

The Profession of Forestry

What is a profession?

- Many definitions
- Some recurring terms:
 - Long formal education
 - Specialized
 - Not mechanical
- A guild?

A profession

- Usually requires some type of entrance requirement
- Usually requires membership in a specific association
- Usually requires a code of conduct

What is forestry?

- 1) The science of developing, caring for, or cultivating forests
- 2) The management of growing timber
 - Merriam Webster dictionary
 - Most of us our working hard to broaden beyond growing timber

Accredited Program

- Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board
- Representatives from each of the professional associations
- Review each program every 4 years
- Updates standards

Entry Qualifications

- Graduation from an “accredited” university program
- Individual certification
- Both accreditation and certification based on a set of 7 standards and 47 competencies organized under those standards

Registration

- Need to be listed in the “register”
- To maintain registration, one needs to be “in good standing”

BC Foresters Act

"practice of professional forestry" means, for fees or other remuneration, advising on, performing or directing works, services or undertakings which, because of their scope and implications respecting forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems, require the specialized education, knowledge, training and experience of a registered member, an enrolled member, a special permit holder or a certificate holder, and includes the following:

BC Foresters Act (cont'd)

- (a) planning, advising on, directing, approving methods for, supervising, engaging in and reporting on the inventory, classification, valuation, appraisal, conservation, protection, management, enhancement, harvesting, silviculture and rehabilitation of forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems;
- (b) the preparation, review, amendment and approval of professional documents;
- (c) assessing the impact of professional forestry activities to
 - (i) verify that those activities have been carried out as planned, directed or advised,
 - (ii) confirm that the goals, objectives or commitments that relate to those activities have been met, or
 - (iii) advise or direct corrective action as required to conserve, protect, manage, rehabilitate or enhance the forests, forest lands, forest resources or forest ecosystems;

BC Foresters Act (cont'd)

- (d) auditing, examining and verifying the results of activities involving the practice of professional forestry, and the attainment of goals and objectives identified in or under professional documents;
- (e) planning, locating and approving forest transportation systems including forest roads;
- (f) assessing, estimating and analyzing the capability of forest lands to yield a flow of timber while recognizing public values related to forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems;

Forest Technologists

- Must have graduated from an accredited Forest Technologist program
- Cannot write management plans

