

Current Practices of Land Surveyors: part of Sustainable Development?

Arabelle Dada-Amos, Marc Gervais and Jacynthe Pouliot (Canada)

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SUMMARY

Abstract:

In 2015, Quebec government have adopted a new strategy of sustainable development which, for instance, plans to adopt by year 2020 sustainable development of the Quebec territory and support the dynamism of communities. The same year, the United Nations (UN) supported the adoption of 17 sustainable development goals and today a large number of Countries are mobilizing effort to achieve by 2030 this Sustainable Development Agenda. Some of these goals are closely related to the domain of land surveyors. For example, the goal #11 suggests that cities and communities be built in a sustainable way and the goal #12 recommends a responsible consumption and production.

In this global trend of sustainable development, you may ask yourself: What is my role as land surveyors in this key societal venture? How my profession as land surveying being involved/concerned by? Are land surveyors suitability instructed or trained to be part of it? Should the land surveyors be part of these actions? If yes, at which level? How land surveyors can act as leader in such sustainable development activities? What is the current interest or concern of land surveyors to sustainable development? What can be done? How?

This paper addresses some of these questions. To enable the discussion, a questionnaire of 15 questions was prepared and circulated among the members of the Quebec Professional Association of Land Surveyors. We received 212 responses that correspond to a response rate of 20% of the group. The paper will present the main outcomes of the survey. For example, the presentation will show that even though Quebec land surveyors pay attention to sustainable development questions, their level of knowledge about the subject is relatively low and the number and the diversity of actions currently implemented are low. Actually, 78% of the respondent consider that sustainable

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development is important in their activities, but only 24% of them recommend to their clients' sustainable measures when producing subdivision plan. Likewise, 17% of the respondent pay attention to the water consumption and 32% to the greenhouse gases emissions.

However, we do believe that land surveyors could implement a number of sustainable development actions, particularly on the environmental aspect. For example, they can reduce their greenhouse gases emissions by using greener vehicles. Moreover, they could even improve their traditional land acts with an environmental section. In conclusion, the paper opens a discussion on how sustainable development can be further considered by land surveyors.