



Association of BC Forest Professionals
2009 Annual Report

Resilient Forests and Professionals



**ASSOCIATION OF
BC FOREST PROFESSIONALS**

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Vision

We lead the way to diverse, healthy and sustainable forests in British Columbia.

Mission

Our mission is to ensure British Columbia has qualified forest professionals and to support them in providing excellence in forest stewardship.



Letter to Members

Letter to Members

Dear ABCFP Members,

We cannot remember a more challenging year than 2009. While the world economic crisis was clearly felt within BC's forest sector – and the ABCFP was not immune to its effects – the association, council and staff strived to do work that was meaningful and important to our members. We made great strides this year with our work with Aboriginal groups, our e-learning strategy, advocacy work and professional reliance.

In the summer of 2009 a group of ABCFP council and staff visited with several First Nations groups on Vancouver Island. The purpose of the trip was to introduce the association and forest professionals, and share information about forestry. The ABCFP changed its competency requirements to ensure that members who worked with Aboriginal peoples were competent to do so. We partnered with an organization to offer an online course to help members who needed to improve their competency in this area.

The Aboriginal Task Force was active in 2009 and we continue to value the advice and input this volunteer committee has given us. Once again, the ABCFP attended career fairs in Aboriginal communities and, in 2009, we created a new version of our popular Faces of Forestry booklet that features Aboriginal members.


The economic situation was a partial driver of the ABCFP's e-learning strategy. We recognize that it is difficult for members living in remote communities to invest time and money into attending workshops in person. While we try to bring workshops to as many communities as possible, an e-learning strategy is the best solution. In 2009, two online courses were made available. "Working Effectively with Aboriginal Peoples" was made possible by a partnership with Indigenous Corporate Training. We also developed an online version of "Professional Reliance." These two courses are just the beginning steps of our journey into e-learning.

The ABCFP worked on a few advocacy issues in 2009. Our work on forest fires coincided with an extremely intense fire season. The ABCFP worked with the Ministry of Forests and Range on fire and fuel management issues. We also participated in the Union of BC Municipalities biannual Municipal Marketplace. The ABCFP got together with a number of other forestry related organizations to form Forestry Island. The ABCFP's section of Forestry Island featured community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs). Our staff spoke to the elected officials about the importance of having CWPPs and how municipalities had to take responsibility for their own fire protection activities.


The ABCFP did a great deal of work with the multiple users of the forested land base. We met with the Oil and Gas Commission and attended the Independent Power Producers' conference to talk about the importance of hiring forest professionals. We also met with the provincial government to talk about forest stewardship and some of the complexities that arise when there are multiple land users.

Finally we made some additional progress in spreading the word about professional reliance. Throughout the year the ABCFP made numerous presentations and delivered in-person and online workshops to educate our members on the importance of professional reliance. The ABCFP, like other natural resource professions, are starting to see some good tests of professional reliance in practice. Direct and indirect ways of measuring professional reliance are emerging as being accurate and practical.

These are just a few of the accomplishments the ABCFP made in 2009. You can read about many more of the highlights in the rest of this annual report.



Jonathan Lok, RFT
President



Sharon Glover, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

Year in Review Year in Review

1 Leading in Professional Practice and Forest Stewardship

Outcome

The ABCFP is recognized by the people of British Columbia, including First Nations, as taking a leadership role in matters of professional practice and the principles of forest stewardship.

1.1 Objective One

Ensure First Nations are aware of the ABCFP and are well informed of the opportunities a strong relationship with our association offers for their communities, are utilizing our members' services, are using the ABCFP as a source of information, and are recommending our profession to their youth as an honourable and desirable career choice.

Results

The ABCFP worked to develop relationships with Aboriginal groups across BC. A small group of ABCFP representatives including CEO Sharon Glover, MBA, and president Jonathan Lok, RFT, met with 10 Aboriginal groups on Vancouver Island over the past summer. These were relationship building meetings where the ABCFP had a chance to learn about how Vancouver Island's Aboriginal peoples are involved in forestry. The ABCFP also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the National Aboriginal Forestry Associations. An MOU with the First Nations Forestry Council is still in progress.

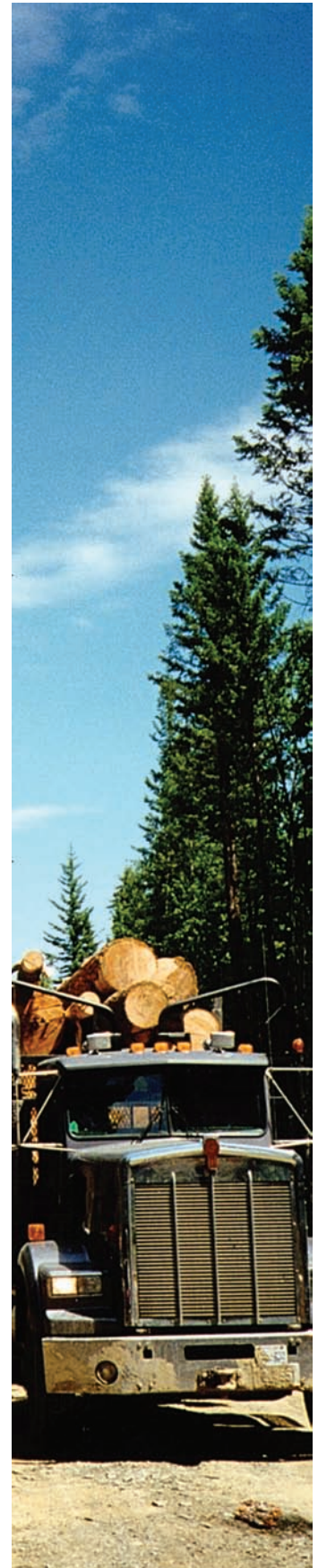
1.2 Objective Two

Capitalize on the ABCFP's role as the first point of media contact for forestry related issues.

