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Darryl Walker
President
BCGEU
4911 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 3W3

June 16, 2010

Dear Mr. Walker,

I am writing in regards to your recent President's Op-Ed: Crisis in BC's Forests. The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) has some concerns about the facts presented in the document, especially in the section called Professional Reliance.

I will address each of these concerns and provide you with the correct information.

1. You say that "ABCFP members can now certify..." The fact that ABCFP members can sign off on forest plans such as FSPs or the predecessors is nothing new. Our members have the education and experience to be able to sign these important documents.
2. The next item of concern is as follows: "...can even designate to non-members to approve plans..." This is simply not true. Section 2.3.b of the *Foresters Act* says that anyone can practise professional forestry under the supervision of a member but only a registered member can approve and sign professional documents such as forest stewardship plans.
3. Your op-ed states: "...no power to force changes to logging plans..." This is true as we have no legal standing; however, we can and do discipline members who breach the *Foresters Act*, our bylaws or the ABCFP Code of Ethics.
4. Next, you state: "...ABCFP standards are largely comprised of published guidelines...making the standards difficult to enforce." We have a couple of concerns with this statement. First, you may be mixing up standards of practice (including our bylaws) which are hard and fast rules that have to be followed, with practice guidelines that tell our members how to practice ethically. Practice guidelines are not "rules" but merely offer guidance to our members. Second, we have a clear Code of Ethics (bylaw 11) and standards of practice (bylaw 12) and also provide our members with a clear and concise guidance document to help them interpret the two bylaws.

Ensuring BC's Forests Are In Good Hands.

5. In the section that discusses our complaint process, you state "...19 [complaints] were dismissed – many with no published reasons..." Every closed or dismissed case from 2008, 2009 and 2010 has a published *Discipline Case Digest* available on our website. Open cases do not have a digest yet. Over the past five years we have taken away the practice rights of one member and have suspended three others. One of these suspensions is for five years after which the member has to prove his/her competency before being able to practice again; one is suspended until he/she can prove competency and the final one is pending an RCMP investigation.

6. The final concern we have is with your perception of our governing council. You state: "Only two lay councillors (retired foresters) currently serve..." In reality, neither of our lay councillors are retired foresters. One is biologist and the other is our Aboriginal lay member who spent the latter part of his career as an instructor at UBC and NVIT. Our lay council members, similar to other professional organizations, are appointed by the provincial government. Sixteen percent of our council (two out of 12 members) represents the public. This is identical to the council of the College of Applied Biologists.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns with you.

Respectfully,



Sharon Glover, MBA
Chief Executive Officer