

College no Longer Offering Insurance to Members

Since 2011, the College of Applied Biology has offered its members the option to purchase Commercial General Liability (CGL) and Errors & Omissions (E&O) insurance, in addition to property insurance and earthquake coverage through HUB International group insurance policies. This group policy is shared with many other professional and regulatory organizations across the country and therefore affords the purchase of insurance at discounted rates. As of the end of 2015, seven College members were using the group insurance policy offered by the College in association with HUB Insurance.

In accordance with a successful motion at a meeting of the Council in August of 2015 (five votes in favour, four opposed, and one abstention), the College will no longer be offering insurance to members. While the Council recognizes it is in the public interest for members to have insurance that is appropriate for the nature of their practice, this decision reflected the sentiment that it is not in the public interest (and therefore not an obligation of the College) to ensure that members receive discounted rates for insurance. This decision was made on the basis of an understanding that the Association of Professional Biologists (APB), which provides services in support of and for the benefit of members, would continue to offer the purchase of insurance for biologists at discounted group rates. If College members do not wish to join the APB to qualify for discounted insurance rates, they are encouraged to contact HUB International directly, as College members will still receive favourable rates (see callout box at top right). 

→ **Among the most common insurance-related questions is whether professionals should have errors and omissions (E & O) insurance. The following information on E & O insurance was provided by HUB International.**

What is E&O Insurance?

E&O Insurance provides protection for companies and individual professionals against claims based on allegations of errors, omissions, or negligent acts. It is specialized coverage that is tailored to cover the potential risks and exposures related to the practice of biologists. E&O insurance pays for legal and investigation expenses, as well as the cost of settlements and judgments, up to the limits of liability purchased.

Why Do You Need E&O Insurance?

E&O insurance transfers risk and protects your assets from the financial impact of claims resulting from allegations of errors, omissions, or negligent acts. It can also protect your reputation. A claim, whether substantiated or not, can be devastating to your reputation.

In order to trigger coverage of your association's policy a claim must result from a single fault, error, omission, or negligent act. An error is a mistake made in connection with providing services to a client. An omission is a failure to perform your services in the manner prescribed by your professional obligations and the law.

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→ HUB Insurance and ENCON provide a webinar that presents an overview of various insurance policies and best practices for professionals.

[Find out more.](#)