



News Release: College of Applied Biology Responds to New Legislation and Right to Practice for Applied Biology Professionals

For immediate release

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Victoria, BC— The Government of BC tabled legislation yesterday that could significantly change how applied biology professionals are regulated. Further to the independent report commissioned by the government in the fall of 2017, the new enabling legislation will establish a centralized statutory authority focused on governance which will cover professionals working in the Natural Resource sector. The new “Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance” will be administered by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General.

Although many aspects in the new legislation are already part of the College’s programs and procedures, there will be some shifts that could affect the College’s systems to regulate applied biology professions in BC. One significant outcome of the new legislation, if passed, is that applied biology professionals will be granted Right to Practice.

“Granting Right to Practice to applied biology professionals practicing in BC is a significant milestone that recognizes that this profession plays a critical role in managing BC’s natural resources and protecting the public interest,” says Brian Clark, RPBio, and President of the College of Applied Biology. “This recognition is a first of its kind globally.”

Other potentially important changes include implementing a more structured merit-based process to help determine who runs for Council, introducing changes to statutory committees to bring them in line with other regulators, and developing a new system to regulate firms.

“The College has always maintained that we are committed to working with government to improve resource management in BC, including evaluating and adjusting our policies and procedures,” says Christine Houghton, Executive Director. “We will continue to work with government to move forward to implement recommendations coming from the Haddock report.”

The College has been involved in comprehensive consultations with the government throughout the summer and fall of 2018. During this process, the College raised many concerns and although there is still some uncertainty, the College remains cautiously optimistic that government will continue to carefully consider input from the College, recognizing there will be a significant amount of work during the implementation phase.



COLLEGE OF APPLIED BIOLOGY

Professional Accountability

The College (www.cab-bc.org) was established in 2003 through the *College of Applied Biology Act* and regulates over 2,300 applied biology professionals. The mandate is to protect the public interest by ensuring high standards of entrance along with ongoing competency requirements and accountability of its members. Applied biology professionals provide science-based advice and expertise in resource management decisions, policies, and assessments.

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