



CEO's Report

By Sharon Glover, MBA

Meet the ABCFP Staff

In December 2009, the ABCFP once again surveyed members to find out how well the association is doing in providing services to you—our members. We had a good response rate to the survey and we thank everyone who participated.

The December survey was the third survey (April 2008 and January 2009 were the first two surveys) in the series. We are pleased that we continue to show a gradual improvement in every category over the three surveys. We provided a comment box so members could add comments that weren't constrained by the survey questions. We received hundreds of responses—each one of which was read by the staff. We even received a few comments telling us we were doing a good job—receiving comments like that is always a morale booster!

tance from anywhere in the province which makes it easy for our volunteers who have to attend meetings here. It is a short hop over from the ABCFP office to Victoria when we meet with government officials. In addition, when the ABCFP lease expired in November of 2008, we moved to smaller premises in a less desirable area of Vancouver. The ABCFP office is now located in a small, 100-year old building in Gastown. This move has saved considerable money on rent and utilities. Our forest professionals work mainly out of their home offices (Courtenay, Denman Island,



The majority of comments were well thought out and offered us constructive criticism; however, there was a sizable number of comments that indicated many members do not fully understand the role of staff at the ABCFP. We read many comments that indicated members did not like the fact that the association office is located in Vancouver. Still others felt that the ABCFP has been spending money frivolously.

The ABCFP office is located in Vancouver and, at this point in time, it doesn't make financial sense to move it anywhere else in the province. A Vancouver location means that the office is within easy traveling dis-

Grand Forks, and Kamloops), which saves us money and ensures that they are in touch with forestry issues outside of Vancouver.

During these economically challenging times, the ABCFP has taken many steps to reduce our spending. Like many of our members, ABCFP staff has not had a raise in two years. We opted to not purchase a new boardroom table when we moved (the old one would not fit in the new boardroom) and are instead using tables made of plywood attached to folding legs for all our meetings. We have cut costs in other areas too. An employee on a one-year contract was not renewed for 2010. In addition, we have

eliminated our advertising budget for 2010 after severely restricting it in 2009. Finally, by stopping virtually all face-to-face committee meetings in favour of teleconferences and webconferences, the ABCFP saves a great deal on travel, accommodation and catering costs.

I'd like to introduce you to each department at the ABCFP so I can explain all the work that is done on behalf of members. Some of you might be familiar with this work but I think it will be a surprise to others how much work is produced from our office. Of course, the staff members listed here are simply the leads on their projects. They are ably assisted by their volunteer committees and junior staff. Our top volunteers give hours and hours of their personal time. Without them, the association would not be able to function.



Randy Terise, RPF

Most members are familiar with the registration team lead by our registrar Randy Terise, RPF. Randy was a long time employee of Pope & Talbot Ltd. and has been with us for two years. Randy has extensive experience in managing silviculture programs, timber and road development planning, as well as environmental management, sustainable forestry and safety certification systems. Randy, who works from his home office in Grand Forks, along with Conrad Malilay, Ruxandra Dobrescu and Baljinder Kullar, who all work in the Vancouver office, are responsible for

registering and providing day to day advice to our members in relation to admission, registration and membership policies. Their main responsibilities include: responding to enquiries and assisting people who are interested in joining the ABCFP; evaluating applications and education from non-accredited or foreign schools; organizing and administering the registration exams; supporting the board of examiners; producing policies that guide registration and membership; implementing labour mobility requirements and; maintaining the integrity of the membership database. Randy and Conrad also administer the complaint and discipline processes as well as the *Foresters Act* enforcement work of the ABCFP. The registration team is particularly proud of the work they did in 2009 to revamp of all the policies that guide people from application to membership, implement all of the recommendations of the discipline review task force and, provide support for 400 registration exam writers.

