

COLLEGE OF APPLIED BIOLOGY OUTREACH PLAN 2022

1. Context

On September 13, 2021, the province of British Columbia amended the Applied Biologists Regulation giving Reserved Practice (practice rights) to applied biology professionals specifically Registered Professional Biologists (RPBios) and Registered Biology Technologists (RBTEchs).

Since the launch of the Professional Reliance Review in 2017 the College of Applied Biology (CAB) has already undertaken considerable outreach activities including:

- in-person workshops across the province,
- province wide online information sessions,
- publicly available discussion documents,
- one on one and group consultation meetings with other regulatory bodies,
- information sessions with:
 - employers, both private and public sector
 - academic institutions,
 - provincial ministers
 - environmental organizations, and
 - the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG).

Now that the regulatory language has been established and made public it is critical that CAB re-engage with stakeholders to help ensure that there is a clear understanding of what is required to come into compliance with the Applied Biologists Regulation.

2. Scope and Objectives

Building on past outreach activities this initiative is intended to further clarify the role of applied biology professionals and how they contribute to sustainable resource management and protecting the public interest.

The primary objectives are:

- Clearly articulating through illustrative materials the scope of practice, how it fits with regulated practice, and what reserved practice is and what it is not.

- Communicating what pathways are available for practitioners who are not currently registered to become registered.
- Determining what priority practice guidance is required for applied biology professionals and their professional partners in natural resource management to help alleviate uncertainty.

3. Tools

Materials:

- Overview document (short synopsis of what reserved practice for applied biology professionals means)
- Applied Biologists Regulation
- Illustrative documents including
 - “Plain language” descriptions of regulated practice
 - “Plain language” descriptions of reserved practice
 - Scenarios describing where and when an applied biology professional must be employed
 - Descriptors of differences between an RPBio and an RBTech, and when an Applied Biology Technician can be employed
- Collaborative agreements with other regulators
- Pathways to registration schematic
- Examples of practice guidance initiatives and priorities
- Presentation that can be adapted for specific requests that includes all or some of the information listed above

4. Key Stakeholders

Stakeholder Group	Primary Methodology(s)	Interaction History
College Registrants	College communication vehicles (*applies to all stakeholder groups): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Connections • College Notices • College Matters • Website • Social media platforms 2022 Conference & AGM Volunteer meetings Webinars	Constant communication with registrants on all platforms and venues since 2017 – response has been consistently positive.



	In person outreach sessions (where possible)	
Professional Partners (i.e. OSPG, ABCFP, BCIA, ASTTBC, EGBC, AIBC, ASPB, etc.)	One on one meetings Facilitated group meetings 2022 Conference & AGM	Consultation documents made available for constructive discussions. Presentations at other regulators conferences well received. Generally positive engagement. Further work required to address overlaps, intersections and Parallel practice issues.
Employers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial Government Federal Government Municipal Governments Regional Governments First Nations Governments Independent Review Agencies (i.e. Forest Practices Board) Industry 	Invitations to present/meet through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union of BC Municipalities BC Business Council Council of Forest Industries Mining Association Consulting Engineers of BC PGA Advisory Group Department of Fisheries and Oceans Environment Canada First Nations governments First Nations Industry Associations Employers that request a specific meeting/information session 	Consultations to date with employers have gone well. No significant concerns have been raised.
Environmental Non-Government Organizations	Meeting Invitations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Association of Applied Biology Professionals Eco-Canada Nature Trust Other ENGOs that request a specific meeting/information session 	Conversations with ENGOs have been constructive. Greater clarity on when an applied biology professional is required.
Academic Institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Students 	Presentations and/or meeting invitations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accredited institutions including Universities, Colleges and independent training organizations 	Conversations with academic and training organizations have gone well. No concerns raised.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non- accredited institutions as above • Student associations and clubs 	
Non-registered practitioners	College communications platforms Well-advertised webinars and information sessions	Non-registered practitioners attended many of the 2018 outreach sessions around the province. Biggest concern was pathways to registration.
Public	College communications platforms Well-advertised webinars and information sessions	No direct feedback from general public to date.

5. Specific Exclusions from Scope

Negotiating regulatory language for reserved practice for applied biology practitioners
Compromising professional standards

6. High-Level Timeline/Schedule

Task	Timing	Considerations
Produce “plain language” descriptors	Complete by January 31, 2022	Will require conversations with regulatory partners
Produce scenario documents	Complete by January 31, 2022	Will require conversations with regulatory partners
Produce descriptors of RPBio and RBTech scopes	Complete by January 31, 2022	May need to re-engage with Taskforce members
Produce pathways schematic (includes limited license)	Complete March 31, 2022	Credentials Committee currently working to this deadline
Develop collaborative agreements with other regulators as per one	Complete March 31, 2022	Will depend on availability of other regulators and their work priorities



currently in place with ABCFP		
Produce examples of guidance documents	Some examples by March 31, 2022	Work with ABCFP and the Environmental Professionals Panel to produce initial documents
Produce presentation	March 31, 2022	Exact content dependent on meeting above deadlines
Deliver first presentation at CAB conference	April 8, 2022	Feedback may then feed back into some adjustments
Extend invitations to engage to above listed stakeholders	April 2022 to July 2022	It should be noted that CAB is willing to engage with stakeholders prior to this date upon request
Conduct a series of webinars available to all free of charge	April 2022 to July 2022	Webinars will focus on specific topics of interest i.e. a Pathways to Registration session, When to Hire a Registered Biologist session, etc. Webinars will be recorded and available on the website
Finalize reserved practice roll out	August 2022	



COLLEGE OF
APPLIED BIOLOGY
Professional Accountability

7. Contact Information:

To request more information, please contact the College Office:

College of Applied Biology
#210-852 Fort St., Victoria BC
admin@cab-bc.org | 250-383-3306