

Forest Technologist Transitional Policy

Frequently Asked Questions [January 2008]



1. What is the *Forest Technologist Transitional Policy*?

With the changes to the *Foresters Act* in 2003, forest technologists became part of the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABC FP). The ABC FP needed a way to allow technologists with a great deal of experience, but who didn't meet the new education requirements, to join the association. The *Forest Technologist Transitional Policy* set out the guidelines that would allow these technologists to join the ABC FP. The policy required most transitional technologists to write the RFT registration exam in October 2007.

2. Why are you reopening the *Forest Technologist Transitional Policy*?

There are several reasons for reopening the transitional policy:

- i. A number of people were not employed in forestry, one of the precursors for being allowed to join the ABC FP under the transitional policy, the first time. Those people are now employed in forestry but are not allowed into the association under current policies.
- ii. In the provincial government, there were a number of jobs that were slated as 'possible' RFT positions. Some people did not think that their jobs would require RFT status so did not become members.
- iii. Some people didn't understand that the transitional policy was temporary. They are now unable to get the RFT designation they needed to stay in their jobs.
- iv. Some people who would have qualified were just not aware of the original transition policy.

3. Why have a professional forestry association and why should someone become a member?

The forest resources of BC are a valued and treasured asset to British Columbians. The public is so concerned about the forest resource that the provincial government passed laws to manage, preserve and sustain forest resources and to establish professional forest practitioners whose job is to uphold the public's interest in the forests.

In addition to creating the profession, the public, through the government, has intentionally restricted the right to practise forestry to trained and experienced forest professionals. To practise professional forestry in BC you must be a Registered Professional Forester or a Registered Forest Technologist. This right to practise legislation exists in only a few jurisdictions in North America.

As forest professionals with right to practise legislation, we are obliged to serve the public that has created our profession. We do this by ensuring our practice follows professional standards, a code of ethics and other direction as defined by the ABC FP. We have a continuing competency program that ensures the ongoing education of our members.

In exchange for upholding the public's interest in the forests, forest professionals have the ability to regulate themselves. The profession must register and regulate members, define the scopes of practice, and ensure the competence of its members.

4. How big is the profession?

The Association of BC Forest Professionals has about 3,180 Registered Professional Foresters and nearly 1,270 Registered Forest Technologists (as at December 31, 2007).

5. I'm doing the same job I'm going to be doing after I join the association. I don't see the benefits.

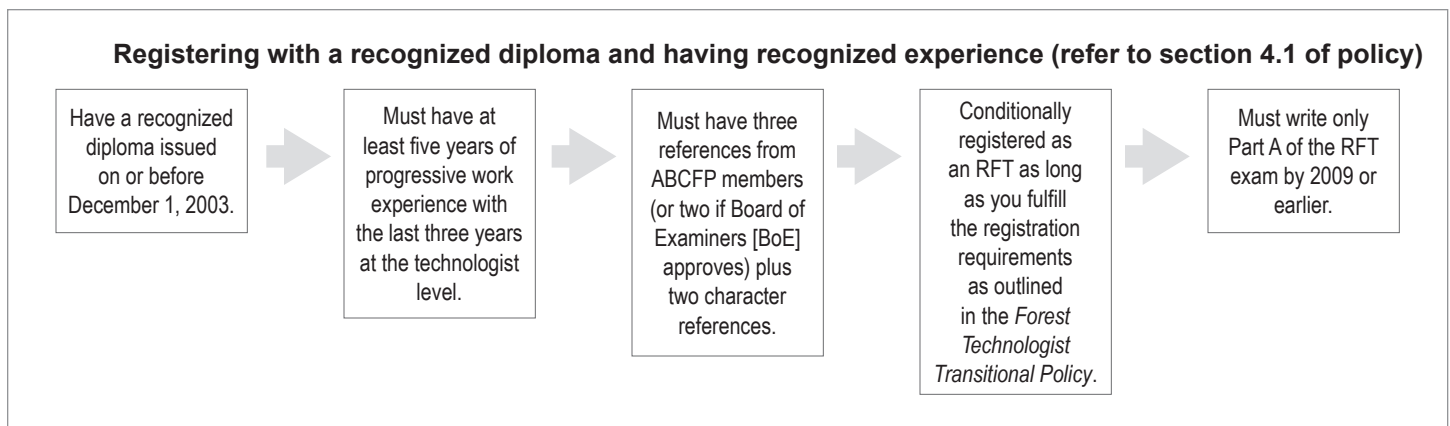
Many RFTs throughout the province have told the ABCFP that they enjoy being professionally accountable for the work they do. They feel it makes them more careful about the work they submit and therefore their work is of higher quality. They also told us that they like to be part of the forestry team knowing that they have resources, including colleagues, they can rely on in times of need.

