

Dear Silvicultural Accredited Surveyor...

As chair of the Forest Measurements Board (FMB), I take great pleasure in offering you the opportunity to become an associate member of the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (ABCF) if you are not already a member. As an associate member in the membership category of Certified Forest Measurement Specialist (CFMS) and the sub-category of Silvicultural Accredited Surveyor (SAS), you would be joining the largest forestry team in Canada.

The ABCFP is responsible for registering and regulating British Columbia's professional foresters and forest technologists. In BC, the practice of professional forestry has been regulated since 1947 when foresters first agreed to help protect the public's interest in the province's forests in return for the exclusive right to practise forestry. Today, we are the largest professional forestry association in Canada (5,600 members) and the first to include both registered forest technologists and associate members in technical occupations.

Our mandate flows from the *Foresters Act*. It is our duty to serve and protect the public interest in the practice of professional forestry by administering and enforcing the *Foresters Act*. We make sure the province's forest professionals are competent, ethical and accountable to the association. We set and enforce codes of conduct and standards of practice for our members and we advocate for and uphold principles of forest stewardship.

By becoming a SAS, you will reap the benefits of joining other accredited surveyors, interested in professionalism related to silviculture surveying throughout BC. Some of the immediate benefits of becoming a SAS include: recognition for having high standards and knowledge, dependability and accountability, and a mechanism to recognize and improve your silviculture surveying competencies.

You and your firm will see the long-term benefits reflected in professional development opportunities and you will have similar rights, obligations and benefits as our Registered Professional Foresters and Registered Forest Technologists, except that you will not be subject to random practice reviews (audits).

Other benefits to becoming an ABCFP associate member are:

1. Because you are professionally accountable for your work the public, your clients, employer and your peers can be assured that they may rely on the quality of your work. Accountability means that you and everyone else acknowledges your professional obligations under professional legislation and accompanying bylaws, including the potential for investigations and discipline to be imposed by the profession.
2. You become a BC forest professional who adheres to a Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Practice. Part of this means that you practise due diligence by ensuring quality assurance of your work. This benefits you, your clients or employer and the profession.
3. Improved marketability to clients because of your professional accountability.
4. Receipt of a semi-monthly electronic newsletter – **The Increment** and the bi-monthly magazine – the **BC Forest Professional**.
5. Having the authority to practise and sign and seal/stamp work within a defined scope of practice for Silvicultural Accredited Surveyors, and
6. Being able to take advantage of ABCFP affinity programs such as discounts for auto leasing, Canadian Institute of Forestry membership, FORREX publications, home insurance and long distance phone rates.

The annual fee for associate membership is \$150 (plus GST). I encourage you to check out the website at http://www.abcfp.ca/entering_the_profession/career_options/associate_members.asp where an ABCFP associate member application package for Silvicultural Accredited Surveyors will be available in April 2010.

If you require more information about the associate member application process, please contact Brian Robinson, RPF, manager of professional development and member relations, at 250.851.3185 or brobinson@abcfp.ca

Yours truly,

Ron Mecredy, RFT, ATE
Chair, Forest Measurements Board