



Issue #87  
May 16, 2008

Dear ABCFP Member:

**The Increment** e-newsletter is published up to twice a month for members of the Association of BC Forest Professionals. It contains news about the association and the forestry profession as well as information on advocacy issues the ABCFP has undertaken. Back issues of this newsletter are available on the association's website.

[www.abcfp.ca](http://www.abcfp.ca)

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## **1. BC TASK FORCE ON FORESTRY RECRUITMENT FORMALIZED**

The BC Task Force on Forestry Recruitment was formalized earlier this year. It is being chaired by Brian Robinson, RPF, and includes 19 representatives from industry, government, academic institutions and consulting practices. The mandate is to address the anticipated shortage of forest professionals in British Columbia within the next decade by:

- 1) Securing multi-year funding to implement a provincial recruitment strategy which includes the hiring of a provincial recruitment coordinator.
- 2) Improving understanding of the important role of forest professionals in sustaining forest resources to all communities throughout BC.
- 3) Marketing the present and future availability of jobs and importance of forest stewardship to maintain healthy forest ecosystems balanced with a desired standard of living.
- 4) Increasing enrollment in forestry and related natural resource programs at post secondary institutions.
- 5) Providing guidance and tools to the sector to enhance retention of skills investments.
- 6) Coordinating the provincial recruitment strategy with local education and training efforts and with the national recruitment initiative.

For more information, contact:

Brian Robinson, RPF

Manager of Professional Development and Member Relations

Email: [brobinson@abcfp.ca](mailto:brobinson@abcfp.ca)

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## **2. AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON SAFETY**

The ABCFP is exploring the Auditor General's recommendation nine in the report "Preventing Fatalities and Serious Injuries in BC Forests: Progress Needed" (January 2008) that seeks two recommended changes to the *Foresters Act*. While the ABCFP has a different perspective than the Auditor General regarding changes to the *Foresters Act*, there are steps the ABCFP can initiate now to help advance the culture of safety described by the Auditor General within the forest sector. Interestingly, while many of the Auditor General's recommendations focused on weaknesses in the safety culture and practice, one area that was identified as a positive opportunity was the presence of forest professionals throughout the forest sector's planning and forest management activities. The ABCFP has met with the MFR regarding ministry and ABCFP initiatives for improvement.

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### **3. CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR A NEW COMMITTEE**

The ABCFP is looking for volunteers to form a continuing competency committee (CCC) with the following mandate:

- a) Receive direction from and/or propose recommendations to the executive director commensurate with the continuing competency program objectives.
- b) Revise the Self-Assessment, Voluntary Peer Review and Practice Review elements of the continuing competency program periodically based on council, CCC, member, executive director and staff input.
- c) Adjudicate and follow up with Practice Reviews requiring corrective measures.

If any member is interested in volunteering for this committee, please send a letter of interest and a resume to Brian Robinson, RPF, manager professional development and member relations.

[brobinson@abcfp.ca](mailto:brobinson@abcfp.ca)

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### **4. PIECES OF THE HIGH-RETENTION HARVESTING PUZZLE**

The ABCFP has been working on recommendation #2 of the Forest Practices Board's (FPB's) report regarding high-retention harvesting which directs the ABCFP to provide guidance to members on this issue. To date, the ABCFP has done the following:

- In January, then president Paul Knowles, RPF, issued a public statement recognizing the FPB's report.
- We are working on diligence guidance and the standards of practice that would apply to developing prescriptions.
- We are completing a description of components of a professional rationale.
- We are developing recognition of the types of technical background important for consideration in developing the high-retention harvesting prescriptions.
- We are meeting with the Forest Practices Board and others to further refine our strategy.

[FPB Report](#) 

The above document is in PDF format. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view it. You can download Acrobat Reader [here](#).

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### **5. ABCFP MEETS WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, members of the council executive and the executive director met with Rich Coleman, Minister of Forests and Range, to discuss our concerns around the closing of post-secondary forestry programs. We also emphasized our dedication to encouraging more students to enter the profession of forestry. The group also met with Doug Konkin, RPF, deputy minister of the MFR, and discussed a number of issues including advocacy and recruitment. Later that day, the ABCFP representatives met with Larry Pedersen, RPF, deputy minister of Agriculture and Lands; and Mike Lambert, associate deputy minister, ILMB, about planning and a number of other issues.

