

2009 Award Winner



ABCFP Honourary Member – Bruce Fraser, PhD

Dr. Bruce Fraser is the 2009 recipient of honorary membership into the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) – the most prestigious award the association bestows upon non-members. This distinction comes at a significant time in Bruce’s career as he is set to retire from the position of chair of the Forest Practices Board (FPB) on April 30, 2010.

Bruce initially expressed an interest in becoming a forester when he was a child. “I was a boy scout and spent a lot of time camping and hiking,” says Bruce. “This and the experience of growing up in various BC communities that were integrally linked to forestry help solidify my desire to be involved in the forest sector.”

After graduating with a bachelor of science in forestry and botany and a PhD in plant ecology from the University of British Columbia, Bruce taught forestry biology and ecology at Selkirk College. In addition to his stint as a college professor, Bruce was also president of Selkirk College and Malaspina College (now Vancouver Island University). Throughout his impressive career, Bruce also worked with the provincial government in the ministries of Forests (now Forests and Range) and Education and also as a consultant. “Whether I was a student, summer student worker, professor or international project coordinator, I’ve always been associated with forestry in one way or another.”

Upon learning that he had been awarded honorary membership, Bruce was surprised, delighted and grateful for the recognition. “I made a decision at age 11 to be a forester although I might not have known completely what that meant,” says Bruce. “As I’m approaching 70, I can finally say that I am a professional forester and this represents a nice closure to the journey of my career.”

Not one to rest on his laurels, Bruce is in the process of writing two books. One is his personal memoirs and the other reflects upon his time as FBP chair (from 2003 to 2010). He is also training to walk in the Times Colonist 10K this April and plans to motorbike across the continent in the years to come.