Lance Nose has a business and accounting diploma and has over 25 years of accounting experience, many of which have been in the area of controllership. Lance has been with the association 14 years and leads the finance team which also includes Julia He. Lance and Julia do all the finance and admin work for the ABCFP including processing all payments for things like membership renewal and workshop registration, as well as oversight of the reserve fund. In addition, they are responsible for creating the annual budget and do any reporting on financial matters that are necessary, and maintaining the member affinity program, Forest Club. Lance is also responsible for human resources such as maintaining staff



Lance Nose

records and the benefit program. One of the finance and admin team's biggest accomplishments in 2009 was the completion of the iMIS member management system.

Mike Larock, RPF, works on all professional practice and forest stewardship issues. Mike has been with the association two years. Prior to working for the ABCFP, Mike practised professional forestry for government, industry and consulting in the practice areas of silviculture and planning. As a partner in a private forest land and a woodlot licence tenure, Mike has worked on timber tenure matters. Mike works with our volunteer committees to provide professional practice guidance for members. He is responsible for working with regulators such as the Ministry of Forest and Range (MFR) and WorkSafeBC. The ABCFP enforces the practice of professional forestry and ensures that both RPFs and RFTs get named in various regulations. Mike and his



Mike Larock, RPF

committees also work with other external organizations (MFR, Forest Practices Board, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, and the College of Applied Biology) to ensure that forest professionals have the latest practice guidelines and professional standards. Mike, who works in Courtenay, also has the responsibility of developing our work on stewardship and advocating for good forest stewardship to the provincial government and other organizations. Some of the work Mike completed in 2009 included the publication of: *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* and collaborative documents such as *Guidelines for the Management of Terrain Stability in the Forest Sector*.



Amanda Brittain, MA, ABC

The communications team is led by Amanda Brittain, MA, ABC (Accredited Business Communicator). Amanda has 14 years of experience as a business communicator and recently acquired her master's degree in communications. Amanda, together with Michelle Mentore and Brenda Martin, take care of all communication to members, government, the media and the public. They are responsible for the website, **The Increment** e-newsletter

and **BC Forest Professional** magazine as well as editing and desktop publishing all guidelines, policies and reports; issuing news releases, and developing and teaching the Writing the Best Exam Possible workshop. Amanda is also the staff lead on running ExpoFor. In 2009, the team is particularly proud of the new Faces of Forestry brochure which featured our Aboriginal members.



Brian Robinson, RPF

Brian Robinson, RPF, is the staff lead on all professional development and member relations activities. He has worked in the field in all areas of the province for the MFR, industry, and as a consultant. Brian, along with his volunteer committee, maintains the ABCFP continuing competency program which includes self-assessments, peer reviews and practice reviews. Brian also developed and teaches the ABCFP's two most popular workshops Professional Reliance and Professional Ethics and Obligations. While Brian usually works out of his home office in Kamloops, he spends a great deal of time on the road leading workshops, conducting practice reviews, helping study groups, and holding member meetings. In 2009, Brian, ably assisted by Brenda in communications, adapted the Professional Reliance workshop and turned it into an online course that is now available to members.

My role as the CEO is to take care of the day-to-day running of the association. My main function is to ensure that the staff is working to implement council's strategic direction through solid business planning. I am responsible for government and external relations for the association and I enjoy meeting with ministry executives and my counterparts at forestry industry associations, natural resource associations such as the College of Applied Biology and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, environmental associations, and other regulators. I focus on issues that are of strategic importance to the association and work hard to ensure that members' dollars are spent wisely. I am assisted part time by Wendy Halasz-Corless who, among other tasks, handles all the logistics of the council meetings. In 2009, along with President Jonathan Lok and Lay Councillor Gordon Prest, I have been particularly busy working to build relationships with numerous Aboriginal groups across the province.

The ABCFP staff work incredibly hard and the senior staff members work many hours beyond what they are compensated for each week to ensure members are getting the services they need. We are proud of the work we do and we want to hear if any members are not getting the information they need. Call or e-mail us anytime. 🍁



Sharon Glover, MBA