FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN SURVEYING
The David Thompson National Geomatics Awards

The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Canada are proud to announce the winners of the eighth annual David Thompson Awards! The awards were presented during the National Surveyors' Conference in Edmonton on May 5, 2016.

The David Thompson National Geomatics Awards are presented for excellence in the profession of surveying in three categories:

- "*Innovation in Geomatics*" recognizes a project that involved the most innovation, such as using never or seldom used technology to solve a survey problem.
- *"Challenging Applications in Cadastral Surveying*" recognizes a project that applied cadastral surveying methods and technology to solve the most challenging technical problem.
- "*Contribution to Society*" recognizes a project that has the most positive impact on society, such as important involvement in new infrastructure in Third World countries, major contribution in cases of natural disasters, or technological transfer or capacity building in less fortunate communities.

Innovation in Geomatics

In the category *Innovation in Geomatics*, the winner was Ryan Schuler from Sub-Arctic Surveys Ltd for the project entitled "Winter Road Deformation Monitoring in the Northwest Territories". Sub-Arctic Surveys Ltd. developed a procedure that allows for precise, high-frequency observations of ice deflection to be collected regardless of arctic weather conditions, convoy traffic, or other limitations, such as dangerous or problem ice. The collected data, allowed analysis not possible with traditional ice-measurement methods. The data provides information that can be used to challenge and update traditional ice-engineering theories for maximum loading capacities, speed limits, and provide information about degraded or problem-ice.

Runners up for this award was Robert Halliday from Tulloch Engineering for “Magino and Richmond Mine Development”, creating a mining plan that needed to take into account conflicting surface and mining rights using information from multiple sources. Also runner up for this award was Paul Dixon from Opus Stewart Weir Ltd. for “Survey of Nunavut/Northwest Territories Remote Border”, a project to survey 1700km of the Nunavut/Northwest Territories remote border.

Challenging Applications in Cadastral Surveying

In the category *Challenging Applications in Cadastral Surveying*, the winners were Paul Dixon from Opus Stewart Weir Ltd. for the project entitled “Survey of Nunavut/Northwest Territories Remote Border”

This historically cadastral survey of part of the boundary between the Northwest Territories and Nunavut was conducted in one of the most remote locations in Canada’s high arctic. It included determining a base of operations for a project area of approximately 1700km to follow the requirement for the legal survey and demarcation of five segments of artificial and natural boundaries.

Runner up for this award was Robert Halliday from Tulloch Engineering for “Magino and Richmond Mine Development”, creating a mining plan that needed to take into account conflicting surface and mining rights using information from multiple sources. Also runner up for this award was Carlo Monette from the Altus Geomatics for “Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation – Land Exchange Survey”, a project that used a UAV survey to overcome challenges posed by natural obstacles.

Contribution to Society

In the category *Contribution to Society*, the winner was Ryan Schuler (see photo on the right where Ryan is receiving a plaque from ACLS President, J. Anne Cole) from Sub-Arctic Surveys Ltd for the project entitled “Winter Road Deformation Monitoring in the Northwest Territories”. Sub-Arctic Surveys Ltd. developed a procedure that allows for precise, high-frequency observations of ice deflection to be collected regardless of arctic weather conditions, convoy traffic, or other limitations, such as dangerous or problem ice. The collected data, allowed analysis not possible with traditional ice-measurement methods. The data provides information that can be used to challenge and update traditional ice-engineering theories for maximum loading capacities, speed limits, and provide information about degraded or problem-ice.

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The Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) introduced the David Thompson National Geomatics Awards Program in cooperation with all professional surveying associations across Canada through Professional Surveyors Canada (PSC).

The David Thompson National Geomatics Awards Program is open to all commissioned surveyors who are members of a Canadian surveying association, submitting projects that have been completed within the last three years. The deadline for submissions is Friday, December 16 2016.

The ACLS is a national self-regulating professional association that is the licensing body for professionals surveying in the three Canadian territories, in the Federal parks, on Aboriginal reserves, as well as on and under the surface of Canada’s oceans. It has over 600 members located across Canada (and the world), with expertise in surveying, photogrammetry, remote sensing, geodesy, hydrography and land information systems. For details, please visit: www.acls-aatc.ca

Professional Surveyors Canada is conceived, developed, and run by Canadian surveyors, and is dedicated to building and enabling a strong multi-faceted community of surveying professionals committed to exceeding expectations. http://www.psc-gpc.ca

For more details on the David Thompson National Geomatics Awards Program, please visit: http://davidthompsonawards.ca/home/

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Association of Canada Lands Surveyors
Jean-Claude Tétreault, a.-g., CLS, MBA
Executive Director
(613) 723-9200
Fax: (613) 723-5558
admin@acls-aatc.ca
www.acls-aatc.ca

Professional Surveyors Canada
Helen Derry, BFA
Administrative Coordinator
1-800-241-7200
Fax: (613) 224-9577
helen@psc-gpc.ca
http://www.psc-gpc.ca