

LANDS SERVICE
SURVEYS AND MAPPING BRANCH
COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO
DIRECTOR OF SURVEYS AND MAPPING
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
VICTORIA, B. C.
V8V 1X5



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

ATTENTION
DIRECTOR AND SURVEYOR GENERAL
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION
LEGAL SURVEYS DIVISION
MAP PRODUCTION DIVISION

December 23, 1976

CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL BRITISH COLUMBIA LAND SURVEYORS
AND ALL REGISTRARS, LAND REGISTRY OFFICES

Dear Sir:

Re: Surveys on the Metric System

A. Land Act

A proclamation dated December 16, 1976, brought into force the amendments to the Land Act passed at the last session which provided for metric equivalents of measurements contained in the Land Act, as of January 3rd, 1977.

The equivalents are:

- (a) New roads are to be 20 metres in width
- (b) 1280 acres will be 520 hectares
- (c) A 3 foot high staking post, will be 1 metre high

Regulations for survey under the Land Act were published as B. C. Reg. 577/76 and are effective on January 3, 1977 as well.

All new surveys commenced on instructions from this office after that date should be in the new system. Surveys in progress for which instructions have been issued will be accepted on the former system.

B. Land Registry Act

An Order in Council has been prepared (which has Cabinet first approval) to establish equivalents or rationalizations for measurements appearing in that Act and which are to be permissive after the date mentioned in the Order.

However this Order in Council HAS NOT BEEN PASSED and you should not commence surveying in metric terms UNTIL ADVISED in the new year.

In effect, there will be two alternatives, either feet or metres in which you may survey and this condition is likely to be in effect for some time, at least six months, in order that the change-over does not create hardship or difficulty until all administrations are adequately educated. This was a decision of the Cabinet and although Surveyors may have preferred a hard and fast change-over, others must be considered.

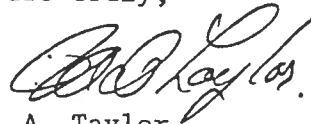
Regulations for survey under the Land Registry Act were published as B. C. Reg. 578/76. These are the alternative regulations and do not supercede the existing regulations which are in effect till further notice.

Copies of the Proclamation and survey regulations under the Land Act and survey regulations under the Land Registry Act, together with a Metric information kit to aid in conversion are enclosed. The regulations were printed on coloured paper to emphasize their alternative aspect and will be replaced at a later date by reprinting to the proper size for inclusion in the General Instruction binder.

It would have been preferable to delay distribution of this data until the Land Registry Act order is finally passed, however, with the real possibility of a mail strike it has been decided that distribution should be made now, to provide an opportunity to become familiar with the new alternative system.

Please read all data thoroughly and realize that metric conversion is a phasing in process.

Yours truly,



W. A. Taylor,
Surveyor General

WAT:mw

Encl.



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APPROVED AND ORDERED 16 DEC 1976

W. S. Dewar

Lieutenant-Governor

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VICTORIA 16 DEC 1976

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W.H.

Pursuant to the Land Amendment Act, 1976 ~~Act~~ and upon the recommendation of the undersigned, the Lieutenant-Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council orders that a Proclamation be issued bringing into force sections 3 - 6, 9, 11 and 12 of the Land Amendment Act, 1976, being chapter 27 of the Statutes of British Columbia, 1976, on January 3, 1977.

J. Nilsson

Minister of Environment

W. R. Bennett

Presiding Member of the Executive Council