

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

*Mr. L.T. Lane was asked by Council to prepare a treatise on Professional Liability. Council requested that the following be published to acquaint the membership with the problems involved in this matter.*

To: Members of Council

Re: One aspect of Professional Liability

The public image of the Land Surveyor is the measure of his professional status. If the public can expect competent and reliable professional service from a Land Surveyor then the Land Surveyor can expect public recognition of true professional status.

Since competency may be learned and reliability must be practiced, the responsibility of establishing, maintaining and improving the professional status of the land surveyor is primarily individual and personal. However, the fact also remains that, collectively, we Land Surveyors have a responsibility: (a) where individual effort or action is not effective and (b) when a Land Surveyor, i. e., one of us, has acted in a manner contrary to the best interests of his profession and subsequently defaulted in the matter of responsibility. Through our Association, we are provided with the means for collective action on our own behalf. However, at present it does not provide the means whereby the competency and reliability of the profession can be protected or restored in individual cases demanding this.

We have recently seen cases where conduct involving gross negligence on the part of a Land Surveyor has left a situation which reflects poorly on our profession but about which we can do nothing beyond the exercise of disciplinary action. After some study of the matter, it is this writer's view that no form of commercial liability insurance will provide a satisfactory answer to this type of residual problem.

If we are prepared to recognize the residual problem as ours, then we must give consideration to ways and means of catering for it. This would appear to require funds. It also appears that some cases involving default of responsibility will require corrective survey work. This in turn will require funds.

The conclusion is that we should consider the feasibility of our Association undertaking to establish a fund for the purpose of protecting our profession from the damage done by a member defaulting his professional responsibility. It is the public image we must be concerned with as well as the matter of discipline.

Respectfully submitted,

Lennox T. Lane.

MURRAY WRIGHT APPOINTED EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

To keep up the standard of "The Ontario Land Surveyor" without increased costs to the Association, advertising revenue is essential. Mr. W.M. "Murray" Wright, O.L.S., was recently appointed "Editorial Assistant" to handle this important end of the publication. This issue carries additional advertising, for which we gratefully acknowledge Mr. Wright's assistance.

Many members will likely know of prospective advertisers. Many may wish to insert business cards. Please contact Mr. Wright with your ideas.