



Making Professional Reliance a Priority

Throughout 2010, the ABCFP worked with government, employers and others to lead the way on professional reliance in forest resource management. What we observed was that forest professionals were involved in almost every corner of the effort to advance professional reliance. As a result, I am convinced that relying on the judgment of forest professionals is the right thing to do in BC's natural resource management.

There are two things in particular that I want to discuss with you.

1. What we have been doing to advance professional reliance in 2010.
2. What we, and you, can do to advance professional reliance in the coming years.

Relying on professional judgment in natural resource management requires a team approach and effective team members. Therefore, it is not surprising that our greatest efforts in the professional reliance initiative this last year were working with government agencies, industry partners and others. For example, the ABCFP chaired the provincial professional reliance steering committee and helped to deliver 11 leadership workshops throughout the province. We supported the development and delivery of the benchmarking professional reliance survey and 1,400 members assisted by completing the online questionnaire.

The foundation of professional reliance in forest resource management is the practice of professional forestry and our 5,500 ABCFP members. The knowledge, skill and experience that the forest professional brings to the resource management team will drive the success of professional reliance. To support our members' practice, the ABCFP continued to develop guidance in professional service, initiate online workshops for members and support emerging areas of practice such as forest fuel management, advancing climate change adaptations in practice and the professional contribution to safety.

Professional reliance will remain one of the important initiatives in the coming years.

The ABCFP's strategic plan charts the course for the profession and that is why your council made professional reliance one of the four key priority areas for the next 2011-2013 strategic plan. It is true; the primary benefit of professional reliance has been the reduction in overlap of management work and the corresponding cost savings. However, in the near future, we think the greatest gains in professional reliance will be through the benefits of increased professional service such as professional innovation, prioritization of natural resource investment and improvement

in site-level decisions to protect forest resource values in the face of climate change.

In order to achieve these gains, the ABCFP will continue to support team partnerships and the individual practitioner. You will see professional reliance move ahead through local leadership teams that work on a wide variety of important forest resource issues throughout the province. The ABCFP will focus on increasing our understanding of our roles in professional reliance. For example, the professional reliance concept depends upon the specialized knowledge that the professional brings to their practice. This includes the understanding that the professional, on a regular and consistent basis, maintains a currency of knowledge, has a method of acquiring the current science and incorporates this knowledge into their practice.

You can accelerate the gains of professional reliance by improving your access to knowledge through professional development. One way to do this is through our online workshop, "Professional Reliance: Is It Working? How It Should Work?" This workshop includes information on: professional reliance and what it means to participants, legal foundation and its definition, how it compares to professional deference and how it is related to professional accountability. For more information about workshops and developing forest resource knowledge, read **BC Forest Professional, The Increment** and the ABCFP website (www.abcfp.ca).

Your employer and the ABCFP can lead the way on professional reliance. However, the success of professional reliance depends on you. Help us achieve the benefits of relying on professional service in natural resource management by finding out how you can help the leadership teams in your area and by investing in your professional development. Thank you. 🐾