



THIS MATERIAL REPRESENTS THE CONSIDERED OPINIONS OF THE BUSINESS PRACTICES COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE CORPORATION OF BC LAND SURVEYORS REGARDING REASONABLE STANDARDS FOR FINANCIAL COMPENSATION AND CONTRACTING OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEY SERVICES. INDIVIDUAL SURVEYORS SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER ANY UNIQUE ASPECTS OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL PRACTICES IN ORDER TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE FEE SCHEDULES.

## **BCLS**

### **Business Practices Committee BULLETIN**

## **Salary expectations of a B.C. land surveyor**

(1) A B.C. Land Surveyor in private practice probably has a feeling for what should be a fair personal income. This intuitive figure may be arrived at in a number of different ways:

- (a) comparison to other jobs in the past,
- (b) comparison to income when Articling, or
- (c) comparison to other professional groups.

Deciding what should be a fair income should not be totally subjective. One base estimate which could be used is the salary received by a Land Surveyor working for a City or Municipality, or B.C. Hydro.

Information gained from the Cities Of Burnaby, Vancouver, Surrey and B.C. Hydro reveals the following average salaries for three categories of Land Surveyors:

Chief B.C.L.S.	Supervising B.C.L.S.	Junior B.C.L.S.
Average: \$67,200	\$60,700	\$55,100

In addition to the above figures, the Employer pays 20% to 25% more for pension, medical, W.C.B., U.I.C. dental and extended medical. Taking benefits to be 22% of the above salaries gives final figures of:

Chief B.C.L.S.	Supervising B.C.L.S.	Junior B.C.L.S.
Average: \$81,984	\$74,054	\$67,222

### **(2) Wages of Land Surveyors' support staff**

The Business Practices Committee has polled some cities in the Lower Mainland to find out what their survey support staff is paid. While compiling the data is not completely simple due to differences in categories (and numbers of categories), the following may be used as a guide for Year 2000:

Senior Instrumentman	Junior Instrumentman	Surveyor's Assistant
Average: \$20.50/hr	\$17.00/hr	\$14.50/hr

Bear in mind that these figures may be somewhat regional. Land Surveyors working outside the Lower Mainland can make enquiries in their own regions to arrive at a similar table.

### **(3) Summary**

Returning to the salary expectations of a B.C. Land Surveyor, a member in private practice should note that the figures given are average base salaries only. Beyond receiving a salary, the self-employed Land Surveyor should also expect to make a return on his investment after salary (profit). After all, if you were working for someone else, that business owner would not be content to pay your salary and have nothing left over. He or she would expect a profit, to cover such things as corporate tax, return on investment, and reinvestment of capital to replace equipment and other assets.

Aside from the constraints of not being allowed to charge unreasonably low or exorbitant fees, a B.C. Land Surveyor in private practice may work as many hours and charge what he or she wishes. However, a B.C. Land Surveyor in private practice should examine the average base salaries closely. ***IF YOU ARE SETTING YOUR SIGHTS LOWER THAN THESE FIGURES, THEN YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF WHY YOU WENT INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE TO BEGIN WITH, AND WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?***