While in Victoria, the group met with representatives of several environmental groups in order to discuss the ABCFP's strategic plan and to hear some of the issues the environmental groups are concerned about.

Al Balogh, RPF and president, and Sharon Glover, MBA and executive director, attended the AGMs of the College of Applied Biologists and the BC Institute of Agrologists in April and May.

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## **6. JPB WORK ON ROADS AND SLOPES**

The Joint Practice Board (JPB) continues to work in practice areas shared by members of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC) and the ABCFP. Specifically, WorkSafeBC is advancing changes to the Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) regulations involving professional practice. The Joint Practice Board will be making a submission to WorkSafeBC during the current public hearing process on revisions to the OH&S regulations regarding avalanches and slope stability. The JPB previously submitted to WorkSafeBC regarding the development of the regulations in February and June 2007. WorkSafeBC accepted some, but not all of the JPB recommendations.

In response to the FREP (Forest and Range Evaluation Program) Report #12, Recommendation six (guidelines for forest roads), the JPB has initiated a Roads Task Force to draft "Guidelines for Professional Practice in the Forest Sector – Forest Roads" a companion document to "Crossings." In addition, the *Resource Roads Act* has received first reading in the legislature.

[FREP Website](#)

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## **7. ABORIGINAL TASK GROUP MEETS IN MERRITT**

To assist the ABCFP in meeting its objectives and strategies contained in the strategic plan from 2008-2010 and to assist the ABCFP in creating and developing relationships with Aboriginal people across BC, the Aboriginal Task Group was formed earlier this year. The task group is meeting for the second time on June 7<sup>th</sup> in Merritt.

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## **8. NATIONAL FOREST STRATEGY**

The National Forest Strategy is a consensus direction that reconfirms our collective commitment to work together toward the goal of a nationwide sustainable forest. The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers agreed to lead the development of the next forest strategy as this current National Forest Strategy comes to an end in May 2008. The council developed a discussion paper, collected advice and developed a final report titled *A Vision for Canada's Forests: 2008 and Beyond*. The draft vision was published for public review April 1, 2008. As a major contributor of forest professionals in Canada, the ABCFP is providing response and advice regarding the vision document.

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## 9. ONLINE EXAM REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE

If you are eligible to write one of the registration exams in 2008, you should have received an electronic notice this week. You can pay your exam application and registration fees online and then forward your application package to us via Canada Post. You must submit a completed application and pay your fee to be eligible to write the exam.

More information on the registration exams can be found on the website.

[Detailed Exam Information](#)

[Online Payment](#) (Note: you must log on to pay the exam fees).

[Registration Exam Applications](#)

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## 10. NEED HELP STUDYING FOR THE EXAM?

The study hypotheticals on the website have now been revised and updated. These 25 hypotheticals are applicable to both RPFs and RFTs who will be writing Part A of the registration exam. If you have any questions about these hypotheticals, or have suggestions for others, please contact Brian Robinson, RPF, manager of professional development and member relations at [brobinson@abcfp.ca](mailto:brobinson@abcfp.ca).

[Study Hypotheticals](#) 

The above document is in PDF format. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view it. You can download Acrobat Reader [here](#).

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## 11. ABCFP DISCUSSION FORUM IS A TOOL FOR STUDY GROUPS

The registration exam discussion board on the ABCFP Discussion Forum is a great study group tool available to all enrollees. Topics and questions can be posted and discussed online so everyone can benefit.

[ABCFP Discussion Forum](#)

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## 12. REPORT FROM THE APPRAISALS AND CRUISING COMMITTEE

Professional Practice Committee in Appraisals and Cruising (PPCAC) has completed the majority of their work. They are currently pulling together the first draft of the recommendations to the ABCFP. Additionally, as a method of communicating the most prevalent of issues to the membership, the PPCAC has established a page on the ABCFP website accessible from the homepage. A second professional practice issue in appraisals has been posted regarding electronic identification and professional work.

