

Land Surveyor

Decide where property lines really are. A protected licence, a long qualification, and work that never runs out.

TYPICAL PAY

\$88,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$60k to \$126k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

6 to 9 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Survey firms, construction sites,
government, mining and energy p...**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 Grade 12 math is essential. Trigonometry is the daily tool of this job.
- 2 Surveying or geomatics degree** 4 years
 Four years. Geodesy and geomatics engineering at the University of New Brunswick, geomatics engineering at York University or the University of Calgary, or geomatic sciences at Université Laval.
- 3 Academic assessment** Months
 The Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors checks your degree against its syllabus and sets exams for anything missing. Quebec runs its own system.
- 4 Articling or competency assessment** 2 to 3 years
 Paid work under a licensed surveyor while you build a record of real projects.
- 5 Professional and law exams, then licence** Final year
 Each province tests you on its own survey statutes before it will licence you.

Pros and cons

- + A licence the law protects, so the work cannot be outsourced
- + Mix of outdoor fieldwork and indoor problem solving
- + A real shortage of licensed surveyors across Canada
- The exams after your degree take years and a lot of evenings
- Only a handful of schools offer the degree, so you may have to move
- Field seasons mean long days, bad weather and bugs

Good to know

Surveyors drew the Prairies

Starting in the 1870s, government surveyors laid a grid of square townships and one mile sections across western Canada. That survey is the reason prairie roads, fields and farm boundaries still run in strai...

The border is a cut line

The Canada and US boundary is kept as a cleared strip through forest, roughly six metres wide, marked by thousands of monuments. The International Boundary Commission employs surveyors just to keep i...

Optional boosts

Canada Lands Surveyor. A second province. Hydrographic surveying. Mine surveying.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Land surveyor, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors
 Association of Ontario Land Surveyors: Become a surveyor
 Association of Canada Lands Surveyors

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/land-surveyor>



Scan for the full clicker