

Tricia Christie:

First Female Land Surveyor

Barnes & Duncan employee makes history in Manitoba

For the first time in its 131-year history, the Association of Manitoba Land Surveyors has commissioned a female land surveyor – Tricia Christie from Winnipeg, Man. She works for MHCA member Barnes & Duncan Surveying Geomatics & Engineering, a company that specializes in land surveying and engineering.

With her official commission, Christie receives the designation to survey land in Manitoba. Additionally, she has received her Canada Land Surveyors' Commission which allows her to survey "Canada Lands" including First Nations reserves, national parks, the territories and offshore locations. Land surveyors are responsible for creating and managing

existing land boundaries. For example, Barnes & Duncan surveyors are helping to ensure the Winnipeg Blue Bombers' new stadium is built in the correct location. It's that kind of work that got Christie interested in land surveying when she was a student at the University of Calgary.

With her degree in geomatics engineering, Christie was exempt from writing the required exams needed for the Manitoba commission; however, she still had to complete two years of articling that included field and office work.

"It was absolutely worth it!" beams Christie from her office at Barnes & Duncan. "It feels great to simply get the designation. Being the first female to do so was never a motivating factor for me, but I am proud to be the first woman in Manitoba with the official land surveyor designation."

Christie officially received the commission last March and is grateful for the support she received from her employer.

"We are so proud of Tricia," boasts Christian Korell, her supervisor at Barnes & Duncan and a member of the Association of Manitoba Land Surveyors. "To achieve this designation requires enormous dedication to the profession and to be the first female land surveyor in Manitoba's history is a remarkable achievement."



Photo courtesy of Barnes & Duncan
Background photo by Dmitry Kalinovsky / Photos.com

With Christie's designation, the Association of Manitoba Land Surveyors hopes to see more women in what has been a predominantly male profession.

"Technology has changed the profession of land surveying. It no longer requires that everyone has to go out into sometimes very rugged locations," Korell notes. "Now, a lot of information can be retrieved in remote locations from crews up north and sent back to our offices in Winnipeg via the Internet. This allows our profession to now recruit professionals who enjoy the challenge of land surveying but not necessarily the demands of remote location work."

For Christie, it's that balance that makes her work so interesting.

"I enjoy getting outdoors but I also enjoy the engineering problem-solving that comes from analyzing all the data," Christie said.

To learn more about the Association of Manitoba Land Surveyors, please visit: www.aml.ca. 

