

What constitutes exemplary contribution to the profession?

(Approved by council May 2004)

Introduction

The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABC FP) has a category of membership through which members are granted Life Membership status. To qualify, a person must satisfy the criteria defined in Bylaw 5 and listed in Appendix 1:

5.14.6. In the opinion of council, has made an exemplary contribution to the profession of forestry or the practice of forest technology, as the case may be.

The purpose of this guideline is to provide clarity on what constitutes exemplary contribution to the profession of forestry or the practice of forest technology.

Definition of Exemplary Contribution

The Collins' concise dictionary (1982) defines exemplary as "fit for imitation." This may be taken to mean that an individual has provided us with a better foundation for what it is that makes us professionals, by way of their personal conduct or the fine works that they have produced.

Personal conduct defined in terms of exemplary contribution may be further clarified by requiring that an individual applying for this category of membership meet the following criteria:

The individual be able to demonstrate that at various times in their career, they have faced significant challenges and in the process made the kinds of choices that would be an example for all professionals to follow.

Fine works defined in terms of exemplary contribution may be clarified as follows:

The individual must be able to demonstrate one of the following:

- 1. That as a result of their efforts, the understanding of how to better manage forests (or the application of such an understanding) has provided better insight into how to substantially increase social, economic and/or environmental well-being and/or has, in fact, lead to the realization of such benefits.*

- 2. That the cause of the ABCFP as an organization and as a group of individuals has been significantly advanced in terms of increasing our capacity, including increasing public recognition for our capacity to conduct ourselves with competence, independence and integrity all in the best interests of both public and private forest land management.*

Discussion

Care must be taken in the interpretation of any criteria to provide acknowledgement that as of the date of application individuals may have gone unrecognized for their exemplary *personal conduct* or *fine works*. In other words, a criterion for acceptance should not be that they have already received some other award as evidence that they are eligible under the above mentioned criteria for Life Membership. While such an award would obviously help, Life Membership should also be supportive of those individuals who have made exemplary contributions and may not have received widespread recognition for it. Having said that, it is up to the individual or, perhaps more appropriately, a third party to nominate someone for Life Membership before such an award can be made. In this context, the process by which they become Life Members under the terms of having made an exemplary contribution is as important as the specification of the criteria. It is recommended that candidates for Life Membership be nominated by their peers rather than apply. The nomination should include evidence in the form of letters of support and/or documentation that clearly demonstrates the exemplary contribution made by the nominee.

Due to the nature of and criteria for receiving the distinction, Distinguished Foresters are likely to be eligible for Life Membership, while Foresters of the Year are less likely to be awarded a Life Membership on the basis of that award alone. When Life Memberships are awarded, they will be announced in *Forum* magazine along with a short write-up about the member and his/her exemplary contribution(s). Such publication will serve as an example for others to follow.

Appendix I: Bylaw 5

Retired Registered Members

5.12. *There shall be two (2) categories of retired registered members:*

5.12.1. *Retired members; and*

5.12.2. *Life members.*

5.13. *Council may admit a registered member to the retired membership category who:*

5.13.1. *Submits to the association the application forms and supporting documentation required by council;*

5.13.2. *Satisfies council that they are not engaged in the practice of professional forestry as defined in the Foresters Act and they do not intend to return to practice in the future;*

5.13.3. *Signs a non-practice declaration;*

5.13.4. *Is fifty-five (55) years of age or older, or if not fifty five (55) years of age or older, can demonstrate extenuating circumstances to the satisfaction of council;*

5.13.5. *Has been a registered member in good standing for a minimum of fifteen (15) continuous years unless the member can demonstrate extenuating circumstances to the satisfaction of council; and*

5.13.6. *Agrees to pay the required membership fees set out in the fee schedule published to the members.*

5.14. *Council may admit a registered member to the life membership category who:*

5.14.1. *Has:*

5.14.1.1. *Been nominated by not less than ten (10) registered members or retired registered members;*

5.14.1.2. *Applies, in writing, to be granted life membership; or*

5.14.1.3. *Is recommended by the Board of Examiners for life membership.*

5.14.2. *Satisfies council that they are not engaged in the practice of professional forestry as defined in the Foresters Act and they do not intend to return to practice in the future;*

5.14.3. *Signs a non-practice declaration;*

5.14.4. *Is fifty-five (55) years of age or older, or if not fifty five (55) years of age or older, can demonstrate extenuating circumstances to the satisfaction of council;*

5.14.5. *Has been a registered member in good standing for a minimum of twenty-five (25) continuous years unless the member can demonstrate extenuating circumstances to the satisfaction of council; and*

5.14.6. *In the opinion of council, has made an exemplary contribution to the profession of forestry or the practice of forest technology, as the case may be.*