

President's Report

By Ian Emery, RFT



Mid-Term Report Card

I am a little more than halfway through my term as president so I wanted to update you on a few of the projects that are most important to me.

Council and the Strategic Plan

Council and I have been very focused on working efficiently and effectively for our members. While councils have been using the Carver Governance model for a number of years, this council has really embraced it. As a team we are working together to provide guidance and direction through strategic planning and policy and then getting out of the way to let CEO Sharon Glover and her staff achieve the goals we set for them. Sharon and her staff are held accountable through the conditions, constraints and measurable outcomes that council sets and regularly monitors for results. I've been impressed as I've watched council going through the different life cycles of Dr. Bruce Tuckman's model of team development (Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing and Adjourning). I truly see us now in the Performing stage – where the team is productive and effective – and where all great teams end up.

As I write this report, council just finished their annual strategic planning session. Both senior staff and council members agree that it was a very productive session and we feel we have created a good plan that is forward thinking. By the time you read this report,

staff will be well on their way to creating a business plan based on the strategic plan and will start working on the goals in 2012.

Advocacy

We heard loud and clear from members at the AGM in February that advocacy is a hot button issue. Just the subject of advocacy can be controversial as we heard strongly from members that we should advocate and how we should but we also heard from other members who don't believe the association should be advocating at all. At our recent strategic planning session, we had a long discussion on advocacy. We wanted to look at the pros and cons of advocating and clarifying that what we can advocate on is very narrowly set by the *Foresters Act*.

One of areas that we can improve on is letting our membership know about our advocacy activities. We have been including advocacy updates in **The Increment** on a regular basis and we will continue to do so. Sharon Glover's CEO Report in this issue discusses advocacy further, so be sure to read it.

Recruitment and First Nations

Many of you know that I spread the message of recruitment wherever I go. For example, each year the ABCFP travels to different locations of the province to meet with First Nations and let them know who we are, what we do, and to let them know about our recruitment efforts. I was privileged to be able to meet with the Tseil-Waututh Nation in North Vancouver, the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Forestry Partnership in Chilliwack, Stuwix Resources Ltd in Merritt,

Okanagan Nation Alliance, Westbank First Nation, Aboriginal Programs and Services at the UBC Okanagan campus and the Penticton Indian Band. I was impressed with the different success each of these organizations had with forestry and how it impacted their communities. I learned three key things in talking to these groups: relationships are important and take time and respect to develop; communication helps to create and maintain good relationships; and finally, working together to find solutions is important.

Volunteering

One last item I want to touch on is the importance of volunteering. When I gave my incoming speech in February I heard a few chuckles when I said "it's not about what the ABCFP does for you it's what you can do the ABCFP." Yes it may sound corny but it is what I believe. The ABCFP will only be as good as we make it. Do we want to be lead or do we want to lead? Volunteering can be a lot of work but it can also be very rewarding.

I want to thank everyone who volunteered with the ABCFP this year. Without your efforts, the ABCFP would not be the organization it is today. I also want to thank the members who put their names forward to run in the election for the 65th council. It takes a lot of courage to run in an election so these members should be recognized. Finally, I want to thank the current council members who have volunteered countless hours of their time to be on council as well as many other committees. 🐾