



COLLEGE OF APPLIED BIOLOGY

Professional Accountability

Dr. Mona Nemer
University of Ottawa
Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology
451 Smyth Road, Room 4103
Ottawa, Ontario K1H 8M5

October 18, 2017

Dear Dr. Nemer,

On behalf of the members of the College of Applied Biology (the College), I congratulate you on your appointment as Canada's Chief Science Adviser. As the regulator of professional biologists in British Columbia, we are very happy to hear that a scientist of your calibre has been appointed to this position and we believe this will be an inspiration to young scientists across Canada, in particular young girls and women.

The College is a proud partner with federal, provincial, and municipal governments and is committed to safeguarding the public interest by ensuring BC's natural resources are managed by qualified, accountable professionals. The *College of Applied Biology Act* was proclaimed in 2003 and is the only legislation of its kind in North America. This was significant as it marked the first time applied biologists have been granted full professional status through self-governing legislation. Today, College membership has grown to over 2,300 biology professionals- including practitioners inside and outside of government, and from provinces across Canada - who provide their professional expertise in resource management decisions, policies, and assessments. Similar to the federal government's objective, the College also supports transparent, evidence-based decision making.

Applied biology professionals are important to ensuring that Canada's natural resources are managed in a scientifically credible manner. While there is reason to be proud of the role professional biologists play in protecting the public interest by using sound science in decision making, we believe there is always room for improvement. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our regulatory role with respect to your mandate and priorities. For your interest, I have enclosed a copy of the summer edition of our tri-annual publication *College Matters*. Please contact Christine Houghton, Executive Director at executivedirector@cab-bc.org or 250 383-3306 extension 1 if you would like further information, or to discuss the role of professional biologists in enhancing transparency and evidence-based decision making in natural resource management.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vanessa Craig, RPBio
President, College of Applied Biology



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- CC Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Andrew Scheer, Leader, Official Opposition
Jagmeet Singh, Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada
Elizabeth May, Leader, Green Party of Canada
Christine Houghton, Executive Director, College of Applied Biology
Derek Marcoux, Registrar, College of Applied Biology