

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE
DIRECTOR OF SURVEYS AND MAPPING
THE REPLY TO THIS LETTER SHOULD BE MARKED
FOR THE ATTENTION OF:



YOUR FILE NO.

Circular Letter No. 230

OUR FILE NO.

DIRECTOR AND SURVEYOR-GENERAL.....
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION.....
LEGAL SURVEYS DIVISION.....
MAP PRODUCTION DIVISION.....

SURVEYS AND MAPPING BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, FORESTS,
AND WATER RESOURCES
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

August 16, 1971.

CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL BRITISH COLUMBIA LAND SURVEYORS:

As you know the former procedure of the Lands Service, in respect to leases and purchases which required a survey, was to allow the disposition, subject to the applicant selecting his own surveyor and having the survey completed within six months.

Invariably the applicant agreed to these terms, but more often than not did nothing about arranging for a survey until being informed his time had expired. Frequently he had already made improvements and may have been living on the property. To his consternation when he contacted the surveyor he learned that the costs of survey would be beyond his means. In essence the applicant was agreeing to terms of a contract without being aware of the costs.

Then too there has been difficulty in an increasing number of cases where the surveyor does complete the survey but withholds returning the finished plan to this office, pending settlement of the account. It appears that this occurs where a proper financial understanding was not arrived at before the survey was commenced. Although we have tried to be tolerant in allowing up to a year for settlement of account and return of plans, in some cases it appears as if very little is being done to collect the account. At any rate for the government to have its land surveyed, posted, and plans prepared, and not be in possession of such plans within a reasonable time, is an intolerable situation.

Two things have been done to improve the above situations:

Firstly: The Land Act of 1970 (Section 68) makes it quite clear that when the survey is complete the plans must be forwarded within the time allowed, or alternatively the time may be extended for cause. But in the final analysis, even if the account is not settled, records of the survey must be forwarded to this office. Knowing this, a surveyor must be more careful about commencing work without sound financial arrangements. It is my intention, henceforth, to insist on compliance with Section 68.

Secondly: The Lands Branch has now agreed to change its various letters of allowance allocating up to one year for completion of survey and insisting that the applicant contact a surveyor before accepting the terms of the

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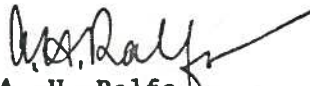
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contract. The applicant is obliged to submit proof of contract in the form of a letter from a B. C. Land Surveyor that he has accepted the work. This should provide ample opportunity for the surveyor to provide an estimate or at least advise rates and costs to be charged.

When this letter of acceptance of the work by a B. C. Land Surveyor is received in the Lands Service, instructions to survey will automatically be issued by my office to the Land Surveyor who has supplied the letter. The time allowed for completion will be understood as being one year.

These changes have been instituted in an attempt to cut down the procrastination in engaging surveyors, prevent surveys being commenced without awareness of the cost by the client and to remove any doubt concerning the obligation to deposit surveys over Crown land with this Crown agency. It is hoped the changes will benefit us all.

Yours truly,


A. H. Ralfs,
Surveyor-General and Director,
Surveys and Mapping Branch.