Results

The ABCFP sent 11 news releases in 2009 and had considerable coverage of these releases and other issues. Several opinion-editorial articles and letters to the editor were published in newspapers across BC. ABCFP staff gave multiple radio and newspaper interviews in 2009 that generated good coverage.

A geographically-based database of members who are willing to speak with either students or the media was developed this past year. This database allows the ABCFP to put reporters in touch with forest professionals in their area who can answer their questions which fosters both relationships between forest professionals and their communities and between forest professionals and their local media.



1.3 Objective Three

Further encourage the public trust in forest professionals to manage the forests professionally.

Results

Continuing Competency Program

The ABCFP's continuing competency committee updated the first component of the continuing competency program — the self-assessment process — by revising the statement related to Aboriginal competence and adding useful tools for members to assess their competence in relation to their practise affecting Aboriginal communities.

Voluntary peer reviews, the second component of the program, remained unchanged this year. In this component members work with each other to review their practices and share ideas for improvement. There were 12 peer reviews conducted in 2009.

Practice reviews, the final component of the program, were implemented in 2009. Not only do practice reviews provide valuable information to members on how to improve their individual practices, they also assure the public that ABCFP members are competent and ethical thus increasing the profile of the profession. A practice review consists of a general review that looks at continuing competency, areas of practice related to competency, record maintenance, quality assurance and access to resources. If there are significant negative findings, a more detailed technical review is carried out where samples of work product are examined.

Another aspect of continuing competency is the ABCFP's professional development program. Members who complete and document 150 hours of professional development in a five-year period can apply for a certificate of professional development. In 2009, seven members received their certificates. TD Meloche Monnex offers a \$250 reward to two members each year who earn their certificate of professional development. Priority goes to members who bear the majority of the costs for their professional development themselves. The 2009 award winners were Som Pun, RPF, and Arthur Stock, PhD, RPF.

Public and Government Relations

The ABCFP planned to run two radio advertisements during the year. The message of these ads was to focus on the training and education of forest professionals. Due to budget cuts, the ABCFP curtailed this advertising plan. Instead of running the two sets of radio ads in 2009, the association just ran one campaign in the spring. This campaign focused on the professionalism of our members.

The ABCFP executive and CEO maintained a good relationship with the senior executive at Ministry of Forests and Range through frequent meetings and discussion. CEO Sharon Glover, MBA, also met with both government and opposition MLAs throughout the year to promote forestry and make sure the profession was on their radar.

Practice Advice and Discipline

Practice Advisory Service and staff responded to thirteen enquiries this year. The majority of the enquiries addressed professional practice obligation as concerned with employment responsibilities.

The ABCFP received 12 discipline cases in 2009 – the most ever received in one year. Two cases have been closed through alternate complaint resolution, two have been dismissed and eight are still open. There are also two cases open from 2008.

2009 Discipline Cases

Area of Practice	Number of Complaints	Complaint Still Under Review	Complaints Closed Without Investigation	Complaints Investigated	Number of Citations Issued
Protection of riparian areas and water	3	1	1	1	0
Not having the required expertise regarding roads on unstable terrain	2	0	0	2	0
Making unprofessional remarks about another member	2	1	1	0	0
Unprofessional work on appraisals	2	1	0	1	0
Trespass due to unprofessional work	1	0	0	1	0
Theft of timber	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of due diligence in daily work	1	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	12	3	3	5	1
PERCENT	100%	25%	25%	42%	8%

2 Running a Highly Effective Organization

Outcome

The ABCFP is recognized by its members as a highly effective and personally relevant organization.

2.1 Objective One

Ensure adequate, appropriate and visible enforcement of the *Foresters Act* and ABCFP Bylaws (especially the Code of Ethics) by:

- Knowing when breaches are made by members and non-members
- Knowing that appropriate formal investigations are launched in a timely manner
- Making members aware of ABCFP enforcement of the Acts and Bylaws
- Encouraging member support of enforcement of the Acts and Bylaws

Results

The ABCFP developed a new complaint form to help standardize the information required when filing a complaint. This new complaint form and an accompanying flow chart that explains the complaint process will make the process easier to understand for members and non-members.

Two new policies have been developed to improve the discipline process. People found guilty through the discipline process will, as a rule, be named publicly. Those found guilty at a hearing will be expected to bear the cost of the hearing and investigation.

The terms of reference for all three discipline committees were updated and posted to the ABCFP website. These new terms of reference provide improved direction to our committees based on new procedures and recognition of changes to our policies and bylaws.

2.2 Objective Two

Maintain significant influence on forest policy in the areas critical for good forest stewardship.

Results

Mike Larock, RPF, director of professional practice and forest stewardship and Jackie Hipwell, RFT, resource associate, participated in several initiatives including advancing professional reliance in forestry, Minister Bell's 'Quick Win' initiative, WorkSafeBC's development of Occupational Health and Safety Regulations concerning slope excavations, terrain stability and snow avalanche terrain work, the provincial FRPA implementation teams, and Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (APEGBC) and ABCFP joint workshops on crossings and terrain stability models.

Mike Larock, RPF, offered the ABCFP's assistance to applicants of the program Trees for Tomorrow, Ministry of Community and Rural Development. Trees for Tomorrow is a BC government initiative to support urban and rural communities in planting millions of trees in schoolyards, hospital grounds, parking lots and other public spaces throughout British Columbia. In addition, staff participated in several other initiatives with respect to the stewardship of forest lands including the Coast Forest Action Plan pilot investigating vulnerability of forest ecosystems to climate change impacts and the discussion paper, *Growing Opportunities in BC: A New Vision for Silviculture in BC*.

