



Advancing Projects and Government Relations

In the July issue of *College Matters* I remarked on the “busyness” of the College, but our workload has increased substantially more since then, prompting staff to further prioritize activities for 2016. In response to the dues referendum outcome, the College Council and staff are meeting November 27 to review and discuss, among other items, the draft *2016-2018 Strategic Plan* to ensure core functions mandated in the *College of Applied Biology Act* and *Rules* are prioritized. A top priority of Council and staff is actively promoting the College and enhancing the profile of our members through regular outreach to post-secondary institutions and our association partners. Outreach is increasingly important given recent criticisms of professional reliance.

What is typically our busiest time of the year is upon us. A number of projects are in the works:

- > Dues packages were mailed out with copies of the *Code of Ethics* and *Principles of Stewardship* documents for display by members, dues invoices, and information on the dues referendum, along with Council’s plans to address budgeting and revenue shortfalls.
- > The College has now published five issues of our monthly e-newsletter, *College Connections*, which provides current information relevant to applied biology professionals.
- > An e-mail was sent to College members asking them to participate in a survey related to climate change adaptation, funded by Natural Resources Canada, as part of a project in which the College has partnered with the Alberta Society

of Professional Biologists and ESSA Technologies Ltd.

- > Committee meetings continue and College staff and Council are busy preparing for the November 27 Council meeting.
- > The Ethics Committee and College staff are working with a company called Udu to develop an online ethics course in response to challenges experienced by members in attending in-person courses, typically held in urban centers, and to standardize course content. Completion is targeted for the end of the year and a launch of the course will follow soon after.

College staff and members of Council have been active participants in a number of events and discussions:

- > I attended the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in Vancouver and am currently in discussions with mayoral panelists from our 2015 College Conference regarding a joint presentation for next year’s UBCM convention in Victoria. Municipalities are an increasingly prominent employer of College members.
- > Councillor Brian Clark, Registrar Linda Stordeur, and I met with Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADMs) Mark Zacharias and Kaaren Lewis to discuss enacting the Technician designation and housekeeping changes to our *Act*. Linda and I also met with Peter Trotzki, Director of the Legislation Section, to seek advice on implementing these changes.

- > College Council and staff met with Ministers and staff from the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) to discuss changes to the *Act*. Both Ministries have confirmed right-to-practice legislation is a long-term prospect for the College, in light of a full legislative agenda for the next two to three years, but we learned recently they are supporting our request to enact the Technician designation already provided for in the *Act*.
- > President Vanessa Craig and I followed up with Member of the Legislative Assembly Mike Morris regarding the outcomes of his investigation into the professional reliance regime.
- > Vanessa and I met with Minister Steve Thomson, ADM Tom Ethier, and Director Keith Thomas (a former College member) to discuss our concerns with the MFLNRO’s new hiring toolkit, which sets apart right-to-practice positions in the ministry (Engineers and Foresters) and permits hiring of non-College members for right-to-title positions. Minister Thomson and his staff have agreed to revisit this conversation with the College.
- > I also recently presented at the Wildlinks Conference in Manning Park Resort and attended the Canadian Network of Agencies for Regulation Conference in Vancouver. 

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