



The Year 2016 in Review



Welcome to the 2017 AGM issue of *College Matters*! In this issue the College provides a full update of our activities for the past year with reports from College committees. There is also an article on drone use and two articles on moose management.

The College had a very busy year making progress towards achieving several strategic objectives as highlighted below and as further detailed in committee and staff reports.

Membership in the College continues to grow, up 2.8 percent from 2015. There are now over 2,300 members of the College.

This year the Council's focused on outreach: promoting the place of professionals in the workforce, and the role of the College in setting qualifications and ensuring accountability of our members.. We had several productive meetings with Peter Trotzki, Director of the Legislation Section of the Ministry of Environment. There has been significant process in our collaboration with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, & Natural Resource Operations after several productive meetings with Deputy Minister Tom Ethier and Director Keith Thomas: we are working to identify responsibilities that should require a professional biologist, and have been invited to present our guidance document for decision-makers to the Resource Stewardship Division.

Additional outreach activities include communicating with the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASPB) on the potential impact of changes to their credentialing requirements on our ability to set standards for our members; initiating a discussion with the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC) about potential confusion to foreign-trained biologists stemming from a self-assessment form on their webpage; partnering with the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASPB) and the l'Association des Biologistes du Québec (ABQ) in sending out a survey to biologists across Canada to determine interest in the establishment of professional biology associations in other jurisdictions (Biologists Canada Committee); and sending a letter to the Environmental Assessment (EA) Review Panel suggesting that

a revised federal environmental assessment process would benefit from including the concept of accountability as a cornerstone (Professional Accountability Committee).

Other notable successes in 2016 included the launch of our **Online Ethics Course** and exam; the recent launch of online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) tracking for members; the audit of 48 members, resulting in an overall 12.5% of our membership being audited; a move to paperless annual dues notices; and updates to policies around Indictable Offenses and Discipline.

With this AGM we say "thank you" to 3 Councillors: Chris Maundrell who has served on Council for 9 years as a Vice-President, Councillor, Chair of the Finance Committee, and Chair of the Linda Michaluk Scholarship Committee; Garry Alexander who has served on Council for 7 years as Vice-President, Councillor, and Chair of the Biologists Canada and Nominations Committees; and Raychl Lukie, RPBio, who has been on Council for 4 years as a Councillor and Chair of the Editorial Board. We're pleased to welcome returning Councillors Jocelyn White, RPBio, and Warren Warttig, RPBio; new Councillors Sean Sharpe, RPBio, and Steven Henstra, RPBio; and new Lay Members Tony Fogarassy and Jim Bayles.

Finally I extend my sincere appreciation on behalf of the Council to our staff, who are a huge asset to the College: Interim Executive Director and Registrar, Linda Stordeur, RPBio; Administrative Assistant, Jillian Stewart, BIT; and Bookkeeper, Kathy Gallegos; and to all of the volunteers who serve on committees without which we would not accomplish what we do.

I'm always happy to hear from you! Please **contact me via the College office**. I look forward to another interesting and productive year! **CM&**

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Vanessa Craig, RPBio