The ABCFP created a written response to the provincial government's proposal of *British Columbia Forest Offset Protocol* (June 24, 2009). The protocol represents an important step forward in delivering quality carbon offsets in BC and to the global marketplace. Many activities currently described within the draft protocol fall within the practice of professional forestry, and must be completed or supervised by a registered forest professional. Therefore, an important component of the ABCFP contribution was recognition of the requirement to meet the *Foresters Act* (2003) and the definition of the practice of professional forestry in the protocol document.

The Stewardship Advisory Committee (SAC) continued work on several issues associated with the stewardship of forest land and resources in BC. The SAC commissioned a review of stocking standards in British Columbia. The report was completed in 2009 and *A Review and Analysis of the Effect of BC's Current Stocking Standards on Forest Stewardship* is available on the ABCFP's website. The paper reviewed stewardship issues associated with BC's policies on stocking standards. In addition, the SAC reviewed the joint guidance document on species at risk.

The SAC began work on defining the Principles of Stewardship of Forests in the context of Section 4(2)(b) of the *Foresters Act* (2003). The document which is expected to be completed in 2010, describes a standard that forest professionals can use to be consistent with the forest stewardship direction in the *Foresters Act* and a measure of assurance that a forest professional is utilizing the forest stewardship direction in the *Foresters Act*.

2.3 Objective Three

Ensure forest professionals have access to expert, timely guidance with respect to forest practices legislation, standards of practice and scopes of professional practice.

Results

Professional Practice Committee

Throughout the year, the professional practice committee guided staff in responding to reports including the Forest Practices Board's *Fire Hazards Assessment and Abatement*, the BC Auditor General's *Safety Report*, and the BC Coroner Panel's report on faller deaths. The PPC also developed an interpretive description for our new professional practice standard #7 (safety) with input from the Ministry of Forests and Range and WorkSafeBC. The document was made available for member comment by the end of the year.

The PPC used a subcommittee to review the various guidance documents on the ABCFP website. Staff then implemented several changes to improve online access to practice guidance documents. Practice guidance approved by council resolution can be found under the tab Regulating the Profession, Practice Guidelines. Other reports important for practitioner knowledge can be found under Publications and Forms, Stewardship and Practice Reports.

The PPC also wrote the following papers to provide guidance to ABCPF members:

- *Supervision of Timber Harvesting Operations*
- *Guidance for Managing Non-Statutory Expectation in Forest Practices*
- *Code of Ethics: Guidelines for Interpretation*
- *Guidance for Professional Quality Field Work*

Joint Practices Board

Work with other resource professions has yielded excellent results this past year. The joint practices board (JPB), a committee made of both ABCFP and APEGBC members, produced three guidelines:

- An update to *Guidelines for Professional Services in the Forest Sector – Crossings*
- *Guidelines for Management of Terrain Stability in the Forest Sector*
- *Guidelines for Terrain Stability Assessments in the Forest Sector*

The JPB is continuing work on the document *Guidelines for Forest Roads* and the need for a redrafting of the *Guidelines for Professional Services in the Forest Sector – Crossings*.

3 Providing Excellence in Forest Policy Leadership

Outcome

British Columbia forest professionals provide leadership in forest policy promoting excellence in forest stewardship and delivering economic, environmental and social values to the people of BC.

3.1 Objective One

Ensure the tenure system accomplishes the following:

- Provides viable opportunities for all varieties of license holders and forest communities (economic);
- Addresses social values (e.g. cultural and recreational); and
- Provides long-term investment in stewardship (environment).

Results

The ABCFP assigned a task force to investigate our role in tenure reform, including identifying issues related to tenure reform and the necessary attributes and partners that might be associated with tenure change. The task force also reviewed the report and recommendations produced by the Working Roundtable on Forestry. The task force created a report for the CEO to review and decide on the ABCFP's next step in the process.

3.2 Objective Two

Develop a truly integrated resource management regime where:

- The ABCFP will work towards encouraging various ministries to collaborate with one another;
- Resource professionals will collaborate with one another;
- Professions have well-established committees and boards actively engaged in practice areas of overlap;
- First Nations' interests will be integrated into the planning process; and
- The ABCFP will work towards ensuring there will be one gatekeeper and contact for resource managers.

Results

The ABCFP worked with WorkSafeBC to ensure that the definition of a qualified registered professional in the Operational Health and Safety Regulation included the RFT. The application of the Operational Health and Safety Regulation is intended to ensure the authority and self assessment of competency under the *Foresters Act* remains unchanged.

Staff met with several agencies throughout the year regarding the practice of professional forestry including, the Oil and Gas Commission, Integrated Land Management Bureau, Forest Practices Board, Ministry of Forests and Range, Ministry of Environment, Private Managed Forest Land Council.

The stewardship advisory committee continued work on the concept of land-based management. The concept led to continued discussion with the Minister of Forests and Range about the need for a land-based management strategy in BC. A land-based strategy includes a common vision for forests and the mechanisms

necessary for decisions regarding competing interests on the landscape. A coordinated approach to land management improves efficiency and effectiveness for multiple users on forest land.

The ABCFP also worked with the College of Applied Biologists (CAB) to write *Managing Species at Risk in British Columbia*. This was the second project completed between our two organizations.

4 Supporting the Development of New Forest Professionals

Outcome

There is sufficient number of qualified forest professionals to meet demands.

4.1 Objective One

Ensure there are enough forest professionals to meet current and projected future demand for each area of forestry.

Results

Registration Exam

The ABCFP had an expanded special exam sitting in late November for people who were unable to write the first exam because they were on fire duty during the long 2009 fire season. A second oral exam – the first one was held in 2008 – was held in December 2009. A new continuing education plan was developed for third-time writers and the third-time writing policy was changed so everyone will be allowed three attempts. Finally, the academic appeals committee policy has been changed and hearings can now be done over the phone, thus saving exam writers both time and money.

