

Three roads may advance status

by W. D. NESBIT, A.C.S.T.T.O. Provincial Secretary

The combined Board of Directors and Committee Meeting held at Richmond Hill on June 9, 1973, left one conclusion in the minds of many of those attending.

A.C.S.T.T.O. must find a viable method of advancing the status of its members to retain its credibility.

Three avenues have emerged from discussions at Executive and Liaison Committee Meetings within the past several months.

"Avenue One" would be by means of a regulation made pursuant to "The Apprenticeship and Tradesmen's Qualifications Act" R.S.O. 1970, Chapter 24, designate the calling of Survey Technician and Technologist as a certified trade. Under this Act certain controls could be instituted, i.e.:

(a) regulating the ratio of apprentices to journeymen who may be employed by any employer;

(b) specifying salaries paid to apprentices as a percentage of the journeyman's rate;

(c) creating a closed shop, wherein only persons recognized under the regulations may be employed;

(d) regulating the requirements for recognition at a certain level under the Act including:

(i) basic academic requirements;

(ii) final academic requirements for each level;

(iii) practical experience requirements for each level;

This Act is administered under the Minister of Labour. It involves fields such as Radio and T.V. Service Technicians who are also required to have post secondary education.

"Avenue Two" would include A.C.S.T.T.O. along with the Architectural, Engineering, Medical, Veterinary Science, Library Science Technicians and Technologists as Certificants under a new Technology Act to recognize by statute and protect the title of Technician and Technologist. Certification would be initially processed and approved by each Member Association through the Certification Board established by a Member Association such as our existing Board. A Certificate would then be issued and the Commission notified. The Commission set up under this Act being composed of members of the Member Associations and others would be empowered to make regulations respecting any matters outside its scope of passing by-laws includ-

ing, but not limiting, the foregoing, prescribing the scope of examinations for Certification, prescribing academic and practical experience required for Certification, regulating the use of titles, prescribing the composition of each of the Member Certification Boards. Suitable safeguards are incorporated such as prior approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council who will consider the recommendations of the Member Certification Boards.

"Avenue Three" involves vertical restructuring under a horizontally restructured A.O.L.S. who have subscribed to the responsibility of certifying and disciplining our membership under the authority of the "Surveyors Act."

The A.O.L.S. have been charged under authority of the Surveyors Act, as have other professional bodies such as: the A.P.E.O. under the Professional Engineers Act, with the duties of serving and protecting the public interest in this case by regulating the practice of professional land surveying and governing the professions. This also includes establishing and maintaining standards of knowledge and skill among its members. The A.O.L.S. by setting the standard for future professional qualification at the University level have created the "Super Surveyor" as the team is banded about in O.L.S. circles. It appears that these persons will be Managers rather than "Dirt Scratchers". Ten years ago it was common practice to employ non O.L.S. party chiefs in legal surveying within the Ontario Government. An examination of the ratio of employees to licensed professionals in Ontario practices will reveal that non-O.L.S. supervised crews do exist.

With the foregoing in mind and with a mind to the future where obviously more work will be done without an O.L.S.

personally present it would appear to be only good sense for the O.L.S. Council to require at this time that all non-O.L.S. party chiefs be certified at an appropriate level. Then as the supply of field experienced college graduates increase, require that all survey party members be certified at a level commensurate with their duties. The onus to ensure that properly educated and experienced personnel are employed should be accepted by Council rather than relying on the individual member whose judgment may be clouded by the profit picture.

Some O.L.S. in private practice will feel threatened by this suggestion; however, what are we ultimately saying? That the person must be adequately educated and field trained to do the job and be so certified.

With the increase in knowledge, and technological advancements in equipment, well trained operators who are conversant with not only the operation, but also the working principles of equipment are required.

Avenues One and Two have been represented as methods of acquiring Provincial recognition whereby the Ontario Government, the largest single employer of Survey Technicians and Technologists, would, by recognition of their own legislation, specify that their employees be certified. I feel that an abortion of A.C.S.T.T.O. from O.L.S. would not serve any useful purpose. Avenue One or Two could be considered with the present Certification Board set-up; in other words, keeping A.C.S.T.T.O. with mother A.O.L.S. or even a combination of either of the first two avenues with the third. Letters to the editor supporting any of these proposals or specifying any other approach from those C.S.T./s who are pursuing status and recognition will be welcomed. ●

UPCOMING MEETINGS

82nd ANNUAL MEETING

Association of Ontario Land Surveyors

February 4, 5 and 6, 1974

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Toronto, Ont.

1974 CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF SURVEYING

National Convention

April 3-5, 1974

Vancouver Hotel, Vancouver, B.C.