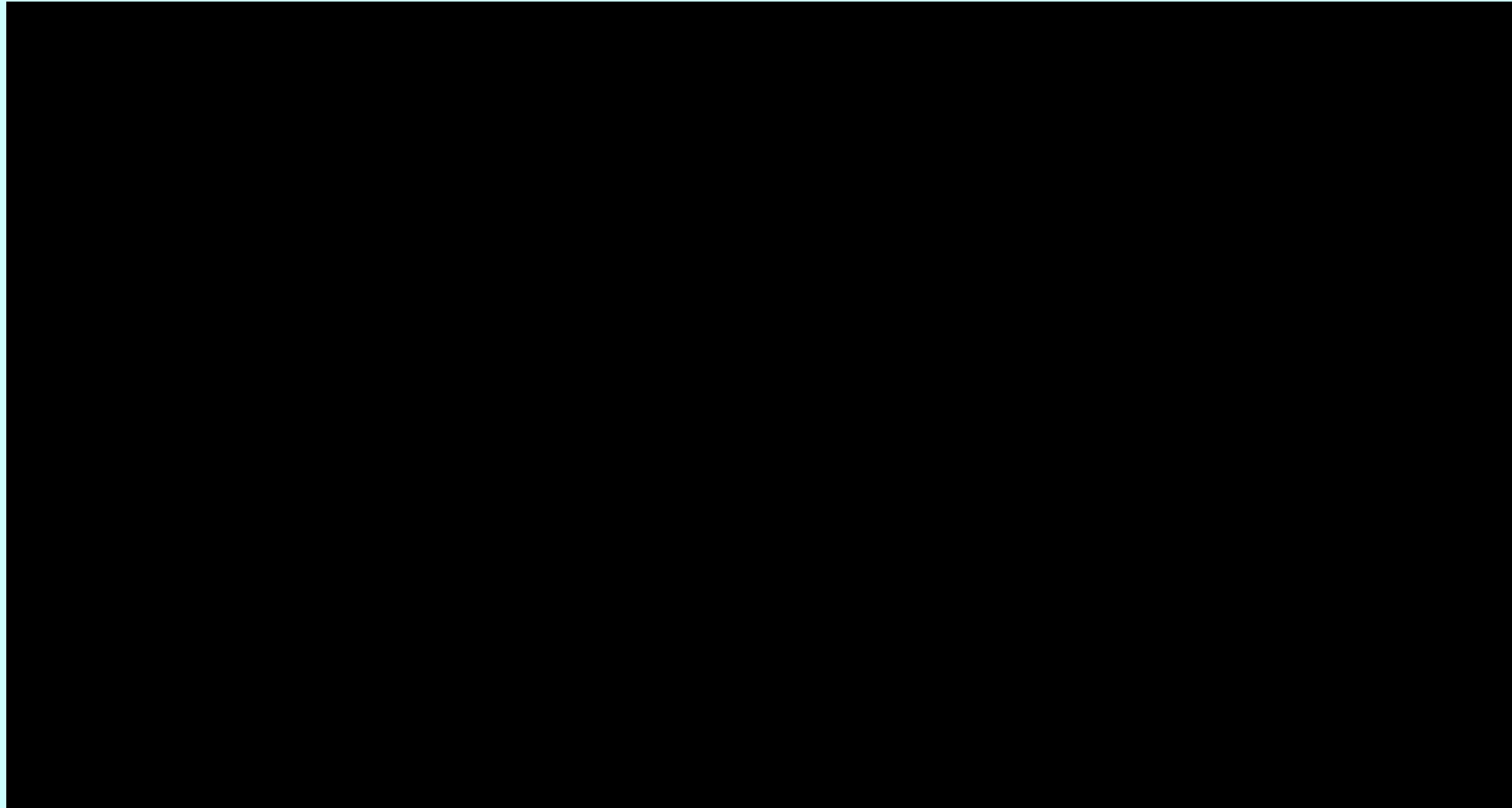
Professional Forestry in BC

- Registration body is the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP)
- Largest forestry body in Canada with almost 5500 members (~ 2850 active RPFs + ~ 290 FIT and ~ 1350 active RFTs + ~ 180 TFT)
- “Right-to-Title” and “Right-to-Practice” legislation (The Foresters Act)
- Governed by a, mostly elected, 12-person Council (2 appointed Lay Councilors)
- 16-person staff headed by a CEO

ABCFP Video

([https://abcfp.ca/WEB/ABC FP/About_Us/About_ABCFP/ABC FP/About_Us/About_ABCFP.aspx?hkey=94273901-baf1-43c4-ba73-](https://abcfp.ca/WEB/ABC FP/About_Us/About_ABCFP/ABC FP/About_Us/About_ABCFP.aspx?hkey=94273901-baf1-43c4-ba73-9a4805ad3c26)

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We will use the code of ethics as a means of better understand the profession

ABCFP Code of Ethics

1. All members, however and wherever they may practice, are bound by the Code of Ethics set out hereunder.

2. A member has responsibilities to:
 - 2.1. The public;
 - 2.2. The profession;
 - 2.3. His/her client or the employer; and
 - 2.4. Other members.

ABCFP Code of Ethics - continued

3. The responsibility of a member to the public is:

- 3.1. To advocate and practice good stewardship of forest land based on sound ecological principles to sustain its ability to provide those values that have been assigned by society.
- 3.2. To uphold professional principles above the demands of employment.
- 3.3. To have regard for existing legislation, regulation, policy and common law; and to seek to balance the health and sustainability of forests, forest lands, forest resources, and forest ecosystems with the needs of those who derive benefits from, rely on, have ownership of, have rights to, and interact with them.

