



The “Busyness” Continues after the 2015 Conference & AGM

The changing of the guard

After another successful AGM and Conference on March 13th, the new College Council held its first meeting the following day. We welcomed new Councillors Alexandra de Jong Westman, RPBio, from Whitehorse, YT, and Jocelyn White, RPBio, from Prince George, BC. In addition, our new Lay Councillor is Cairine Green, who was appointed by the Hon. Mary Polak, Minister of Environment.

I want to thank outgoing Councillors Ross Murray, RPBio, PBIOL, and Warren Warttig, RPBio, for their significant contributions to Council. Ross and Warren were among those acknowledged for their service to the College with an award of recognition at the AGM. Ross was instrumental in developing many of Council’s foundational elements, including the *Governance Policies and Procedures*. Ross often played devil’s advocate when examining the direction of Council to ensure the College’s mandate and strategic objectives were fulfilled. Ross’ approach helped reframe our remaining tasks from the *2013-2015 Strategic Plan* and influence the 2016-2018 strategic planning process to better align with the College’s core mandate and projected fiscal budget. Since resigning as a Councillor, I am delighted to report that Warren remains active in College affairs as the Chair of the Audit and Practice Review Committee and as an ex-officio member of Council. Warren continues to work diligently toward advancing the work of the Audit and Practice Review Committee.

Professional Reliance

Professional reliance is currently receiving a lot of attention. I recently met with Mark Haddock from the University of Victoria’s Faculty of Law & Environmental Law Centre regarding their report on professional reliance. I also met with MLA Mike Morris, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), who has been tasked with investigating the practicality of professional reliance. MLA Morris is seeking input from stakeholders to provide advice on the status of professional reliance to Minister Thomson. Furthermore, I met with the Hon. Steve Thomson, and his team of Chris Ritchie, RPBio, and Alan Lidstone, Director of Resource Management, to discuss professional reliance and the role College members play in FLNRO. I would like to reiterate my appreciation to Minister Thomson and his team for taking the time to meet with me and share their breadth of knowledge regarding issues pertaining to professional reliance.

Report on other College staff activities

Other initiatives the College staff has been working on:

- > In collaboration with the BC Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training, the College produced a *series of short videos* designed to attract additional College members;
- > I attended several events: the Premier’s BC Natural Resource Forum in Prince George (January 20 – 22nd), the BCIA AGM and Conference in Kelowna (May

7 – 9th), and an MLA Appreciation Day luncheon at the Empress (May 11th), where I met numerous MLAs, ministers, and association counterparts and received valuable advice on government engagement from speakers Jess Ketchum and Dan Doyle;

- > Linda Stordeur, RPBio, Registrar, attended the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASPB) AGM and Conference in Canmore, AB (March 31st – April 1st); and
- > Jillian Stewart, Trainee (RBTech), Administrative Assistant, managed a tradeshow booth at the Washington-BC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society AGM in Vancouver (February 17th).

We look forward to providing members with an assessment of our achievements in implementing the *2013-2015 Strategic Plan* and introducing the *2016-2018 Strategic Plan* in the next issue. 

Pierre Iachetti, PAg, RPP, MCIP

As the College membership grows, our staff complement of 4.8 FTEs will continue to work diligently over the summer months to support Council, 16 committees and nearly 2,200 College members.