

College Supports the Cowan Archive Project & CMI's Social and Environmental Forum



The College occasionally provides financial support for initiatives that elevate the practice of applied biology and that contribute to enhancing the professional competency of members. We have a policy in place to guide consideration of such requests for support from external parties (<https://www.cab-bc.org/file-download/policy-consider-external-requests-financial-support>).

The College provides support for CMI's Environmental and Social Assessment Forum

The College recently provided a donation in support of an event in Cranbrook, BC which will be hosted by the Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology (CMI) from February 23-24, 2016. *The Environmental and Social Assessment Forum* will address recent changes in environmental assessment legislation, policy, and process. It will be a unique two-day modular event where participants can learn how to work through the process from either a stakeholder (intervenor) or proponent position. Attendees will be able to choose from five different seminars to learn the tools required to successfully engage in or navigate through the environmental and social assessment process. The purpose of this forum is to provide attendees with practical "hands-on" experience and skills. It will also include networking opportunities, a trade show and poster session, a keynote speaker, and a panel discussion. In light of the considerable changes to environmental assessment legislation in recent years, the College wants to support the CMI in creating a forum for biologists to discuss and achieve a better understanding of relevant policies and processes.

The College contributes to project transcribing Ian McTaggart Cowan's field journals

The College provided financial support for an ongoing project to transcribe the field journals of Ian McTaggart Cowan, who is often described as the "Father of Canadian ecology". McTaggart Cowan is credited with being the founder and first head of a university wildlife department in Canada, and his work in Canada's national parks became the foundation for wildlife conservation and environmental education across the country. The College feels that McTaggart Cowan's field notebooks represent an important component of biological data in this province and decided to support this project to help ensure that this data is publically available.

The *Cowan Collection* is housed by the University of Victoria and includes Cowan's field journals, photographs, CBC footage and correspondence from his seventy-year multi-faceted career, and cutting-edge field research into species and ecosystems from the Arctic to Haida Gwaii. Transcriptions of the field journals have also contributed to two recently released books describing McTaggart Cowan's contributions: *The Real Thing - The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan* (Penn, 2015; Rocky Mountain Books) and *Ian McTaggart-Cowan: The Legacy of a Pioneering Biologist, Educator and Conservationist* (Jikimchuck et al., 2015; Harbour Publishing). 