

The CODE of Ethical and Professional Conduct *(PGA)*

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Practice and Forest Stewardship

June 16, 2021

Paul Nuttall RPF

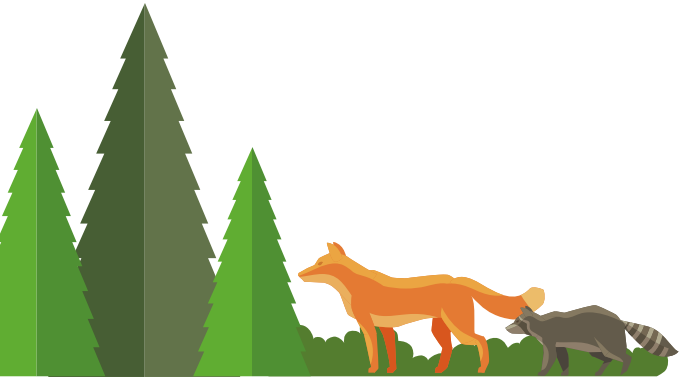
Troy Lee

Sinead Coffey



“ . . . the greatest good for the greatest number, in the long run . . . ”

‘Ethics in Forestry’



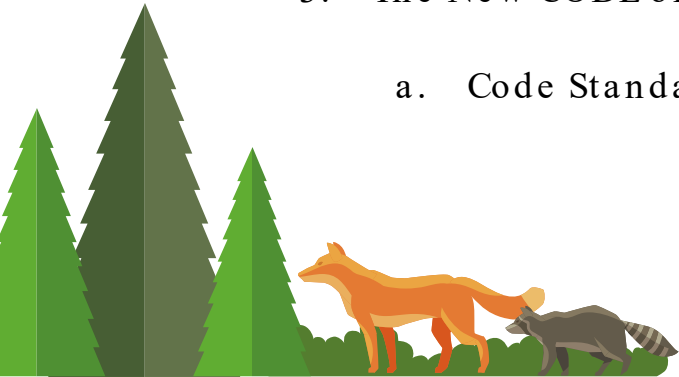
Webinar Outline



DURING THIS Webinar YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

1. The Schedule of Webinars and other Bylaw resources
2. Quick clarifications
 - a. Definitions
 - b. ABCFP Committees
 - c. Practice of Professional Forestry and Reserved Practice
3. The New CODE of Ethical and Professional Conduct, Part 2
 - a. Code Standards 5 – 9

...Questions.



1. Our Schedule of Webinars

- ❑ May 19 – Bylaw 9: Code Standards 1 to 4
(1. Competence, 2. Independence, 3. Conflict of Interest, 4. Due Diligence)
- ❑ May 26 – Office Hours *(A chance for Questions and Discussion)*
- ❑ June 9 – Bylaw 5 to 8 *(Registration, Certification, Trainees, Use of Seal)*
- ❑ June 16 – Bylaw 9: Code Standards 5 to 9
(5. Integrity, 6. Forest Stewardship, 7. Safety, 8. Professionalism, 9. Reporting)
- ❑ June 23 – Office Hours *(A chance for Questions and Discussion)*
- ❑ July 7 – Bylaw 10 and 11 *(Continuing Professional Development; Audits and Practice Reviews)*
- ❑ July 14 – Bylaw 12 – 15 *(Complaints, Investigations, Discipline)*
- ❑ July 21 - Office Hours *(A chance for Questions and Discussion)*



2. Quick Clarifications

a) Definitions

Duty: an obligation or responsibility placed on the individual professional or regulatory body. The duty is generally expressed as a legal, moral, or ethical obligation.

Standard: a clearly stated rule(s) constituting the measure of performance required of a registrant of the ABCFP.

Guideline: a statement, plan, or principle that provides direction for actions or behaviours of ABCFP registrants.

Guidance: a description that guides a registrant within a practice area or the conduct within a professional activity.



