

# Strategic Plan 2020-2024

Ensuring BC's forests are in good hands.



## Our Mission:

To protect the public interest by ensuring BC has competent and accountable forest professionals who achieve good forest stewardship.

## Our Vision:

Forest professionals are trusted.





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## Introduction

This five-year strategic plan, covering 2020 to 2024, is the result of Council and staff re-evaluating the strategic direction and activities of the Association of BC Forest Professionals through the lens of the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) and changes in the operating environment. The PGA was introduced as legislation in 2018 to replace the *Foresters Act*, and similarly serves to establish the duties and responsibilities of the ABCFP.

With this new strategic plan, the emphasis for the ABCFP is squarely on regulating the forestry profession and ensuring the ongoing competence of those registrants eligible to practise professional forestry in BC. While meeting regulatory duties, the association will strive to assist forest professionals in maintaining their professional obligations, upholding forest stewardship principles, and maintaining a healthy profession. This plan provides guidance to future councils, committees, registrants, and staff for the coming five years.



# Strategic Goals and Objectives 2020 - 2024

## Goal Competent forest professionals.

### Objectives:

- Establish, maintain, and enforce standards of education and qualifications for entry to the profession.
- Support registrants-in-training through a robust articling and learning program.
- Increase awareness of professional forestry practice and pathways to entry.
- Deliver a Continuing Professional Development Program to maintain and improve professional competence.
- Audit registrants' practices to support ongoing competent professional service.

## Goal Accountable forest professionals.

### Objectives:

- Deliver a transparent, fair, and publicly reported complaint and discipline process.
- Maintain a system of investigative processes and procedures to discipline registrants found to have engaged in incompetent or unethical practice.
- Ensure the practice of professional forestry is only undertaken by those with proper authority and registration.

## Goal Effective regulation and good forest stewardship through professional standards and practice guidance.

### Objectives:

- Maintain standards of ethical and professional conduct for registrants.
- Assist registrants to deal with professional or ethical issues.
- Develop professional practice guidance.
- Uphold forest stewardship principles and best practices in partnership with others.

## Goal Effective governance, administration, communication, and engagement.

### Objectives:

- Transition ABCFP policy, processes, and procedures so they adhere with the requirements of the *Professional Governance Act*.
  - Raise public and stakeholder awareness of the profession and its practice.
  - Maintain a healthy financial and administrative state.
  - Appoint council and committee members through a merit-based process.
    - Provide transparent and regular communication about the work and results of the association.



By reaching our goals, we achieve our vision: Forest professionals are trusted.

## About the ABCFP

Created by government in 1947, the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) is mandated to serve and protect the public interest in forests through the regulation of forest professionals. By provincial law, anyone wishing to practise professional forestry in BC must be registered with the ABCFP, meet the criteria established for entry to the profession, and maintain their knowledge and skills.

To become a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or Registered Forest Technologist (RFT), ABCFP registrants must:

- hold either a four-year science degree or two-year technology diploma and complete a two-year articling process under a sponsoring forest professional (in certain instances, registrants may also need to undergo the Credential Assessment Process to review their levels of education, training, and experience);
- successfully pass a series of association examinations to demonstrate their understanding of their professional and ethical obligations, knowledge of BC environmental regulations, understanding of the unique history and culture of BC's Indigenous Peoples, and awareness of BC's operating context and environment in which forest professionals work;
- follow a code of ethics and professional standards of practice that include requiring registrants to report illegal or unethical behavior;
- commit to only doing professional work they are competent to do based on their training and experience;
- ensure they maintain their competence through continuing professional development; and
- agree to have their professional conduct and practice be subject to oversight and if warranted, investigation and discipline by the ABCFP.

Public trust in the practice of professional forestry is maintained when the public knows and is confident that the professionals caring for and managing BC's forests have the appropriate skills, knowledge, and ethics to do the job and meet public expectations.

### As a regulator we are:

- **Fair:** processes, decisions, and services of the ABCFP are made in accordance with applicable rules and appropriate authority, based on relevant information, and respectful of individual needs and circumstances.
- **Objective:** issues and decisions of the ABCFP are impartial and made with integrity, approached with an open mind, and avoid prejudice and bias.
- **Transparent:** information is shared by the ABCFP in a forthright way; it is clear and accessible, and respectful of confidentiality and privacy rights.

### Guiding Principles:

- We act in the public interest.
- We support reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples through education, awareness, and inclusion.
- We engage our registrants.
- We value partnerships and collaboration.
- We provide effective support and recognition for volunteers, staff, and registrants.
- We support national co-operation.
- We foster diversity and inclusivity.
- We embrace technology and evidence-based decision making.

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