6. What if I don't want to join the association?

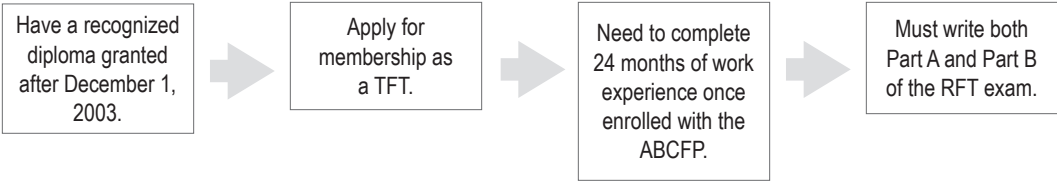
If your job involves work that falls within the RFT scope of practice then either you **must** join the ABCFP or you **must** be directly supervised by a registered member in all aspects of the work which fall under the scope of practice of an RFT.

7. What's the process if I want to apply under the *Forest Technologist Transitional Policy*?

While some details on the application process are included here in these flowcharts, you must refer to the *Forest Technologist Transitional Policy* for the full process. The sections in the flowcharts refer back to the *Forest Technologist Transitional Policy*. You must apply by November 30, 2008 to be considered under the special conditions of the *Forest Technologist Transitional Policy*.



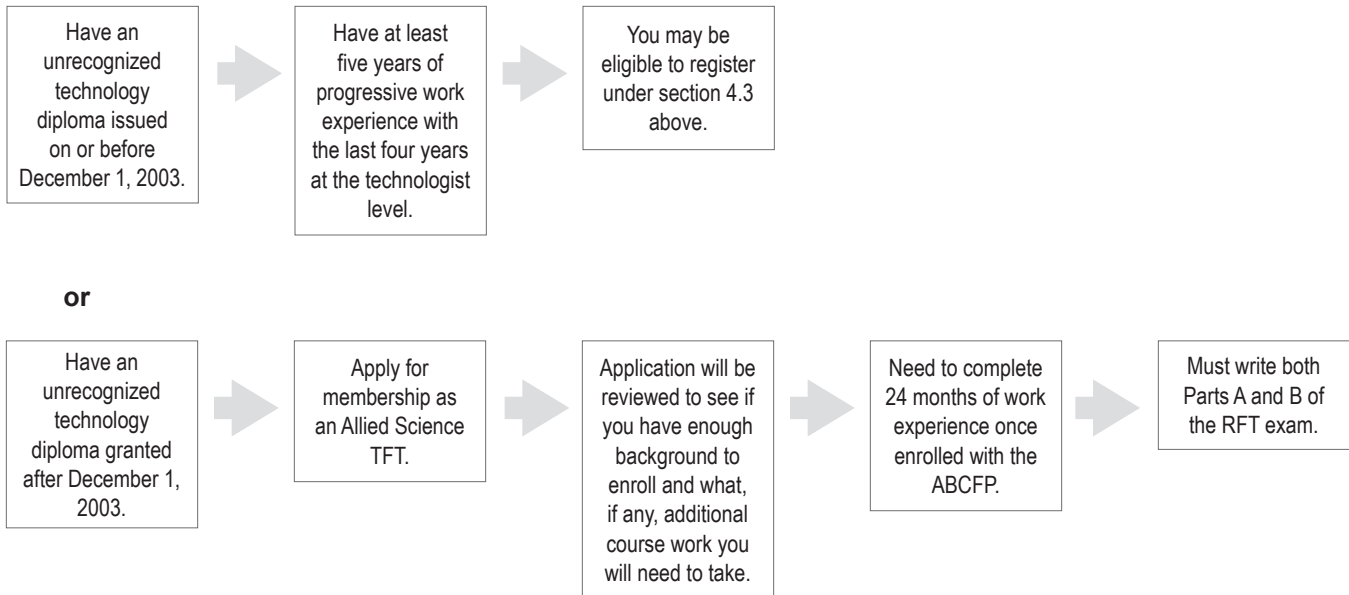
Graduates with a recognized diploma granted after December 1, 2003 (refer to section 4.2 of policy)



Registering without a diploma (refer to section 4.3 of policy)



Registering with an unrecognized diploma (refer to section 4.4 of policy)



Questions?

Questions should be referred to:

Registration Department

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