



Issue 120

October 30, 2009

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. Back issues of this newsletter (and its predecessor BC Forest Professional) are available on the association's website.

www.abcfp.ca

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It's Time to Renew Your Membership

It's that time of year again – membership renewal! Notices were e-mailed to members on October 16th. If you did not receive your renewal notice, please contact Lance Nose. As always, there are three steps to renew your membership (two steps if you're an enrolled or retired member):

- Pay your fees
- Submit your self-assessment declaration (enrolled and retired members are exempt from this step)
- Update your indictable offense status (if necessary)

Check out the [Membership Renewal](#) page on the website for more information.

On LOA? It's Time to Extend Your Leave

If you are currently on a leave of absence (LOA) and wish to extend it, you must apply to the ABCFP by **TODAY October 30, 2009**. If you do not apply by that date, you will be automatically reinstated and billed for full membership fees. For more information, see the [LOA section](#) of the website.

New Credit Card Fee Effective Immediately

Credit card processing companies are charging the ABCFP large fees for each payment we accept by credit card including, but not limited to, annual member fees, workshop registrations and purchases from the ABCFP online store. These fees, which cost the ABCFP \$65,000 last year, can be up to 4% of the total purchase – the actual amount varies based on the type of card used. Council recently approved a 3% credit card interchange fee that is now applied to all purchases made with credit cards. This fee is applied to the total purchase (the purchased item, such as annual membership fees or workshop registration, plus the applicable taxes). The interchange fee itself is not subject to GST. You can avoid this fee by paying by cheque or cash.

ExpoFor 2010 Features Strategic and “Dirt” Forestry Sessions

Members told us that they wanted a mix of high-level strategic sessions and applied “dirt” sessions so the standing host committee has put together an exciting program that will be sure to appeal to you. The applied and strategic technical sessions will run concurrently and will be mixed with plenary sessions, networking opportunities and ABCFP business such as the AGM and resolutions session. You can choose to only attend applied or strategic session or you can jump back and forth between them depending on whether or not you find the topic valuable. Here are some of the strategic and applied sessions that will be offered at ExpoFor 2010:

- Community wildfire protection plans
- Species at Risk
- Forest Policy Q and A
- First Nations and forestry
- Coarse woody debris
- Ecosystem restoration
- Watershed management

Save the date! ExpoFor 2010 is in Kelowna on April 8-9, 2010. As speakers are confirmed, we'll share that information with you here in **The Increment** and on the [ExpoFor website](#).

Exam News: Results Will Be Available Online

The exam results will be available to exam candidates beginning November 18. Each exam candidate will receive an e-mail with a URL to the exam results. You need to click on the URL and login with your ABCFP logon name and password to see the webpage that contains only your mark. You will not have access to anyone else's results. Please visit the [Getting Your Exam Results](#) page of our website for details and keep reading the Increment for updates.

Volunteers Needed to Revise the RFT Scope of Practice Guidelines

The ABCFP will be reviewing and revising the Guideline on the Scope of Practice for RFTs starting in December. We are looking for a few good members who are interested in working on a committee to review and update this guideline. The committee will include one RFT and one RPF from the board of examiners and potentially two RFTs and two RPFs from the general membership. We are planning to put the existing scope of practice out for review and comment by the membership in December with the goal of getting a first draft of a revised scope of practice completed by the end of January. The revised guideline will subsequently be approved by council and posted on our website in 2010. Most of the work of the committee will be done on conference calls. If you are interested in participating in this work, please e-mail your resume with a cover letter briefly outlining why you would be a good candidate for this committee to registrar [Randy Terise](#). The board of examiners will make the final selection of candidates for the committee. Applications must be received by November 6, 2009.

Summary of ABCFP 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 where all members reviewed:

1. Annually completed their self-assessments,
2. Annually engaged in continuing education activities to maintain their competency,
3. Worked within their authorized scope of practice and in areas of practice where they were competent,
4. Were able to retrieve work records (adequate filing),
5. Practised an adequate amount of quality assurance and due diligence,
6. Consulted with specialists and other qualified professionals when applicable, and
7. Had adequate resources to carry out their work.

There were no significant negative findings which triggered technical reviews but there were some recommendations provided. Please read about the [recommendations](#) on our website.

