



# The Register

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*The staff at West Coast wish you all the best of the Holiday Season & a Happy New Year!*

## STATUTORY HOLIDAYS 2014

The Court Registries, Land Title Offices and all Government Registries will be closed on the following dates in the coming year 2014:

January 1	Wednesday
	New Year's Day
February 10	Monday
	Family Day
April 18	Friday
	Good Friday
April 21	Monday
	Easter Monday
May 19	Monday
	Victoria Day
July 1	Tuesday
	Canada Day
August 4	Monday
	BC Day
September 1	Monday
	Labour Day
October 13	Monday
	Thanksgiving
November 11	Tuesday
	Remembrance Day
December 25	Thursday
	Christmas Day
December 26	Friday
	Boxing Day

## COURT UPDATE

### Wills, Estates and Succession Act

The *Wills Estates and Succession Act* (WESA), passed by the BC Legislature on September 24, 2009 (Bill 4) and amended on May 26, 2011 (Bill 11), comes into force on **March 31, 2014**. WESA modernizes and streamlines BC's current laws on inheritance and administering of estates.

WESA repeals and replaces the following Acts:

- *Estate Administration Act*
- *Probate Recognition Act*
- *Wills Act*
- *Wills Variation Act*
- *Law and Equity Act*
- *Survivorship and Presumption of Death Act*

New Probate Rules will come into effect in conjunction with WESA. The new Rules are found in Part 25 of the Supreme Court Civil Rules. Part 25 replaces Rules 21-4 and 21-5. Most existing forms and procedures have also been substantially changed or updated.

#### Transition Period

If an application was filed under former Probate Rules and met all the requirements of the former rules, then the application is deemed to continue under the new Probate Rules. Once the application is made, then all other filings with respect to the estate will be under the new Probate Rules. If a person died before WESA comes into force and an application for an estate grant is made after that date, the new Probate Rules will apply.

### New Form 34 Certificate of Pending Litigation

There will now be **two (2)** types of hardcopy Form 34, one for the *Wills Variation Act* and one for the *Wills Estates and Succession Act*. A proceeding to enforce, set aside or replace an agreement respecting property division made **before March 31, 2014**, or a proceeding respecting property started under the *Wills Variation Act*, must be started or continued, as applicable, under the *Wills Variation Act*.

More information on the *Wills, Estates and Succession Act* may be found on the Ministry of Justice website at [www.ag.gov.bc.ca/legislation/wills-estates-succession-act/index.htm](http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/legislation/wills-estates-succession-act/index.htm).

### New Online Form For Registration of Divorce Proceedings

A new **online** Registration of Divorce Proceedings Form came into effect on September 1, 2013. The new online form replaces the old "Pink and Blue" carbon form.

Handwritten versions of the form are not acceptable. Only **one (1)** copy is required. The form must be dated with the *day of submission*, so bear that in mind when sending the initiating Divorce papers for filing.

The completed form will be sent by the Court to the Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings in Ottawa *within 7 days* of the date on which the application for Divorce is filed. The information is collected for the Central Registry so that the Court Registrar of the various court offices may be informed of any duplicate divorce applications.

The new form must be filled out online and then printed. A link to the form is available on our website [www.wcts.com](http://www.wcts.com), under *Updates*.

## LAND UPDATE

### New Mailbox Portal myLTSA

In September, the Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA) announced the introduction of a new customer portal called **myLTSA** which will integrate the LTSA's existing Electronic Services accessed on BC Online with new *mailbox functionality and account, payment and support services*. Improved features of the **myLTSA** Inbox include longer retention periods for Inbox items and the ability to delete and restore items within the prescribed retention period. No significant changes are planned for core Search and Filing services.

The **myLTSA** portal will begin hosting the LTSA's Electronic Search and Filing Services beginning in January 2014 in a phased manner, with full implementation by May 1, 2014.

Once **myLTSA** is fully operational on May 1, 2014, the LTSA's Electronic Services will no longer be available on BC Online and must be accessed via the Land Title and Survey Authority's website [www.ltsa.ca](http://www.ltsa.ca). BC Online ([www.bconline.com](http://www.bconline.com)) will still be used to access other services such as BC Assessment.

### LTSA Phone Numbers

In order to support the new **myLTSA** portal, the Land Title and Survey Authority changed its local telephone numbers for the Customer Service Centre effective September 20, 2013.

- The **toll-free** Customer Service Centre telephone number is unchanged at 1-877-577-LTSA (5872).
- The **local** Customer Service Centre telephone number for Metro Vancouver is now 604-630-9630.

Register for our online services: [www.wcts.com/login/get\\_code.php](http://www.wcts.com/login/get_code.php)

## New Versions of Electronic Forms

The LTSA released new versions of **five (5)** electronic forms effective November 20, 2013: **Form 17 Fee Simple**, **Form 17 Charge, Notation or Filing**, **Form 17 Cancellation of Charge, Notation or Filing**, **Form C Release** and **Strata Property Act Filing**.

Updates include the addition of new natures of interest supporting Federal Authorized Subscribers and the introduction of the *Provincial Sales Tax Act* and the *Wills, Estates and Succession Act* effective March 31, 2014.

The latest versions of the electronic forms are available for download at [www.ltsa.ca/cms/electronic-form-templates](http://www.ltsa.ca/cms/electronic-form-templates).

