

## **2011: A Year in Review at the ABCFP**

The ABCFP's year end is November 30<sup>th</sup> so this is a good time to take a look back at the work we've done and the goals we've accomplished in 2011.

Not all of the work we've done will be relevant to all members; however, we don't undertake any task without considering how it will affect the public interest and principles of stewardship.

In addition to the work listed below, we've spent a our time on the core activities of registering and regulating BC's forest professionals, running an efficient and effective organization, and promoting the profession of forestry.

### **Professional Obligations Relating to Practices Legislation**

ABCFP Senior staff visited several licensees and the members they employ to discuss areas of concern around practices legislation. The conversations were positive learning experiences for all parties and at the urging of the members involved, the ABCFP created a new communication tool called *Practice Notes* to share the learnings with all members.

Because of member and government feedback, the ABCFP improved its professional accountability process by developing non-discipline options for members to address concerns about other member's professional conduct.

### **Standards of Practice Guidance**

Volunteers and senior staff worked hard this year to make the Principles of Stewardship draft document available to all members. In order to make the Principles more relevant to your practice, the stewardship committee will be including an illustrative example of a Principle in each issue of **BC Forest Professional** magazine beginning with the January/February issue.

### **Communications**

**The Increment** e-newsletter was reorganized into several categories to make it easier for members to locate stories they want to read.

Work has started on some extensive improvements to the Discipline area of the website and you will see a video on how to lodge a complaint with the ABCFP on the site by the end of November.

We have now made individual articles of **BC Forest Professional** available for download. This change makes it easier for members to share articles with each other or to print them off for later reading.

## **Foresters Act Enforcement**

When the ABCFP hears about a contravention of the *Foresters Act*, we take action to ensure compliance. In addition, we communicate regularly with major employers to be sure they understand what tasks are considered the practice of professional forestry and that only ABCFP members or people working under the supervision of a member may perform these tasks.

## **Bylaw Enforcement**

To date in 2011 we have received complaints about the actions of 11 of our members. It can take up to 12 months to investigate and close a complaint and we've closed 14 complaints this year (six from previous years and eight from 2011).

## **Advocacy**

In many cases, the ABCFP chooses to advocate directly to policy makers instead of in the public realm which may induce adversarial relationships. By the end of the year, we will have advocated on the following topics: land-based management; response to the zero net deforestation implementation plan; response to the forest carbon offset protocol; practitioner competence and awareness of issues affecting stewardship (including climate change; online access to resources in carbon accounting and hydrology; coastal Douglas fir workshop); mid-term timber supply (with input from specialists and members); species at risk; use of forest professionals; professional contribution to safety; inventory; research; and water resource importance and information.

## **Contacting the ABCFP**

While the ABCFP only has a part-time receptionist, members can contact all staff members directly via phone and/or e-mail for timely responses.