ABCFP Code of Ethics - continued

3.4. Where a member believes a practice is detrimental to good stewardship of forest land:

3.4.1. To advise the responsible person promptly and, if the matter is not resolved, to inform council immediately in writing of the particulars; or

3.4.2. If it is not possible to raise the matter with the responsible person or if it is inappropriate in the circumstance to do so, to inform council immediately in writing of the particulars.

3.5. To work to improve practices and policies affecting the stewardship of forest land.

3.6. To work to extend public knowledge of forestry, and to promote truthful and accurate statements on forestry matters.

ABCFP Code of Ethics - continued

- 3.7. To practice only in those fields where training and ability make the member professionally competent.
- 3.8. Not to make misleading or exaggerated statements regarding the member's qualifications or experience.
- 3.9. To express a professional opinion only when it is founded on adequate knowledge and experience.
- 3.10. To have proper regard in all work for the safety of others.

ABCFP Code of Ethics - continued

4. The responsibility of a member to the profession is:

4.1. To inspire confidence in the profession by maintaining high standards in conduct and daily work.

4.2. To contribute to the work of forestry societies and educational institutions and to advance scientific and professional knowledge.

ABCFP Code of Ethics - continued

4.3. Where a member believes another member may be guilty of infamous or unprofessional conduct, conduct unbecoming a member, negligence, or a breach of the Foresters Act or these bylaws:

4.3.1. To raise the matter with that other member and, if the matter is not resolved, to inform council immediately in writing of the particulars; or

4.3.2. If it is not possible to raise the matter with that other member or it is inappropriate in the circumstances to do so, to advise council immediately in writing of the particulars.

ABCFP Code of Ethics - continued

4.4. Not to misrepresent facts.

4.5. To sign and seal professional documents only in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 10 and any other bylaws and resolutions pertaining to the signature and sealing of professional documents.

4.6. To keep informed in the member's field of practice and to be aware of current issues and developments in forestry.

4.7. To state clearly on whose behalf professional statements or opinions are made.

ABCFP Code of Ethics - continued

5. The responsibility of a member to the client or employer is:

- 5.1. To act conscientiously and diligently in providing professional services.
- 5.2. Not to disclose confidential information without the consent of the client or employer except as required by law.
- 5.3. To obtain a clear understanding of the client's or employer's objectives.
- 5.4. To accept only those assignments for which the member is qualified or seek assistance from knowledgeable peers or specialists whenever a field of practice is outside the member's competence.

ABCFP Code of Ethics - continued

- 5.5. To inform the client or employer of any action planned or undertaken by the client or employer that a member believes is detrimental to good stewardship of forest land.
- 5.6. To refuse any assignment that creates a conflict of interest.
- 5.7. To levy only those charges for services rendered that are fair and due.
- 5.8. Not to accept compensation from more than one (1) employer or client for the same work, without the consent of all.

ABCFP Code of Ethics - continued

6. The responsibility of a member to other members is:

- 6.1. To abstain from undignified public communication with another member.
- 6.2. Not to unfairly criticize the work of other members or attempt to injure the professional reputation or business of another member.
- 6.3. To provide opportunity for the professional development and advancement of other members in the member's employ or supervision.
- 6.4. To give credit for professional work to whom the credit is due.
- 6.5. To share knowledge and experience with other members.

ABCFP Code of Ethics - continued

7. A member who violates this Code may be subject to one or more of the remedial actions authorized under the *Foresters Act*.
8. This Code of Ethics does not deny the existence of other important duties which are not specifically included.
9. This Code of Ethics is to be broadly, rather than narrowly, interpreted, such that the responsibilities owed by a member to the categories of: the public; the profession; his/her client or employer; or other members, are not exclusive to that category. They apply to each of the other categories insofar as it is possible to do so.