To further assist exam writers, the registration department significantly overhauled the online resource library. New information was added and all the information was prioritized. This work will make it easier for exam writers to know which information is the most important so they can prioritize their studying accordingly.

Accreditation

The ABCFP continued to work with the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board (CTAB) on the accreditation of college programs granting forestry diplomas that lead to RFT status. This past year CTAB extended the accreditations for the forestry programs at the BC Institute of Technology, the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, the College of New Caledonia and Vancouver Island University. The ABCFP assessed the new forest technology program at the College of New Caledonia and the assessment team has recommended recognition of this program by the ABCFP.

Professional Development Workshops

The ABCFP has traditionally held workshops in the fall. Members preparing for the exam found studying for the exam, attending the workshops and working to be too demanding. In response to this feedback, we moved the workshops to the spring this year and received positive feedback from the workshop participants.

The ABCFP staff revised and delivered four workshops in many locations in 2009. The Policy Review Seminars, Professional Ethics and Obligations, Professional Reliance and Writing the Best Exam Possible workshops were held in nine locations around the province in April, May, June and September. Approximately

170 people attended the Policy Review Seminars in Prince George, Kamloops and Nanaimo. We had 167 people attend the Professional Reliance workshop, 217 people attend the Professional Ethics and Obligations workshop and 184 people attend the Writing the Best Exam Possible workshop in Campbell River, Kamloops, Prince George, Williams Lake, Quesnel, Port McNeill, Smithers, Dawson Creek and Nelson.

In addition to the in-person workshops, the ABCFP offered two workshops online in 2009. Working Effectively with Aboriginal Peoples was offered through Indigenous Corporate Training Inc. The ABCFP also developed an online version of the Professional Reliance workshop which is now available through the website.

Aboriginal Mentoring Group

The ABCFP developed a mentoring group for Aboriginal enrolled members lead by volunteer Angeline Nyce, RPF. This ancillary study group started late last spring with 13 mentors and 11 potential exam writers and grew to just under 30 exam writers before the end of the year. The purpose was to provide assistance to ABCFP members of Aboriginal ancestry, who were writing their forest professional certification exams in 2009 and 2010. Mentors — forest professionals, academics and other advisors — provide library resources, exam-writing techniques and comments on potential exam topics and professional ethics and obligations issues through conference calls, the Aboriginal study group list serve and the Sharepoint site. Exam writers were expected to join local study groups, attend seminars and workshops and use other resources, including the ABCFP discussion forum and their supervising forest professional throughout their studies.

2009 ForesTrust Winners

Once again, ForesTrust, the ABCFP's charitable arm, was pleased to provide scholarships and bursaries to the following students:

BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Neil Barnetson: Wayne Cochrane Memorial Award (\$1,200)

COLLEGE OF NEW CALEDONIA

Hayley Letchford: ABCFP Forestry Resources Technology Bursary (\$1,000)

Bob Nash: ABCFP Natural Resource Studies Scholarship (\$1,000)

NICOLA VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Olivia Egely: ABCFP ForesTrust Prize (\$250)

Aaron Neustaeter: ABCFP ForesTrust Prize (\$250)

SELKIRK COLLEGE

Holly Christie: ABCFP Scholarship (\$735)

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

Dwayne Pardis: ABCFP Award (\$1,200)

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Jesse Wildeman: ABCFP Scholarship in Forestry (\$1,350)

Jason Smith: ABCFP Award UBC Okanagan (\$2,300)

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Rory Plunkett: ABCFP Bursaries (\$1,000)

Rob Willows: ABCFP Award for Excellence (\$2,000) and ABCFP Bursaries (\$1,000)

UNIVERSITY OF VANCOUVER ISLAND

Jessica Ainsworth: ABCFP Award (\$900)

Broadening the Membership and Maintaining Relationships

The Forest Measurements Board transfer from the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC was completed on April 30, 2009. Accredited timber cruisers and timber evaluators can voluntarily transfer to the ABCFP as associate members. The ABCFP is pleased to expand our membership to include other people who work in BC's forests.

The ABCFP attended a variety of conferences and trade shows to build and maintain relationships throughout the province both in the natural resource sector and more broadly. The association attended two bioenergy conferences, the PricewaterhouseCoopers forest marketing conference, a Western Silviculture Contractors' Association meeting and the Truck Loggers Association conference. The ABCFP met with the Oil and Gas Commission about the need to hire forest professionals and attended the Independent Power Producers' conference. Finally, the ABCFP attended Union of British Columbia Municipalities' Municipal Marketplace and promoted forest fire community preparedness.

4.2 Objective Two

Ensure the practice and conduct of the ABCFP membership engenders professional reliance which includes:

- The ABCFP having an independent strategy to support the professional reliance of its members
- Forest professionals having a common understanding of professional reliance
- Forest professionals feeling confident in the application of professional reliance in all legislation and policy areas.

Results

The ABCFP continued building relationships and discussing areas of practice overlap with other professional associations in British Columbia by attending key annual general meetings. CEO Sharon Glover, MBA, and President Jonathan Lok, RFT, attended the annual general meetings of the BC Institute of Agrologists, the Association of Professional Biologists, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, and the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC.

4.3 Objective Three

Ensure First Nation values, interests and rights are part of the forest professional's competency requirements by making these values, interests and rights part of the forest professionals' curriculum including:

- Integration into admissions standards;
- Assessment in the continuing competency program for those forest professionals who practice in the area;
- Ensuring members who work with First Nations are competent in this area.