[Professional Appraisals](#)

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### **13. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND OBLIGATIONS WORKSHOPS IN JUNE**

This two-day workshop will be delivered for the first time at the following locations:

- June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Best Western in Kamloops
- June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at the Days Inn in Prince George
- June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at the Coast Bastion Inn in Nanaimo

This workshop will provide an opportunity for peers to discuss and resolve professional issues at both a local and provincial level. The workshop will be of benefit to all members, especially those preparing for the registration examination. An ethics study guide, which outlines the workshop, has been posted on the ABCFP Discussion Forum.

Online registration is now available for the ethics workshop.

For more information, contact:

Brian Robinson, RPF

Manager of Professional Development and Member Relations

Email: [brobinson@abcfp.ca](mailto:brobinson@abcfp.ca)

[ABCFP Discussion Forum](#)

[Event Registration](#)

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### **14. MEMBER SERVICE: PRACTICE ADVISORY SERVICE**

The Practice Advisory Service (PAS) has provided practice advice on two more requests, bringing to total of five for the year. The PAS goal is to provide a meaningful response to a member request for advice in a timely manner and with confidentiality. Requests are tracked by number and references to a specific forest professional or location are removed.

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### **15. ABCFP WORKS WITH CFPFA ON NATIONAL ISSUES**

The Canadian Federation of Professional Foresters Associations (CFPFA) is a forum for the collegial discussions and issues for all the forestry associations in Canada. The most urgent issue is the federal and provincial government initiatives around ensuring labour mobility. This initiative means that a resource professional can move, without restraint, from one jurisdiction to another in Canada. It is aimed at removing duplication of regulatory bodies but largely is intended to accommodate elements of justifiable difference. The CFPFA also provides important cohesion to forest professional jurisdictions that can be quite different in legislative framework.

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### **16. WHY REOPEN THE FOREST TECHNOLOGIST TRANSITIONAL POLICY?**

The re-opening of the Forest Technologist Transitional policy was done because there are a significant number of RFT applicants who missed the original deadlines. A good case was made to us that these potential applicants were either not aware or did not clearly understand the implications for them of not applying. Some employer groups are struggling to meet the requirements of the *Foresters Act* and have made a commitment to work with us to ensure that they will support applicants to ensure they meet the

requirements for RFT status. We want to be clear that there is no lowering of our standards in this process. All applicants will have to pass an entrance exam. The deadline for application is November 30, 2008.

[Forest Technologist Transitional Policy](#) 

The above document is in PDF format. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view it. You can download Acrobat Reader [here](#).

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## 17. ELECTRONIC BALLOTING TO BE USED FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS

For all future elections, including bylaw ballots, all members will receive an e-ballot and will vote online unless they contact the ABCFP and request a paper ballot.

To request a paper ballot, contact:  
Michelle Mentore  
Communications Coordinator and Webmaster  
Email: [mmentore@abcfp.ca](mailto:mmentore@abcfp.ca)

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## 18. MAY MEMBER MEETINGS IN THE NORTHWEST

The ABCFP's executive director, Sharon Glover, MBA; together with ABCFP president, Al Balogh, RPF; aboriginal lay councillor Gordon Prest; and Brian Robinson, RPF, manager of professional development and member relations, will be holding member meetings in Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Houston and Smithers from May 26<sup>th</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Members in these areas received an e-mail invitation this week.

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## 19. ABCFP RADIO ADS PROMOTE FORESTRY THIS MAY

Click on the link below to hear the radio ad featuring Jonathan Lok, RFT; Heather Rice, RFT; and Steven Kozuki, RPF, which will run from May 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>.

[Listen to the Radio Ad](#)

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## 20. CHECK OUT THE PRO-D CALENDAR

If you haven't checked out the Professional Development Calendar on the ABCFP website, you don't know what you're missing! There are dozens of courses, workshops and conferences listed on the calendar that forest professionals will find interesting.

Recent additions to the calendar include the Coastal Silviculture Committee's annual conference to be held in June and online exam preparation courses. All events are listed chronologically.

[Pro D Calendar](#)

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## 21. UNSUBSCRIBE

If you do not wish to receive future issues of the Increment or you would like to have this e-newsletter sent to another e-mail address, change your preference on the Manage Your Mailings page in the Login section of the website.

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