b) ABCFP Committee Management

Statutory Committees

1. Credentials
2. Audit and Practice Review
3. Investigations
4. Discipline
5. Nomination



Other ABCFP Groups

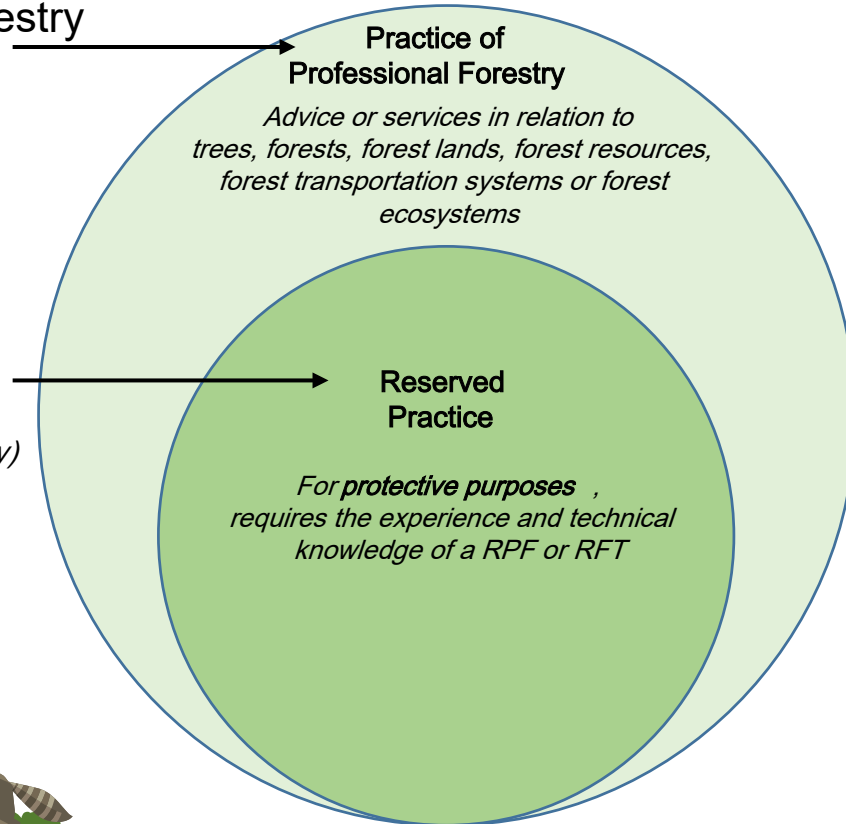
- *Practice Stewards*
- *Forest Measurements Panel*
- *Engineer-Forestry-Geoscience Joint Practice Panel*
- *Applied Biology and Forestry Environmental Practice Panel (EPP)*



c) The Practice of Professional Forestry and Reserved Practice



New practice of professional forestry



Reserved practice is a sub-set of regulated practice

(previously the practice of forestry)



3. The CODE

- ❖ *Previous Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice + PGA Sec 57*
- ❖ Bylaw 9 The STANDARDS of Ethical and Professional Conduct
 - *9-1 The context of the CODE*
 - *9-2 Compliance with standards of practice and competence in guidelines*
 - *9-3 Practice Advisory Program*
- ❖ Schedule A: The CODE of Ethical & Professional Conduct
- ❖ Companion Document: **Available Now**
 - Code of Ethical and Professional Conduct: *Guidelines for Interpretation*
- ❖ Online E-Course: **COMING SOON**



3. The CODE

❖ Structure of the CODE

- **Nine Standards** of duties and expectations
 - *The foundation of professional service:*
 1. *Competence*, 2. *Independence*, 3. *Conflict of Interest*, 4. *Due Diligence*,
 - *The professional values:*
 5. *Integrity*, 6. *Forest Stewardship*, 7. *Safety*, 8. *Professionalism*,
 - *Natural Capstone: 9. Reporting*
- **Objects**: benchmarks of performance within a standard
 - *They are not reach and extent of a standard*
 - *Explicit action; Prevailing quality; Aspirational*



Standard 5: Integrity

Standard: Registrants always conduct themselves honourably and in ways which sustain and enhance their professional integrity and the integrity of the profession as a whole.

Registrants must:

Objects

(a) inspire confidence in the profession by maintaining high standards in daily conduct and work;

(b) abstain from undignified public communication;

(c) not misrepresent facts.



Standard 5: Integrity

- personal integrity,
- integrity of the profession

- Inspire confidence: Constant care and attention

- Public communication: respectful, courteous, honest and in good faith

- Sound unbiased information: trusted and respected source



Standard 6: Forest Stewardship

Standard:

Registrants ... must work to improve practices and policies affecting forest stewardship.

Registrants must:

Objects

(a) obtain a clear understanding of objectives for land and resource use;



Standard 6: Forest Stewardship

(b) uphold forest stewardship and practise the responsible use of forest resources based on the application of an ecological understanding at the stand, forest, and landscape levels, which maintains and protects ecosystem function, integrity, and resilience;

(c) take respectful and appropriate steps to raise identified concerns with another registrant about any practice that may be detrimental to forest stewardship, and seek to resolve those concerns.



Standard 6: Forest Stewardship

Forest stewardship is the *'raison d'être'* of the forestry profession.

- Stewardship is not identified in the PGA.
- Advocacy have been removed from the ABCFP mandate.
- Bylaws: definitions –
 - Principles of forest stewardship
 - Forest stewardship
- Partnership (Registrant practice and ABCFP)



Standard 7: Safety

Registrants must:

(a) maintain safe work practices and consider the safety of workers and others in the practice of professional forestry;

(b) hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public, and the promotion of health and safety in the workplace.