Results

The creation of a new Faces of Forestry booklet this past year was a big milestone for the ABCFP. *Faces of Forestry: A Celebration of our Aboriginal Members* highlighted ABCFP's Aboriginal members across the province. It focused on what these members do in their jobs and why they became forest professionals. The booklet showed Aboriginal youth the scope of work available within the field of forestry and provided examples of Aboriginal people successfully practising forestry.

4.4 Objective 4

We will have a diverse membership with:

- a) increased First Nations membership,
- b) increased numbers of women in forestry; and
- c) increased numbers of out-of-province professionals.

Results

The ABCFP continued to streamline its policies and approval processes to make administration easier for our members. To that end, the ABCFP reviewed and updated the Registration, Articling, and Member Change of Status policies and added updated forms that can be completed and submitted electronically. Processes for Forest Professionals who can transfer to the ABCFP under the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) and the *Trade Investment and Labour Mobility Act* (TILMA) were also added. The limited license approval process for RFTs was streamlined and the authority to sign-off on road site plans and silviculture milestones was included as a limited license.

Council and the board of examiners task force reviewed member recruitment and retention in the ABCFP and made eight recommendations that are to be acted upon by the board and staff. The recommendations include the implementation of the updated Certification Standards for the Profession of Forestry in Canada; the identification of opportunities to expand our membership; revising the RFT Scope of Practice Guidelines; more work on streamlining the limited licence process; updating the terms of reference for the board; and exploring opportunities for members to upgrade their skills and competencies.

The ABCFP continued to work on the second phase of the Inclusivity Project, designed to make admission standards for foreign-trained applicants and applicants with non-accredited degrees consistent across Canada. Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) funding has been secured for 2010 to complete the RPF competencies assessment. The ABCFP is working with the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board and the Canadian Federation of Professional Foresters Association to ensure that RPF certification standards are consistent across the country for non-accredited and foreign-trained applicants. The TFT/RFT competency assessment was completed in 2008 and is now up and running successfully. The FIT/ RPF core competency project has been piloted in 2009 and this process will continue to be used until a final version is completed in late 2010.

The ABCFP attended 12 career fairs in 2009 to promote forestry to BC's youth. Three were Aboriginal career fairs where we were able to speak directly to Aboriginal youth about careers in forestry.

The ABCFP created a presence on Facebook and Twitter and regularly posts updates on both these networks. We also posted forestry videos on YouTube that promote forestry as a career for young British Columbians.

5 Finance, Administration and Operations

Some aspects of the ABCFP's operations do not fit within the strategic plan because they make up the basic operations of the association.

5.1 Finance and Administration

Fiscal year 2009 ended with an operating deficit of \$81,227 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$163,812 on revenues of \$1,925,077. The association's full financial statements can be found on the website (www.abcfp.ca) and the consolidated financial statements are in this report.

When the 2009 budget was adopted in fall 2008, the number of technologists who were to join in the ensuing months to take advantage of the *Forest Technologist Transitional Policy* weren't considered. The revenues that did follow in 2009 as a result created significant positive variances. Along with ongoing efforts to reduce costs, the financial results were much better than anticipated.

Financial markets began to stabilize in 2009 having a positive effect on the reserve fund's investments. A policy change resulted in investing in a managed stock account. In fiscal 2009, the reserve fund had a 4.57% rate of return. The portfolio is 75% fixed income and 25% equities.

iMIS continues to be an efficient, modern information management system that provides a wide array of functionality, saves staff time and allows the ABCFP to better track and serve our members. Despite some implementation issues, the system functions well.

5.2 Operations

ABCFP staffing was very stable in 2009 with no major changes. Jackie Hipwell joined the association on a one-year contract in January 2009. Jackie worked with Mike Larock, RPF, director of professional practice and forest stewardship, and was the first RFT on staff.

The ABCFP adopted Adobe Connect Pro Meeting for our web conferencing software. The ABCFP council held a successful council meeting with Adobe Connect Pro at the end of November. This software will reduce the number of face-to-face meetings the ABCFP holds and, in turn, will reduce our travel, food and hotel costs throughout the coming year. In 2009 only council, the board of examiners, the complaints resolution committee and the standing investigations committee met in person.

New e-mail distribution software was also implemented this year. The ABCFP is now sending the majority of its e-mail through Informz. Informz technology enables personalized, highly targeted communications coupled with real-time reporting features that receive the highest delivery rates in the industry. This is affordable software that helps the ABCFP ensure that members are being reached in a timely and effective manner.

5.3 Communication and Member Relations

Senior staff and council had the opportunity to speak with almost 1,000 members in 2009 through workshops, study groups and member meetings. Between April and June member meetings were held in Kamloops, Campbell River, Prince George, Williams Lake, Quesnel, Port McNeill, Smithers and Dawson Creek. In September, a final member meeting was held in Nelson. In addition to the meetings and workshops, members' opinions were sought on numerous issues such as discussion papers and surveys. The ABCFP surveyed its

membership several times in 2009 on a variety of topics including discipline and enforcement, professional reliance and how well the association meets members' needs. We also did public opinion polling in 2009.

The three main vehicles used to communicate to members are the **BC Forest Professional** magazine, **The Increment** e-newsletter and the website. The Member News section of **BC Forest Professional** was expanded to include a Moment in Forestry section where members can submit photos they have taken. This new section has been a success and many members have submitted photos. **The Increment** e-newsletter was sent via Informz for the first time in the spring. This new system allows for more efficient mailing and is much quicker to develop. The Publications & Forms section of the website was restructured this year to make it easier for users to access.