If anyone has questions about the practice review process, please contact [Brian Robinson](#), RPF, Manager of Professional Development and Member Relations.

Council Slate Announced, Nominations Now Being Accepted

There are two RFT and three RPF positions open on the 63rd ABCFP council. Thank you

to the nominating committee which worked hard to find members to run for these positions. Members who have agreed to run for council are:

- Bev Atkins, RFT, of Williams Lake
- Hugh Carter, RFT, of Vancouver
- Phil MacDonald, RFT, of Nelson
- Christine Gelowitz, RPF, of Victoria
- Curt Nixon, RPF, of Nelson
- Mike Pelchat, RPF, of Quesnel
- Frank Varga, RPF, of Burns Lake
- Dave Watt, RPF, of Chetwynd

For the first time in many years, members will be asked to vote for a vice-president of the ABCFP. The vice-president serves one year and then automatically becomes the president for a year and finally serves as immediate past-president for a year before leaving council. The two individuals running for vice-president of the 63rd council are:

- Jacques Corstanje, RPF, of Terrace
- Ian Emery, RFT, of Campbell River

The association is still accepting nominations from members for the positions of councillors and vice-president. For more information on making a nomination, look on the [council election](#) page of the website. The deadline for nominations is November 16, 2009. The election will take place January 4 to February 2, 2010, and the new council will take office at ExpoFor in April 2010.

Using the ABCFP Website Effectively

In this information age, there are more and more things to read and discover online. The same is true of the ABCFP website. We strive to make most association information available through our website but this information is not useful if it cannot be accessed. Below are some tips on finding what you are looking for on the [ABCFP website](#).

1. Search Function – the search toolbar is located on the top right side of each page (except for pages in the secure members only section). To use the search function, type in your keywords then press search and the most relevant results will be displayed.
2. Site Map – There is a link to the website's site map at the bottom of every page. The Site Map page lists all major website menu items.
3. Downloading PDF documents – Some organizations have restrictions on the types of files that can be opened and downloaded. If you are unable to open a PDF document, please right-click the link, select "save target as," save it to your hard drive and then open it from there.
4. Reading vs. scanning – With the enormous amount of information on the website, it may not be possible to read every word on every page so scanning may be a useful option. When scanning a page pay attention to:
 - a. The introductory paragraph – it gives a summary of information to follow.
 - b. Heading and subheadings
 - c. Hyperlinked text – on [abcfp.ca](#), hyperlinked text is light blue in colour.
5. Ask the webmaster – Feel free to send an e-mail to the webmaster if you have questions or concerns about the ABCFP website.

Last Chance to Comment on the Terrain Stability Discussion Paper

Comments are due on November 2. Please take some time to read the [discussion paper](#) and send your comments to [Mike Larock](#), RPF, Director of Forest Stewardship and Professional Practice.

Earn Professional Development Hours at the Upcoming IPP Conference

The Independent Power Producers of BC are holding their annual conference in Vancouver on November 1-3. As part of the conference, they are offering a number of workshops on Sunday November 1st that are open to ABCFP members.

IPP101: An Introduction to Small Hydro and Wind Projects (Full Day)

All day course – 9:00 - 5:00

Member \$199.00

Non-member \$249.00

Fixed-Price Contracts for IPPs: Discussion Forum (Half-Day)

Half-day course - 12:30 – 5:00

Member \$99.00

Non-member \$149.00

Project Communications for IPP Projects: Tools and Techniques (Half-Day)

Half-day course - 12:30 – 5:00

Member \$99.00

Non-member \$149.00

If you are interested in any of the courses, please look at the [IPPBC website](#).

Changes Made to the Self-Assessment Form and Guide

Aboriginal competency, if required for professional work, has been added to the self-assessment in order to ensure Aboriginal values, interests and rights are part of a forest professional's competency requirements -- an ABCFP strategic plan objective.

Statement 7 in the self-assessment form and guide has been revised to help assess your competency with respect to Aboriginal relations, culture and issues if it is applicable to your job. Members are now asked to assess the following statement: "In order to carry out my job responsibilities I have adequate knowledge about Aboriginal culture, issues or traditional use; or how to work effectively with Aboriginal peoples."

The self-assessment guide provides more detailed direction to help you assess the above statement including supplied web links for further information. If you believe your Aboriginal competency needs to be improved, an [online workshop](#) entitled: "Working Effectively with Aboriginal Peoples" is available on our website.