Standard 7: Safety

- Be SAFE
- Integrating safety into your professional work
 - *Office of BC Auditor General “Preventing Fatalities and Serious Injuries in BC Forests – Progress Needed” Jan 2008*
 - *Forest worker safety an explicit object*
 - *Competence in forest worker protection*
 - *“early recognition of potential hazards, and early communication of this information, allows for proactive staging of resources for the control of hazards”
BC Coroner Nov 2009*

NEW





Standard 8: Professionalism



Standard: Registrants provide professional service that is respectful and appropriate to the circumstances, and must:

Objectives

(a) promote public knowledge of forestry with *truthful and accurate statements on forestry matters*;

(b) refrain from *unfairly criticizing the work of other registrants or attempting to injure the professional reputation or business of another registrant*;



Standard 8: Professionalism



(c) contribute to the advance of scientific and professional knowledge of the profession and others;

(d) be conscientious in providing professional services;

(e) take respectful and appropriate steps to raise identified concerns with another registrant about their professional competence, or about conduct by the other registrant that may constitute professional misconduct, conduct unbecoming a registrant, or a breach of the Act or the bylaws, and to seek to resolve those concerns.



Standard 8: Professionalism



Professionalism Standard is the overarching standard.

- *Professional principles - key moral attributes applied in the professional context.*
 1. *Adherence to standards in professional practice*
 2. *Devotion to service*
- *Resolving concerns about another registrant (8e)*
 1. *Facts*
 2. *Discuss*
 3. *Consult*



Standard 9: Reporting



Registrants must:

- (a) report to ABCFP and, if applicable, any other appropriate authority, any instance where, on reasonable or probable grounds, the registrant believes that the continued practice of professional forestry by another registrant, or by another person, including a firm or employer, might pose a risk of significant harm to the environment or to the health or safety of the public or a group of people;*



Standard 9: Reporting



- *Duty to Report – PGA Sec 58*
- *Ethical Obligation to Report Standard 9*
 - *Risk of significant harm*
 - *Conditions*
 - *Continued practice of professional forestry*
 - *Personal knowledge of circumstances and outcomes*
 - *Belief based on reasonable and probable grounds*



Standard 9: Reporting



- *Duty to Report – PGA Sec 58*
- *Report to Who?*
ABCFP and, if applicable, any other appropriate authority
- *Continued professional practice By whom?*
Including a firm or employer



Standard 9: Reporting



Registrants must:

(b) report to the regulatory body for another profession under the Professional Governance Act and, if applicable, any other appropriate authority, any instance where, on reasonable and probable grounds, the registrant believes that the continued carrying on of the regulated practice of that profession by a registrant of that other regulatory body, or by another person, including a firm or employer, might pose a risk of significant harm to the environment or to the health or safety of the public or a group of people;



Standard 9: Reporting



Registrants must:

(c) report to the ABCFP any other concern described in Standard 6(c) or 8(e) about the practice, competence or conduct of another registrant that it is not possible or appropriate to raise directly with the other registrant, or that cannot appropriately be resolved with the other registrant in accordance with Standard 6(c) or 8(e).



Standard 9: Reporting



- *Scenario*

A registrant accountable for the crossing had signed a Crossing Assurance Statement (CAS) confirming that the structure was safe to cross. Shortly after and during active vehicle crossing by workers and the public, an inspector, also a registrant, observed heavy mechanical damage on the structure, such that the integrity and function of the structure was called into question. The inspector determined that the damage could not have occurred from regular vehicle use and was a direct result of previous mechanical damage. The structure had been installed with the damage. The responsible professional did not adequately inspect the structure and signed the CAS.



Standard 9: Reporting



- 1. What is the harm? Injury to persons***
- 2. What is the regulated practice that poses the risk?
Professional service to recognize problem.***
- 3. What is the Professional Conduct that is Reportable?
Competence and action to inspect a road structure for safe crossing.***
- 4. Identified registrant? The identified registrant is the professional
(registrant) signature on the CAS.***



CODE Standards 1- 4:

1. ***COMPETENCE: ability to do***
2. ***INDEPENDENCE: objective, impartial, in fact and appearance***
3. ***CONFLICT OF INTEREST: identify, disclose, resolve, document***
4. ***DUE DILIGENCE: taking the necessary steps***



CODE Standards 5- 9:

5. ***INTEGRITY: honour, honesty***
6. ***FOREST STEWARDSHIP: land and resource goals; practices and responsible use***
7. ***SAFETY: work practices, integrating in practice***
8. ***PROFESSIONALISM: application of the science of forestry, principles of professional conduct, public knowledge***
9. ***REPORTING: risk of significant harm, to ABCFP or other regulatory authority, 6(c), 8(e)***

Next Week

Office Hours – ABCFP

Send your questions or comments to

CPDhelp@abcfp.ca





Thank you! Questions?

