



Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board
Bureau canadien d'agrément en foresterie

Reports

Annual Report – 2010

The Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board (CFAB) is responsible for the assessment of Canadian university forestry degree programs for the purpose of meeting academic requirements for professional certification (registration/licensure). Its role is to implement a national accreditation review process mandated under a detailed Policy Statement agreed to by its member agencies, the eight professional forester/forest engineer associations of Canada, and the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Board members are appointed by the member agencies.

The Board was established in 1989 and has been conducting site visitations since 1990. Assessment of academic program is undertaken in accordance with comprehensive academic standards but includes, also, consideration of facilities and services offered; faculty experience, qualifications and tenure; and the ability of the program to imbue professional qualifications and qualities in students. The regular accreditation cycle for a program is six years, although circumstances may dictate a shorter period for a given program or an interim review to confirm that a program continues to meet accreditation requirements. At present, eleven baccalaureate forestry programs in Canada enjoy accredited status. The Board does not accredit faculties or institutions, nor does it review programs outside Canada.

The Board's fourth round of reviews continued in 2010 with a site visit to the University of Moncton's Edmundston campus. A team led by Rod O'Connell, R.P.F. reviewed the Forestry Sciences Program of the Faculty of Forestry over a period of three days in mid-April. The other members of the team were Germain Paré, ing.f. and David Winston, R.P.F. The review was conducted in French, in keeping with the language of instruction at the University.

The Board met once during the year, in Vancouver in September. Following consideration of the review team report and related documentation, the Board granted a three-year accreditation to the Forestry Sciences Program at the University of Moncton. The new accreditation period began with the 2010/11 academic year and extends to June 30, 2013, or for as long as the subject program is in effect, whichever is of shorter duration. In making its decision, the Board determined that the forestry program meets the criteria for accreditation established by the CFAB Policy Statement and the *Academic standards for the accreditation of degree forestry programs in Canada*. However, the Program is in transition from a five-year program to one that is four years in duration and some elements of the curriculum had yet to be fully developed at the time of the review. There were no other curriculum or organizational concerns that weighed on the decision. The Board will seek further review of the Program during the final academic year of the current accreditation period.

Accreditation determinations are subject to all relevant provisions of the Policy Statement which declares that, among others, "the term of the accreditation is subject to review for cause at any time". Accreditation under the current decision applies only to the curriculum referred to above and in place at the time of the accreditation review.

With the agreement of the schools, accreditation reviews of the University of New Brunswick's Forest Ecosystem Management and Forest Engineering (RPF option) Programs and the University of Alberta's Forestry and Forest Business Management programs will be conducted during 2011. The site visit for the

former is scheduled for mid-March. That for the latter has not been confirmed but is expected to occur during April. Regularly scheduled reviews of programs at UBC and Lakehead University are due the following year.

As had been previously announced, new standards for accreditation review were introduced in 2008. These competency-based standards represent a marked departure from the previously employed knowledge-based standards and the Board has been actively seeking feedback from both schools and review team members on the procedures used in the conduct of accreditation reviews. While the new system has been working effectively, there have been a number of thoughtful, constructive comments for improvement which are being built into guidance documents for both schools and review teams. The Board will continue to solicit comment over the balance of this first round of reviews with the new standards.

Two changes in Board membership occurred during the year. The most prominent of these was the succession to the Chair position of Peter Marshall, R.P.F., the appointee of the Association of BC Forest Professionals. The change took place at the beginning of the calendar year. Dr. Marshall succeeded Steve Hoyt in the position. At the same time, Mr. Hoyt stepped down as the appointee of the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick. He was succeeded in that position by Peggy McDougall, R.P.F.

Board members and alternates at the end of 2010 were Peter Marshall, R.P.F. (Chairman) and Randy Trerise, R.P.F. (alt.), Association of BC Forest Professionals; Janet Schilf, R.P.F. and Charles Backman, R.P.F. (alt.), College of Alberta Professional Foresters; John Daisley, R.P.F. and John Doucette, R.P.F. (alt.), Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals; Faye Johnson, R.P.F. and David Winston, R.P.F. (alt.), Ontario Professional Foresters Association; Germain Paré, ing.f. and Jean-Louis Brown, ing.f. (alt.), Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec; Peggy McDougall, R.P.F. and Rod O'Connell, R.P.F. (alt.), Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick; Ian Millar, R.P.F. and Roger Aggas, R.P.F. (alt.), Registered Professional Foresters Association of Nova Scotia; Bill Buggie, R.P.F. and Glen Knee, R.P.F. (alt.), Registered Professional Foresters of Newfoundland-Labrador. Most of those serving at the 2010 year end are expected to continue their participation in 2011.

As a member, the Board remained fully active in the meetings and activities of the Canadian Federation of Professional Foresters Associations (CFPFA), in particular the *ad hoc* Steering Committee for implementation of Phase 2 of the Federation's Inclusivity Project. The project has moved ahead over the year with funding assistance through HRSDC Contribution Agreement and is now essentially completed. The objective of the project has been to develop a common approach to the assessment of the credentials of foreign-trained individuals and those graduating from non-accredited forestry programs in Canada who are seeking certification for professional practice. Three documents to guide the implementation of the approach have been prepared - a Procedures Manual for use by the professional associations, an Applicants Handbook for those who are seeking to have credentials assessed, and an Assessors Manual for those who will review and report on the credentials presented by applicants. The documents are being translated at this time and will be available in English and French. A website containing the Applicants Handbook and other guidance to candidates is currently being designed and will be available shortly.

The Board is an active member of the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC). The AAAC convenes two meetings annually at which the 35 member agencies are able to consider items of mutual accreditation interest and share accreditation experiences and procedures.

The CFAB Annual Report for 2009, including the then current record of accredited programs, was published in the March/April 2010 issue of *The Forestry Chronicle*.

Lorne F. Riley, R.P.F.
Executive Director

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