Administrative Policy Related to First Nation Approval of Registration Plans

#### **Background**

The 2003 Interdepartmental Agreement between the Department of Natural Resources (NRCan) and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) specifies that a First Nation Council must be given the opportunity to comment on a plan before it is approved. Traditionally, the task of soliciting comments from a First Nation has been the responsibility of NRCan or INAC. The comments received from a First Nation usually consist of a simple approval of the plan by way of a letter from the Band, a Band Council Resolution or a standard approval form.

In the interest of efficiency and the promotion of a closer working relationship between First Nations and the surveying profession, the Surveyor General of Canada Lands is delegating the responsibility for obtaining First Nation approvals for certain Registration Plans to the Surveyor responsible for the plan. It is anticipated that prior to submitting provisional survey returns to NRCan for recording, a Surveyor will review the plan with the First Nation Council or a designated representative to ensure that it conforms to their individual needs, regulations, policies, bylaws etc.

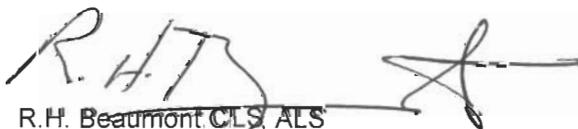
This policy applies to Registration Plans prepared under section 31 of the Canada Lands Surveys Act where the Surveyor has been hired by a First Nation representative, a First Nation band member or any other third party. These plans are hereafter referred to as "Indirect" Registration Plans

#### **Policy**

Commencing with all Instructions issued on and after June 1, 2006 for the preparation of Indirect Registration Plans on Indian Lands, the Office of the Surveyor General of Canada Lands will require that Surveyors obtain an approval in writing from the First Nation Band Council or an appropriately designated representative ( i.e. Band Lands Manager) that the plan is satisfactory. Acceptable methods of indicating approval include a signed formal letter, a Band Council resolution or a signed approval form.

Provisional returns for indirect registration plans must include a copy of the approval in one of the prescribed formats. Returns for Indirect Registration Plans that do not include written approval will not be reviewed or ratified until such time as the approval is received.

Surveyors are responsible for supplying their clients with any and all copies of final registration plans, as appropriate, after they have been recorded in the Canada Lands Surveys Records



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