

# Why Become an In Training Member?

## Reflection on the Biologist in Training Experience

**AS SOMEBODY WHOSE** biology education focused more on the micro than the macro environment, I did not have a lot of exposure to the College or its members during my studies. It was only after entering the workforce and encountering a number of Registered Professional Biologists that I began to explore the benefits that membership might have in my professional career. I've now been a Biologist in Training for a few years, and it is safe to say that the experience of being a member and engaging with like-minded professionals has been an overwhelmingly positive one.

Though not all biologists will choose to become BITs prior to registering as professionals, there's certainly no detriment to doing so. As an in-training member, building links within the industry becomes much easier. Given how much of our work as biologists depends on cooperation and relationship building, having access to College events and correspondence with other members ensures our ability to stand on the shoulders of giants. When starting a career, regardless of the field, it's extremely beneficial to have a pool of experts, mentors, and professionals who are willing to provide advice and recommendations.

From a personal perspective, I've also found membership as an in-training member of the College to be valuable in linking me with professionals who work in different fields of biology than myself. In my work with the First Nations Health Authority, it is extremely beneficial to be able to liaise with fish and wildlife biologists on matters relating to traditional food sources for First Nation populations. Our organization looks at the potential public health impacts of environmental contaminants to those food sources, and having another expert opinion on those cumulative impacts truly expands our scope of understanding.

Now that the College has developed an *ad hoc* committee to explore options for further supporting the development of in training biologists and biology technologists, I anticipate further benefits to registering as a student or in-training member. There are also a number of opportunities for RPBios and RBTechs to mentor in-training and student members, and support their development as applied biology professionals. By working alongside in-training College members and supporting their development, the competence and credibility of the profession as a whole will be enhanced for the future. **CM&**

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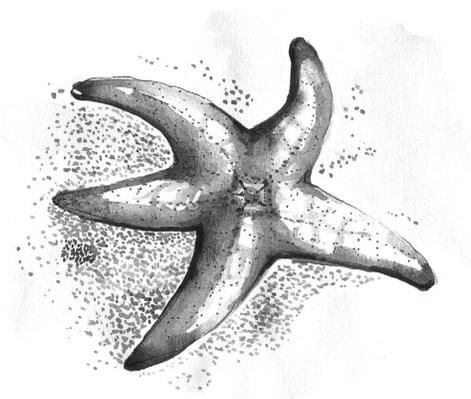


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