

ABC FP Commissions Public Opinion Poll

Every two to three years, the ABCFP commissions a third party to conduct public opinion polling for us. The 2009 poll found that BC residents think forest professionals are technically competent, ethical, accountable and doing a good job. The level of trust in forest professionals is also positive. While the trustworthiness level of RPFs has remained steady, the trustworthiness level of RFTs has risen by almost 50%. One explanation is that the last time the poll was conducted was 2006 when RFTs were still relatively new. As the public got to know the roles of RFTs, they were better able to assess how trustworthy these professionals are. We've prepared a report that summarizes the results. You can read the report on the website.

Don't Miss Out on Important ABCFP Information!

Since the ABCFP switched to using a new member mailing system called Informz, staff have noticed that many members have stopped receiving our e-mail messages. In most cases, this problem is caused by the incoming messages being marked as spam. For members working in large organizations, the mail server is automatically filtering our messages as spam and members in these organizations may not even know they have received messages from the ABCFP. For other members, they may only be aware of a message after checking their spam folders. Members working for large organizations can ask their IT departments to allow messages from the @abcfp.ca domain to be delivered to their mailboxes. Individuals should make sure to mark abcfp.ca as a 'safe sender.'

Easier Navigation on the ABCFP Website

While the ABCFP website is an excellent source of information, it has grown so much recently that it is sometimes difficult to locate the document you need. In the past few months we have been concentrating on the web content, design and management of the publications as well as the complaints information.

ABC FP publications can now be found under two main menu headings (the green menu bar on the top of each page): Regulating the Profession and Publications & Forms. Documents essential to your professional practice or the activities of the ABCFP can be found under the Regulating the Profession heading while documents featuring important (but non-essential) information are found under the Publications & Forms heading. We've also archived dated information so you can still refer to it but it does not get mixed in with the most recent versions. In the Complaints section (under the Regulating the Profession heading), we've tried to make it easier for members and the public to find the information they need to lodge a complaint and to find the outcome of complaints. We've also included a flow chart that explains the complaint process to make it easier to understand.

ABC FP Practice Review Findings for 2009

In 2009, the ABCFP carried out practice reviews on members chosen at random as well as a few members who volunteered for a review. The following is a findings summary of these reviews. Overall, results were excellent.

There were no significant negative findings which triggered technical reviews but there were some recommendations provided. Based on these recommendations, here is some advice for members:

- According to Bylaw 10, members need to sign and seal or stamp all professional work. The reviews found many examples of professional work where originals were not signed and sealed or stamped. The ABCFP does not have a policy with respect to electronic signing and sealing. Scanning in a signature and stamp satisfies Bylaw 10 requirements, but this method is not secure because documents can still be digitally altered.
- Once you have completed your annual self-assessment, it is important to record action items in a professional development plan and include the date when these action items are achieved.
- It is recommended that members keep their own continuing education (CE) records rather than relying on their employers to record CE activities. Members can use the voluntary ABCFP Certificate of Professional Development form (available on the website) to record CE activities.
- Consultants can retain backup files through Internet providers which is a good way to retain files offsite.
- Make sure to use the recently revised form when completing annual self-assessments and keep self-assessments on file for at least six years.

If you have questions about the practice review process, please contact Brian Robinson, RPF, manager of professional development and member relations at brobinson@abcfp.ca.

Professional Reliance Workshop now Online

Save on travel costs and time while getting high-quality professional development. This is the first of several workshops that will be turned into online courses. Registration is now open and the cost of the course is \$50 plus GST. About the workshop:

This workshop explores what professional reliance means to participants, its legal foundation and its definition, how it compares to professional deference and how it is related to professional accountability. Various professional reliance scenarios will be presented for participants to work through by choosing different decisions based on the information they are given.

Participants and other members will have a chance to discuss local professional reliance issues and engage in dialogue about how professional reliance should work on our online discussion forum after they have completed the workshop.

If you received an ABCFP voluntary Certificate of Professional Development in the previous 12 months, you are eligible for a 25% discount on the workshop. To apply for your certificate, go to the website. For more information and to register online, please visit the Workshops page of the website.