



**British Columbia
Land Surveyors**

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An Information Guide Building Location Surveys & Certificates and Title Insurance in British Columbia



Association of BC Land Surveyors

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Helping you make an informed decision

Building Location Surveys

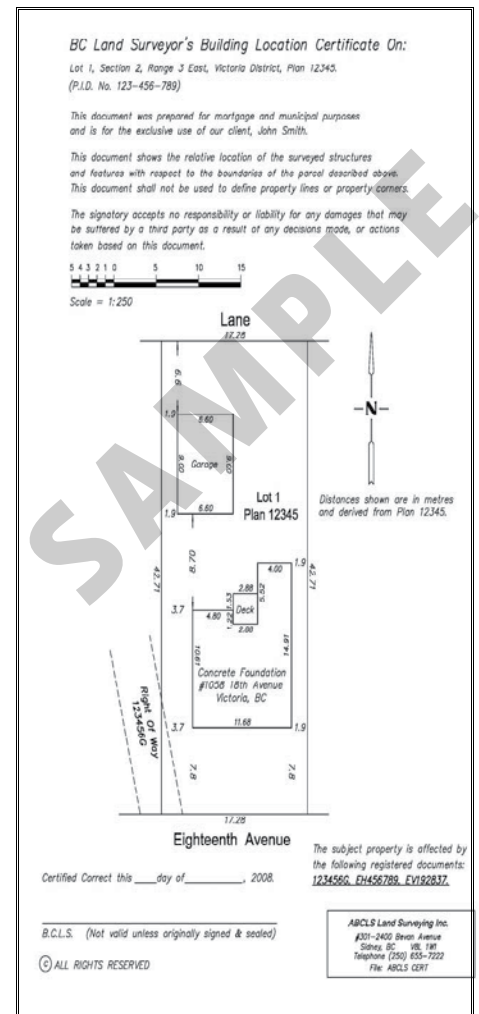
A Building Location Survey is...

- Based on an actual site inspection and measurements by qualified personnel.
- Simple to read and understand.
- A plan view of your property showing the boundaries according to the plan or legal description your title is based on.
- A graphical sketch showing the locations of buildings, other improvements, easements, rights-of-way, covenants and other interests on the property in relation to boundaries.

The benefits of a Building Location Survey include...

- Disclosure of encroachments.
- Clear depiction of any problems relating to encroachments or building locations that may need to be resolved before completing a purchase and information to determine if buildings meet local zoning with respect to setbacks.
- Use for a range of preliminary planning options, from potential building additions and improvements to determining if further subdivision may be possible.

Building Location Surveys have been widely and commonly used for over forty years in BC. The survey document is titled a "Building Location Certificate" and certified correct by a BC Land Surveyor. They are an integral part of a real estate transaction when provided to your lawyer or notary public, however they retain a lasting usefulness to the property owner as both a record of the state of the property and as a planning tool.





PROFESSIONALISM HISTORY TECHNOLOGY

Title Insurance in British Columbia

Title Insurance...

- Is a complex legal insurance policy.
- Requires separate policies to protect the owner and the lender.
- May not, except at added cost, protect anything but the amount of the mortgage (leaving the remaining cost of resolving problems to the owner).
- Where the policy is a lender policy, it is only in effect as long as that lender has an interest in the property.
- Is a product developed in the United States to protect mortgagees from hidden interests in property. It was developed as a result of inadequate deed registry systems and the somewhat unorganized manner in which lands were occupied or settlement. It has become virtually impossible to obtain a mortgage in the US without buying a title insurance policy to protect the lender.

British Columbia's Land Title System

The Land Title system in BC guarantees title against fraud through a legislated publicly funded insurance program, known as the Assurance Fund.

Your Choices

Purchasers are being advised that the cost of a survey can be avoided by the purchase, at a lower cost, of title insurance. The inference is that title insurance offers greater value at a lower cost.

This is unfortunate, because title insurance does

A British Columbia land surveyor's Building Location Certificate is a wise marketing tool for a vendor and provides valuable information for a purchaser or mortgagor.

not provide any information about the location of buildings, improvements, easements, rights of way, covenants and other interests in relation to the property boundaries to an owner or lender.

A current survey effectively discloses

problems, should they exist, to all interested parties who can then take appropriate action for resolution.

Significant financial commitments should not be made without full knowledge of all relevant facts, potential liabilities and inherent risks in the venture. For this reason the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors encourages you to use a traditional system of "full disclosure", through the use of proper title review and a surveyed building location before committing to an investment in real estate.

Lender and/or purchaser insurance may well have a place in real estate transactions, especially those involving complicated land assemblies and financing. It should be viewed as complementary to the traditional process of investigation of quality and extent of title, rather than as an alternative.



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British Columbia A land worth surveying.