5.4 Membership Statistics

Membership Totals ¹		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Registered Members	RPFs (active)	3127	3190	3192	3168	3185	3174	3189
	RFTs ² (active)	0	344	1306	1364	1262	1642	1578
	RPFs (retired)	132	128	147	171	183	194	193
	RFTs (retired)	0	16	18	22	24	26	27
	RPFs (life)	198	200	205	211	210	206	202
	RFTs (life)	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Enrolled Members	FITs ²	410	338	317	295	305	302	259
	FPs ²	166	144	142	119	91	60	43
	TFTs	0	15	29	34	62	81	89
Special Permits	Visiting Professional Foresters	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Transferring Professional Foresters	0	3	4	5	10	9	5
	Limited Licensees	2	4	3	3	4	5	5
	Honourary Members	12	13	14	15	15	15	16
	Associate Members ²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	126
Total Membership³		4047	4358	5323	5352	5299	5638	5586
Leave of Absence ⁴		149	137	136	139*	135	125	142

*adjusted value

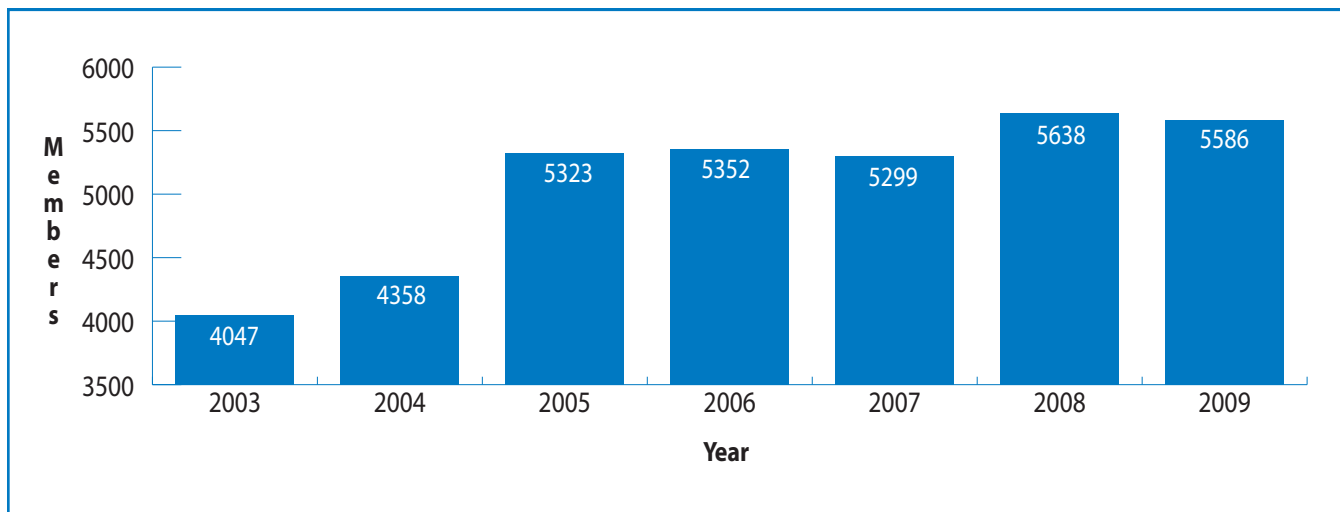
¹ the numbers shown here are as of November 30th each year.

² These numbers include members who are in more than one category (e.g. RFT and FP) at the same time.

³ The totals record the actual number of persons and do not double count persons who are members of more than one category.

⁴ The leave of absence category does not affect yearly totals.

Membership Growth



5.5 Admissions

A total of 399 people wrote the registration exams – 104 RPF candidates and 295 RFT candidates. Most RPF candidates opted to write the take-home exam which allowed them to answer seven of 14 questions on the sit-down exam. Those who chose to write only the sit-down exam had to answer 10 of 14 questions. Because the majority of RFT candidates were conditional RFTs who joined the ABCFP under the *Forest Technologist Transitional Policy*, most only had to write Part A of the exam. Please see the tables below for the exam statistics for 2008 and 2009.

RPF Registration Exam Results

Exam Type	# of Writers	Avg Mark	2009 Pass Rate	2008 Pass Rate
Take Home & Sit Down Exam	81	69%	78%	69%
Sit Down Exam Only	15	64%	100%	50%
Take Home Exam Only	8	81%	83%	88%
Totals	104	n/a	82%	71%

Mark S. Sloan, RPF, scored the highest mark on the RPF registration exam.

RFT Registration Exam Results

Exam Type	# of Writers	Avg Mark	2009 Pass Rate	2008 Pass Rate
Part A Only	226	66%	97%	98%
Part B Only	6	51%	50%	75%
Both Part A & B	63	61%	68%	78%
Totals	295	n/a	90%	94%

Cindy Lee DeRosier, RFT, scored the highest mark on Part A of the RFT registration exam.

Karen Schwalm, RFT, scored the highest mark on Part A & B of the RFT registration exam.

Lay Councillor Reports Lay Councillor Reports

Gordon Prest

What is Aboriginal Forestry?

Dr. Fred Bunnell, an esteemed professor at the UBC Faculty of Forestry, once said: "Forestry is not rocket science...it is much more complicated." When considering the question what is Aboriginal forestry, I like to say...Aboriginal forestry is not rocket science - it is much more simple - if you can see the forest beyond the trees.

So, what is Aboriginal forestry and what are the driving forces behind the advancement of Aboriginal forestry are questions that are being addressed by many forest professionals throughout BC and Canada today. Many factors influence the practice of modern day forestry and one gaining prominence is Aboriginal forestry. Aboriginal forestry has been defined as "sustainable forest land use practices that incorporate the First Nation cultural values and protocols of the past with interactions of current forest ecosystem management models and practices for the benefit of today's Aboriginal people and for future generations yet unborn." In other words:

- Aboriginal forestry practices combine the strengths of current state-of-the-art forest management models and practices with traditional cultural First Nation forest values and land uses.
- Aboriginal forestry is more than just following a scientific prescription outlining when, where, and how to harvest but prescribes how a respectful and sustained relationship with the natural world can be developed over an extended period of time.

