

The Professional Association – Guardian of the Public Interest

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ABSTRACT

Professional survey associations have existed in different forms and with different responsibilities in countries around the world for many years. By and large they form an essential service to the public in regulating professional activities and ensuring that competent professionals are available to practice in the public domain.

In many countries however no formal organization is available to establish standards of practice and ensure that qualified persons are available to deliver surveying services to the public. In 1998 FIG adopted the report of a Task Force on Constituting Professional Associations and published its findings as Publication No. 16.

This paper will discuss the necessary attributes and responsibilities of a professional association specifically in the context of the professional survey association in Canada. It will also give examples of different structures of professional associations in other jurisdictions. In summary it will build on the work of the Task Force on Constituting Professional Associations and set the stage for an in depth comparison of professional survey associations within FIG.

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