



# Code of Ethical and Professional Conduct

All registrants of Forest Professionals BC are bound by the Code of Ethical and Professional Conduct.

Registrants are responsible to hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public and the protection of the environment.

The practice of professional forestry is undertaken in a manner that protects the public interest by ensuring the multiple values society has assigned to BC's forest are balanced and considered. To protect the public interest, all registrants practising professional forestry must be accountable and adhere to the following ethical and professional standards:

## STANDARD 1 – COMPETENCE

Registrants maintain sufficient knowledge, skill, and ability in order to address the matter in question, and must:

- (a) practise only in those fields where training and ability make the registrant professionally competent;
- (b) maintain competence in relevant specializations, including advances in the practice of professional forestry and relevant science;
- (c) provide accurate information detailing their qualifications and experience.

## STANDARD 2 – INDEPENDENCE

Registrants exhibit objectivity and are professionally independent in fact and appearance, and must:

- (a) uphold the public interest and professional principles above the demands of employment or personal gain;
- (b) distinguish between facts, assumptions and opinions when providing professional opinions;
- (c) clearly identify each registrant who has contributed professional work, including recommendations, reports, statements or opinions;
- (d) not disclose confidential information without consent, except as required by law;
- (e) present clearly to employers and clients the possible consequences if professional decisions or judgments are overruled or disregarded.

## STANDARD 3 – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Registrants must avoid situations and circumstances in which there is a real or perceived conflict of interest, and must:

- (a) ensure conflicts of interest, including perceived conflicts of interest, are properly disclosed;
- (b) take appropriate action to resolve or mitigate identified conflicts of interests;
- (c) take necessary measures so that a conflict of interest will not bias decisions or recommendations.

## STANDARD 4 – DUE DILIGENCE

Registrants work with constant and careful attention, and must:

- (a) ensure work is complete, correct, and clear;
- (b) provide professional work that is measurable or verifiable;
- (c) have regard for the common law and applicable legislation or regulations, including relevant enactments of British Columbia, federal enactments, and enactments of other provinces;
- (d) have regard for applicable standards, policies, plans and practices established by the government or FPBC;
- (e) undertake work and documentation with due diligence and in accordance with any guidance developed to standardize professional documentation for the profession of forestry.

## STANDARD 5 – INTEGRITY

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:

- (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 6 – FOREST STEWARDSHIP

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

- (a) obtain a clear understanding of objectives for land and resource use;
- (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 to seek to resolve those concerns.

## 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 8 – PROFESSIONALISM

Registrants provide professional service and conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is respectful, responsible, and appropriate to the circumstances, and must:

- (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;
- (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;
- (f) cooperate with and demonstrate respect for the regulatory processes of FPBC; and
- (g) not, by their words or actions, threaten, intimidate or harass any complainant, witness or other person involved in a regulatory process of FPBC, or any board member, committee member, officer, employee, contractor or other person acting on behalf of FPBC.
- (h) comply with every undertaking given by them, any order made against them or to which they have consented and any other agreement between them and FPBC under the Act or bylaws.

## STANDARD 9 – REPORTING

Registrants must:

- (a) report to FPBC 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;
- (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;
- (c) report to FPBC 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).