

Looking Back on a Productive 2015



WOULD LIKE TO thank the Council, committees, and staff for their dedication and hard work over the past year. In spite of capacity and financial constraints, due in part to the outcome of the dues referendum, we were still able to effectively meet our core mandate and achieve most of the objectives detailed in the [2013 - 2015 Strategic Plan](#). Based on the numerous accomplishments of the College, we deem 2015 to be a success. The Council, committees, and staff were able to identify additional savings and efficiencies in our work to ensure the core work of the College was completed. There are many exciting opportunities ahead for us in the coming year, which I look forward to sharing with you.

There were a number of notable achievements of the College — many of which are described in more detail elsewhere in this issue. For me personally, enacting the Applied Biology Technician (ABT) designation, securing external grant funding, and initiating partnership projects are all worthy of recognition for 2015.

Over a very short timeframe, the College was able to work with the provincial government to have the ABT designation enacted through the sponsorship of the Minister of Environment, the Hon. Mary Polak. The College is grateful to the Minister and her staff who supported our request. Brian Clark, Chair of the Professional Accountability Committee, Registrar Linda Stordeur, President Dr. Vanessa Craig, and I engaged with leadership and government on this initiative.

The College was successful in securing external funds to support implementation of several new initiatives. The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training provided funding for projects

related to attracting foreign-trained applicants, developing outreach videos about the College, and updating our membership database. The Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations provided funding for several professional associations —the College, the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC, the Association of BC Forest Professionals, the BC Institute of Agrologists, and Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC— to collaborate on developing practice guidance for the Riparian Areas Regulation. Natural Resources Canada provided significant funding to the College to support a joint project on climate change adaptation and guidance to members. The Alberta Society of Professional Biologists, ESSA Technologies Ltd, and the BC government's Climate Action Secretariat partnered with the College on this latter project. All of the aforementioned projects are nearing completion; we look forward to sharing the results with you in spring 2016.

Last year was the final year for implementing our [2013 - 2015 Strategic Plan](#). The strategic focus of the plan was to continue to build on the recognition and credibility of the College. This was accomplished through five strategic objectives: enhancing communication with members; increasing members' interest and engagement; expanding the College's outreach and influence; boosting the College's branding and name recognition among related stakeholder groups; and strengthening the credibility of the College's activities.

As with any strategic plan rollout, some actions were modified as the practicalities of implementation were reassessed; however, we successfully completed the majority of our objectives. Although we were not able to reach our goals regarding formal outreach to First Nations, businesses, industry, and non-government organizations, we started laying the groundwork, and this remains a high priority in the [2016 - 2018 Strategic](#)

Plan. We continue to explore the idea of hosting a national conference and developing a national applied biology organization, and we are seeking external funding in support of these initiatives. We made headway in boosting the College's name recognition: we garnered some press in the *Globe & Mail* from our statement on climate change, and we provided commentary on several articles and reports on the issue of professional reliance. We initiated the development of an online ethics course and a practice review program, both of which will be implemented in 2016. In addition, the College's President and I were involved in the development of the Science Integrity Project and the corresponding principles, which is further described in this issue on page 19. 

Respectfully submitted
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