There have been several factors driving Aboriginal forestry such as: forest certification, landmark court cases on Aboriginal rights, the modern treaty-making process, and modern comprehensive and specific claims and treaty land entitlements across Canada. These factors have led to greater recognition and involvement of Aboriginal people in forestry.

BC First Nation involvement in all aspects of the BC forest sector has increased exponentially over the past decade. Many First Nation communities are moving towards increased ownership or significant decision and management authority within their respective homelands through settled treaties and other forms of agreements with the Province of BC. This movement requires new sets of skills and knowledge that must be learned and applied by forest professionals, particularly in the general areas of First Nation customs and values, community organization, business development and decision making processes through their individual governance models.



These new skill sets and knowledge are being addressed by the UBC Faculty of Forestry and the ABCFP in the following manner:

- A new Bachelor of Science (Forestry) curriculum stream called Community and Aboriginal Forestry specialization in the Department of Forest Resources Management at the UBC Faculty of Forestry. For more information contact Dr. Ron Trosper, Associate Professor, Aboriginal Forestry, 604.822.8089 or ronald.trosper@ubc.ca.
- An online workshop entitled “Working Effectively With Aboriginal Peoples” that is available for all professionals working with Aboriginal communities including members of: ABCFP, CAB, DEGIRS, BCIA, and APBBC. Check the Workshops page on the ABCFP website.

When doing a recent survey of the current ABCFP membership (about 5,500 members), 66 people self-declared as Aboriginal RPFs and RFTs. This number falls far short of the projected needs for Aboriginal forest professionals that have been identified by the First Nation leadership and communities.

So, from a First Nation point of view, Aboriginal forestry in BC is definitely a sunrise industry rather than a sunset industry...so now is our time to shine.

Gordon Prest of Merritt was appointed a lay councillor in 2004 and has been reappointed for another three-year term. Gordon has spent all of his working life in forestry in positions ranging from timber cruiser to forest ranger to forestry teacher.

Herb Langin, RPBio(Ret)

This is my first report as a lay councillor with the Association of BC Forest Professionals. My background in resource and land use management with the provincial government, as well recent work with the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition (OBAC), have assisted me greatly in my role on council which is to represent the public interest. In particular, the work with OBAC and the communities in the north has reinforced my understanding of the importance of forest policy and management to communities in the province.

I appreciate the level of debate by council members and the fact that the lay councilors are full participants on council. As well, I find that the public interest is an important part of many of the discussions.

One of the key accomplishments over the past year was the completion of guidance on the management of species at risk in conjunction with the Association of Professional Biologists. This paper was the second joint effort between our associations and marks a big step forward in cooperation between forest professionals and professional biologists. Guidance is now in place to help members work with each other for the benefit of species at risk.

The recent discussions regarding registration and practice issues surrounding current and emerging roles of forest professional is proactive and consistent with the ABCFP's mandate. The ABCFP welcomed timber cruisers as associate members in 2009. Timber cruisers perform important data collection in the forest so it makes sense to bring another member of the forest team under the ABCFP umbrella. The ABCFP has plans to incorporate more specialists in the future. The balancing of considerations and needs across the spectrum of land and resource issues is a key public interest which should be facilitated by this expansion. There is also a strong potential linkage between the broadening of the association and the public perception of forestry.

Of particular interest to members of the public was the ABCFP's overhaul of its discipline process and the information available on its website. It is now much easier for a member of the public to find the information needed to launch a complaint against a member and also to track the process once a complaint is launched. It was decided, in 2009, that members who were found guilty of breaching the *Foresters Act* or ABCFP bylaws will now have their names made public via the ABCFP's website. These changes make the entire discipline process more transparent and accessible.

Climate change, the mountain pine beetle epidemic, and changing markets and products are some of the major factors which are now driving changes in forest policy and management in the province. The need for management and forest policy to evolve rapidly to align with changing circumstances is clear. The past decision by the ABCFP to take on more advocacy and leadership roles in these areas is a major step forward.

I look forward to the work council will be doing in the coming year.

Herb Langin is a retired professional biologist and currently lives in Prince George. During his 34 year career, Herb has worked with the BC Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management tackling land and resource management issues. He also worked with the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition to help overcome some of the impacts of the mountain pine beetle epidemic on northern BC.

Auditor's Report Auditor's Report



REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST PROFESSIONALS

The statement of financial position and statement of revenue and expenditures of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals shown below are in our opinion accurately extracted from the complete financial statements of the Association for the year ended November 30, 2009 which we reported upon under our auditors' report dated February 1, 2010.

Vancouver, BC
February 1, 2010

D, H Group LLP

Chartered Accountants

D+H Group LLP Chartered Accountants

10th Floor, 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V6H 4C1

Telephone: 604 731 5881
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Email: info@dhgroup.ca

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Statement of Financial Position
Statement of Financial Position
 November 30, 2009

		2009			2008
		Operating Fund	Reserve Fund	Total	Total
ASSETS	Current Assets				
	Cash	\$ 617,206	\$ 5,789	\$ 622,995	\$ 684,381
	Short Term Investments	-	214,975	214,975	165,383
	Accounts Receivable	80,542	-	80,542	70,510
	Due from Operating Fund	-	-	-	2,312
	Due from Reserve Fund	6,107	-	6,107	-
	Prepaid Expenses	64,623	-	64,623	62,219
		768,478	220,764	989,242	984,805
	Investments				
		-	617,406	617,406	633,902
Property and Equipment					
	158,748	-	158,748	210,540	
	\$ 927,226	\$ 838,170	\$ 1,765,396	\$ 1,829,247	

