

Moving Towards an Online Degree in Surveying/Geomatics in Canada & Foreign Trained Professionals

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SUMMARY

The Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors is engaged with its members – 10 Canadian self-regulating land surveying associations excepting the province of Quebec – in moving its examinations towards an online degree in surveying/geomatics. This will be a first for Canada.

Canada is a large country where universities granting surveying or geomatics engineering degrees are few and located far apart: there are 2 in Western Canada, 2 in Central Canada, and one in the Maritime provinces. They are all in large centres. Anyone wishing to do such a degree must live in those centres.

This situation does a disservice to the student population which in large part lives outside those centres.

This project intends to prepare future generations of surveying and geomatics professionals where they live building upon technologies to assist society needs and educating this future workforce and hereby strengthening and developing our profession.

It is not only a requirement born out of geography and a somewhat sparse population, but also a demographic requirement. Canada experience a very large “baby boom” after the second world war until the early 1960’s. Now all these surveying and geomatics professionals are retiring in droves. Replacement is imperative to maintain a healthy industry.

The fact that Canada has a very large land mass, a smallish population and huge natural resources demands that the surveying/geomatics industry utilizes not only innovative surveying approaches and technologies but also develop and build its

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Therefore, the CBEPS National Syllabus is being modernized to account for these new approaches and technologies. This will go hand in hand with a Canadian online surveying/geomatics degree.

CBEPS has also set a formal process for foreign trained land surveyors (FTLS) to get their competency recognized. A landing page leads candidates to either the CBEPS website or the FTLS website depending on where training was acquired.

The website provides a clear process that recognizes academic achievements in the technical areas of surveying/geomatics. An interview is also conducted with a panel made of 2 surveyors and one academic to investigate gaps that may show up in the educational assessment. There is always a learning plan developed for an FTLS candidate to cover the specific areas related to Canadian law.

This process leads the FTLS candidate directly to obtaining CBEPS certificate of completion and once received it is of same value as for a regular Canadian candidate therefore permitting the FTLS candidate to enter the path of professional designation.

Because of the online degree in surveying/geomatics project, any foreign trained candidate will be able to fill the gaps in their education such as Canadian survey law from anywhere in the world reducing greatly any delays in any immigration process.

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