

Featured Employer: Summit Environmental Consultants Inc.

One of the College's strategic objectives is to conduct outreach to employers to promote the advantages of hiring applied biology professionals. Another essential element of this is recognizing those who already understand these advantages and have adapted their corporate policies around them.

Summit Environmental Consultants Inc. (Summit), the environmental sciences division of Associated Engineering, is headquartered in Vernon, BC and has staff in eight offices across Western and Northern Canada. Many of Summit's professionals in British Columbia are members of the College of Applied Biology and two have long been part of the Credentials Committee (Brent Phillips and Sandra Meidinger). Key areas of practice for Summit's Registered Professional Biologists are environmental assessment, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, information management, sustainability integration, and planning.

As environmental consultants, we work on complex social and environmental issues and rely on the trust that comes from membership in a robust professional organization. Whenever there is a disparity in expertise between the parties involved in a project, as is often the case in environmental consulting, the reflected trust of a regulating body and an identifiable group

of professionals is immensely helpful to productive problem solving and project success.

Recognizing the value of professional memberships to our culture and success as a company, Summit encourages professionalism in our staff in myriad ways, including actively supporting career development towards professional registration, celebrating new professionals, contributing financially to membership dues, technical development, committee participation, and by reflecting the value of College membership in staff salaries. Career planning for aspiring professionals includes identifying the types of projects and roles that would lead to effective professional development, including the eventual independence and professional judgement required to write reports suitable for College membership.

As reliance on regulated professionals increases in Canada, the success of companies increasingly depends on attracting and developing strong professionals to access work, supporting the creation of desirable cultures within the workplace, and managing risk for the public, client, and employer. 

Contributor: Corinna Hoodicoff, MSc, RPBio has been a Registered Professional Biologist since 2005 and manages Summit's Environmental Assessment & Planning Group in Vernon, BC.



Illustration by Aimée van Drimmelen.
www.imeevandrimmelen.com