LIABILITIES	Current Liabilities				
	Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 162,562	-	\$ 162,562	\$ 232,994
	Due to Operating Fund	-	6,107	6,107	-
	Due to Reserve Fund	-	-	-	2,312
	Deferred Revenue	536,236	-	536,236	482,689
	698,798	6,107	704,905	717,995	

NET ASSETS	Unrestricted				
		\$ 69,680	\$ 832,063	\$ 901,743	\$ 900,712
	Restricted				
		-	-	-	-
	Investment in Property and Equipment				
	158,748	-	158,748	210,540	
	228,428	832,063	1,060,491	1,111,252	
	\$ 927,226	\$ 838,170	\$ 1,765,396	\$ 1,829,247	

Approved by Council



Jonathan Lok, RFT
 President



Sharon Glover, MBA
 Chief Executive Officer

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures
Statement of Revenue & Expenditures
 Year Ended November 30, 2009

	2009				2008
	Operating Fund		Reserve Fund	Total	Total
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Revenue					
Annual Registered Membership Fees	\$ 1,469,703	\$ 1,544,235	\$ -	\$ 1,544,235	\$ 1,429,394
Other Membership Fees	242,635	261,986	-	261,986	297,707
Annual Meeting Income	(15,000)	(26,943)	-	(26,943)	(15,241)
Interest and Dividends	25,000	3,460	33,542	37,002	66,881
Advertising and Mailings	70,000	48,994	-	48,994	54,681
Seminars and Workshops	60,000	34,759	-	34,759	58,184
Gain on Sale of Marketable Securities	-	-	(53,425)	(53,425)	4,170
Unrealized Gain on Short-term Investments	-	-	27,114	27,114	-
Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Equipment	-	-	-	-	(966)
Other	5,000	58,586	-	58,586	106,386
	1,857,338	1,925,077	7,231	1,932,308	2,001,196
Expenditures					
Committee Work	494,100	449,837	-	449,837	611,737
Office	357,550	405,741	-	405,741	373,081
Staff	1,169,500	1,150,726	-	1,150,726	1,134,969
Other	-	-	10,013	10,013	-
	2,021,150	2,006,304	10,013	2,016,317	2,119,787
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenditures					
	\$ (163,812)	\$ (81,227)	\$ (2,782)	\$ (84,009)	\$ (118,591)

Council, Staff & Volunteers

Council, Staff & Volunteers

62nd ABCFP Council

PRESIDENT

Jonathan Lok, RFT

VICE-PRESIDENT

Rick Brouwer, RPF

PAST PRESIDENT

Allan Balogh, RPF

LAY COUNCILLORS

Gordon Prest

Herb Langin, RPBio (ret)

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Steve Lorimer, RPF

Kerry Rouck, RPF

Frank Varga, RPF

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D. Christine Hollstedt, RPF - Kamloops
Cara Illerbrun, RPF - Salmon Arm
Sandy McKellar, ABCFP Honourary Member
- Vancouver
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Kerry Rouck, RPF - Kelowna
Blair Stewart, RPF - Kelowna
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 Rodney Krimmer, RFT
 Mike Larock, RPF
 Angeline Nyce, RPF
 Diana Wood, RPF

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

John H. Borden, RPF(Ret), RPBio
 Gerald Wayne Coombs, RPF(Ret)
 Gordon F. Weetman, PhD, RPF(Ret)

THE ASSOCIATION EXTENDS ITS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2009:

Donald H. Baxter, RPF(Ret)
 Donald S. Cameron, RPF(Ret)
 Valeriano P. Ciapponi, RPF
 Harold N. Cliff, RPF(Ret)
 Scott L. Finding, RPF(Ret)
 A. Glen Forrester, RPF(Ret)
 Ross R. Johnson, RPF(Ret)
 James A. McIntosh, RPF(Ret)
 Bernice Leone Patterson, RFT
 Ronald W. Pearson, RPF
 Innes Fraser Russell, RPF(Ret)
 Richard K. Vivian, RPF(Ret)

2009 Award Winners 2009 Award Winners

Distinguished Forest Professional

This award is the highest honour we bestow upon members. **David Wilford, RPF**, was presented with the Distinguished Forest Professional award for outstanding service to the profession and for furthering the principles of the association.

Forest Engineering Award of Excellence

The Forest Engineering Award of Excellence is cosponsored by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC. **Glen Beaton, PEng**, was presented with this award which recognizes excellence and promotes cooperation and leadership in forest engineering.

Honourary Member

Honourary membership is the highest award presented to non-members. **Bruce Fraser** and **Tim Toman** were recognized for their contributions to forestry.

Professional Forester of the Year

Chris Hollstedt, RPF, was named the 2009 Forester of the Year for her outstanding, recent service to the forestry profession and for furthering the association's principles.

Jim Rodney Memorial Volunteer of the Year

Phil Blanchard, RPF, and **Angeline Nyce, RPF**, were separately named Volunteers of the Year for exceptional service to the ABCFP and the profession of forestry.

BC Forest Professional Awards

Best Letter

"Putting BC's Wood Products on the Front Line in the Fight Against Climate Change" by **Richard J. Slaco, RPF**, January/February 2009

Best Article

"Complexity Science and Forest Ecosystems" by **William W. Bourgeois, PhD, RPF**, July/August 2009

Meloche Monnex Continuing Education Award

Som Pun, RPF, and **Arthur Stock, PhD, RPF**, each received a \$250 continuing education award sponsored by Meloche Monnex Inc.

Forest Capital of BC

The Regional District of Mount Waddington was named the Forest Capital of BC for 2009.



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Website: www.abcfp.ca

Ensuring BC's Forests Are In Good Hands.