## New Form 34 Certificate of Pending Litigation

There will now be **two (2)** types of hardcopy Form 34, one for the *Wills Variation Act* and one for the *Wills Estates and Succession Act*.

A proceeding to enforce, set aside, or replace an agreement respecting property division made **before March 31, 2014**, or a proceeding respecting property started under the *Wills Variation Act* must be started or continued, as applicable, under the *Wills Variation Act*.

## Authorized Subscriber Register (ASR)

Federal, provincial and local governments and other eligible organizations can now apply to the Director of Land Titles to have eligible employees designated as subscribers through membership in the Authorized Subscriber Register (ASR). Once designated employees are ASR members, they will be able to acquire an electronic signature from Juricert so that they can electronically sign land documents.

## Eligible Employees

Eligible employees who may apply for membership in the ASR are:

- Those empowered by a federal or provincial statute, or their delegate, to issue and submit applications to the Land Title Office (e.g. *the Local Government Act*, *Community Charter*, *Vancouver Charter* or *New Westminster Act, 1888*); or
- BC commissioners appointed for taking affidavits for BC under section 56 of the *Evidence Act* and entitled under the terms of their Appointment to witness land title documents in accordance with Part 5 of the *Land Title Act*.

*Eligible organization must be the owner of the interest in land.* Interests in land include easements, leases and statutory rights of way.

## COMPANIES UPDATE

## Restoration and Reinstatement Certificates

Effective November 1, 2013, **restoration certificates** for BC companies and **reinstatement certificates** for extra-provincial companies will now contain only the following current information: *corporate name*, *incorporation date*, *incorporation number*, *dissolution/cancellation date* and *restoration/reinstatement date*. All **historical** information will continue to be available on the Corporate Summary.

There are no changes made to restoration/reinstatement certificates by *conversion* or with a *new name*.

**Limited restoration certificates** will now contain only the *corporate name*, the *incorporation date*, the *incorporation number*, the *date of dissolution*, the *date of request for the extension* and the *new extension expiration date*.

## Turnaround Times Advisory

Currently, the Corporate Registry is experiencing longer turnaround times than usual. Staffing shortages and an increased number of priority requests on a regular basis are contributing factors. Requests for certified copies, certificates of status and letters under seal have been behind almost 3 weeks and some corporate filings are taking up to 3 months to register.

As these delays can change daily, please contact our Victoria office for the current turnaround times.

## WESTCOAST UPDATE

## Winter Weather Warning



Midday Service to Victoria

High winds and fog can cause delays and even cancellations of our *midday service* to **Victoria**. *If there is a delay, your same-day filing date may be jeopardized.* Please send your documents to our Vancouver office at least **one day (preferably two days)** before your deadline for filing.

Overnight Couriers



Although our *overnight couriers* usually provide *next day* service to Kamloops and most other locations in BC and across Canada, adverse weather can cause unexpected delays and longer turnaround times.

Specific Day Filings

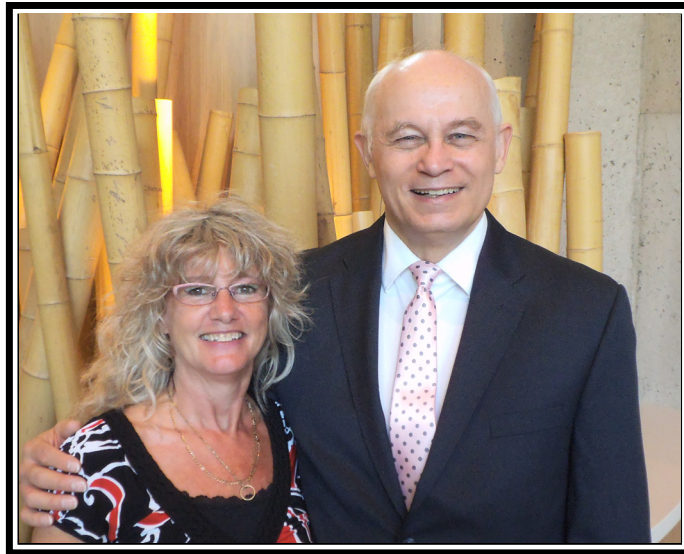
If you specify a date of filing on the invoice, it is not necessary to mark the "Hold" box. *If the "Hold" box is not marked, there is no extra charge for keeping your documents until the date specified for filing.*

## Staff Anniversaries

West Coast is very pleased to announce that 2 staff members have recently celebrated significant anniversary milestones. On behalf of Wayne Crookes, Owner/President and all the staff, we would like to congratulate Alison and Stuart for their many years of dedicated service and say:

*“Thank You For a Job Well Done!”*

*Alison celebrated 25 years with West Coast on August 2, 2013*



*Alison Hughes (Vancouver Court Services) and Wayne Crookes*



*Stuart celebrated 25 years with West Coast on November 14, 2013*



*Wayne Crookes, Stuart Scharf (Vancouver Court Manager) & Shelley Porter (GM)*

### Upcoming 2014 Court Calendar Changes

January 1-3

Winter Break

May 12-16

Judges' Reading Week

May 21-23

Judges/Masters Conference

November 12-14

Judges/Masters Conference

December 22 - January 2, 2015

Winter Break



**The Register** is the newsletter of **West Coast Title Search Ltd.** It is available free of charge and we encourage you to use the information to assist you with your work.

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