If there are any questions, contact:

[Brian Robinson](#), RPF

Manager Professional Development and Member Relations

World Forestry Centre Internship Program Now Accepting Applicants

The World Forestry Internship Fellowship brings professionals in natural resources--such as forest professionals, environmental educators, land managers, NGO practitioners and researchers--to conduct a practical research project at the World Forestry Center, via a matched grant system. It is similar to a sabbatical for professionals who are currently employed, or an internship for those who have recently graduated. In addition to their specific projects, Fellows participate in weekly field trips, interviews and site visits to Northwest forestry organizations, parks, universities, public and private timberlands, trade associations, mills, and corporations. The Fellowship is a unique opportunity to learn about sustainable forestry in the Pacific Northwest forestry sector, and to work with colleagues from around the world. Fellowships are open to any country, and there is a matching grant from the Harry A. Merlo Foundation. Over 75 Fellows from 24 countries have participated to date.

For details, please visit the [World Forestry Centre](#) or if you have questions, please e-mail [Sara Wu](#).

Conduct a Voluntary Peer Review

There is a lack of voluntary peer reviews being completed by members. While this practice is voluntary, it does help members improve their professional practices and can be completed by a chosen peer. We recommend that two peers do peer reviews on each other's practice. The voluntary peer review is available for all types of members and the review enables discussion about ethical responsibilities for all aspects of professional work. Please refer to the [Peer Review](#) page of the website for more information.

If you have any questions, contact:

[Brian Robinson](#), RPF

Manager of Professional Development and Member Relations

Last Chance to Nominate Your Town for Forest Capital of BC

This is your chance to promote forestry in your town. Whether you live in a large, urban centre or a small community, BC's forests influence almost every aspect of life in this province. However, many people don't know this fact and it's up to the ABCFP and our members to try and change the situation. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce the search for the 2010 Forest Capital of BC.

Every community in BC is eligible to be nominated. The ABCFP will evaluate nominations based on a community's relationship to its surrounding forests and the strength of the bid proposal. The winning community will be announced in November 30th and will carry the Forest Capital of BC title from January 1 to December 31, 2010.

If you think your community has the stuff to be the 2010 Forest Capital of BC, visit the [Forest Capital of BC](#) webpage or view the nomination package below. The nomination deadline is November 13, 2009, so start gathering support for your community's bid today.

[Forest Capital of BC 2010 Nomination Package](#) 

Forest Club Deals -- Save on Pre-Season Lift Tickets for the

2009/2010 Season

Whistler Blackcomb - Save 25% on Lift Tickets and up to 50% on rentals
Sun Peaks Resort - Save 15% on Lift Tickets
Silver Star Resort - Save 15% on Lift Tickets
Big White Ski Resort - Save 15% on Lift Tickets

Vancouver Island members: Our supplier has attempted to get Mt. Washington lift tickets at a discount but has not been successful this year.

*Order By November 15, 2009

More Offers from the Forest Club

Enterprise Car Rental - Take an Additional 5% off the Lowest Rate
Clarion - Up to 20% discount
Comfort Inn - Up to 20% discount
Comfort Suites - Up to 20% discount
Econo Lodge - Up to 20% discount
Quality - Up to 20% discount
Rodeway Inn - Up to 20% discount
Sleep Inn - Up to 20% discount
Travelodge Hotels - 15% of Rate of the Day

Check out the [Forest Club](#) for more information.

Two Positions Are on the Job Centre

If your firm is looking for qualified and experienced professional foresters or forest technologists, be sure to post your position on the ABCFP Online Job Board or in **BC Forest Professional** magazine. All ads are posted by the next business day. Visit the [Post a Job Opportunity](#) page on our website to post your listing online.

There are currently two career listings and one volunteer position on the [Job Seekers](#) page of the ABCFP website. Please check back often as new openings are posted on a regular basis.

For more information, contact:

[Brenda Martin](#)

Ph: 604.639.8103

Questions and Comments?

If you have questions or comments about the items mentioned in this e-newsletter or other communications activities, please contact:

[Amanda Brittain](#), MA, ABC*

Director of Communications

Ph: 604.331.2321

*Accredited Business Communicator