



Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board  
Bureau canadien d'agrément en foresterie

## Reports

### ***Annual Report - 2009***

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.

In March 2009, the Board undertook an accreditation review of the Forest Management and Environment and Forest Operations Programs, Faculty of Forestry and Geomatics, Laval University. The review team was comprised of Gilles Couturier, ing.f. (Chair), Ralph Roberts, R.P.F., ing.f., Jeff Butler, R.P.F. and Lise Caron, Ph.D., formerly Dean of forestry at the University of Moncton. By decision of the Canadian Federation of Professional Foresters Associations (CFPPFA), the programs were reviewed using the CFAB academic standards dated March 30, 2000 (now replaced outside Quebec). It is anticipated that these reviews will be the last employing the old standards.

A second site visit, to the College of Science and Management, University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) for an accreditation review of the school's Forest Ecology and Management Major, Ecosystem Science and Management Program, was completed in April 2009. That review team was comprised of Jan Schilf, R.P.F. (Chair), Bruce Dancik, R.P.F., John Doucette, R.P.F. and Jim Thrower, R.P.F.

With the agreement of the school, an accreditation review of Moncton University's Forestry Sciences Program has been scheduled for April 2010. The current accreditation of the Faculty's program expires at the end of June 2010. Regularly scheduled reviews of programs at UNB and Alberta are due the following year.

The Board met twice over the year - in January in teleconference and in Saskatoon in September. Of primary importance on the teleconference was consideration of major changes to the UNB program structure including the introduction of a new degree program, Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Natural Resources (BScENR), and related changes to the accredited BScF (Forest Ecosystem Management) and BScFE (Forest Engineering (RPF option)) programs as well as curriculum changes in

the BScF program as it moved from a five-year duration to four. It being unclear from information then on hand just what the overall effect of these moves had been on the two accredited programs, the Board requested from the school a course-by-course comparison of the new FEM and FE curricula against those in place at the time of the 2005 accreditation reviews.

At its September meeting, the Board considered the review reports provided by the assessment teams, as well as supplementary information from team participants, on the reviews of the Laval and UNBC programs. The Board determined that the two Laval University programs (the Forest Management and Environment Program and the Forest Operations Program) and the UNBC major (Forest Ecology and Management Major, Ecosystem Science and Management Program) meet the requirements for accreditation and that accreditation of the programs "shall be granted for a period of six years", the maximum allowed by the CFAB Policy Statement. It is the first accreditation of the Forest Operations Program at Laval. The UNBC program was the first to be reviewed using the new, competency-based academic standards of the CFAB (November 24, 2008).

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". Accreditations under the current decisions apply only to the curricula of the three programs referred to above and in place at the time of the accreditation reviews. Each accreditation begins with the 2009/2010 academic year and continues to June 30, 2015, or for as long as a subject program is in place, whichever is of shorter duration.

From its review of the course comparison material provided by the school, it was determined in September that, while there had, indeed, been many changes, the overall curricula of the Forest Ecosystem Management and Forest Engineering (RPF option) Programs at the University of New Brunswick contain essentially the same material as previously and continue to meet the academic standards for accreditation applied at the time of the 2005 program reviews. Further assessment of both programs, using the new academic standards, will take place at the time of the next regularly scheduled accreditation reviews at the school in 2011.

At the September meeting the Board determined also that, as a means of balancing the annual load for reviews, the regularly scheduled site visit to the University of British Columbia (2010/11) would be deferred to 2011/12 through a one-year administrative extension of the current accreditation period. The effect of this is to limit regular reviews to no more than two site visits in any one year.

Several changes in Board membership occurred during the year. The most prominent of these was the stepping down of Steve Hoyt, R.P.F. as Chair of the Board and as the appointee of the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick. Peter Marshall, R.P.F., the appointee of the Association of BC Forest Professionals, has succeeded Steve as Chair of the Board. The changes took place as of the end of the calendar year.

Steve was the second Chairman of the Board taking up the position in 1990 shortly after its establishment (1989). He undertook his duties in a collegial manner and exercised leadership that can only be admired. He guided the Board through its learning period of the first accreditation reviews at the (then) six schools of forestry across Canada and subsequently witnessed the spread of forestry education to an additional two schools.

A particular challenge for Steve and the Board came in the first decade of the 21st century as the professional associations moved to adopt pan-Canadian certification standards and to switch entrance requirement emphasis from knowledge-based education to competency-based education. This required

the subsequent revision of the academic standards for accreditation employed by the CFAB in its evaluation of university level forestry programs across Canada. It was Steve's even-handed but firm leadership throughout this process that enabled the Board to complete the latter undertaking with a minimum of difficulty and to ensure that the accreditation standards were fully harmonized with the certification standards of the profession.

Steve's presence and good humour will be missed. His colleagues on the Board extend their very best wishes to Steve and his wife, Lorraine, for the future in all their endeavours.

In other changes, Randy Trerise, R.P.F. assumed the alternate member role for the Association of BC Forest Professionals succeeding Mike Larock, R.P.F. who will continue as backup for Randy. In the Atlantic Region, Roger Aggas, R.P.F. took over the alternate member position from Brendan Hemens, R.P.F. for the Registered Professional Foresters Association of Nova Scotia. Lastly, Rebecca Aggas, R.P.F. stepped down as the alternate member for the Canadian Institute of Forestry. That position has not been refilled to date.

Board members and alternates at the end of 2009 were Steve Hoyt, R.P.F. (Chairman) and Rod O'Connell, R.P.F. (alt.), Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick; Bill Buggie, R.P.F. and Glen Knee, R.P.F. (alt.), Registered Professional Foresters of Newfoundland-Labrador; Ian Millar, R.P.F. and Roger Aggas, R.P.F. (alt.), Registered Professional Foresters Association of Nova Scotia; Germain Paré, ing.f. and Jean-Louis Brown, ing.f. (alt.), Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec; Faye Johnson, R.P.F. and David Winston, R.P.F. (alt.), Ontario Professional Foresters Association; John Daisley, R.P.F. and John Doucette, R.P.F. (alt.), Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals; Janet Schilf, R.P.F. and Charles Backman, R.P.F. (alt.), College of Alberta Professional Foresters; Peter Marshall, R.P.F., and Randy Trerise, R.P.F. (alt.), Association of BC Forest Professionals; and Bruce Dancik, R.P.F., Canadian Institute of Forestry. With the exception of the stepping down of Steve Hoyt, most of those serving at the 2009 year end are expected to continue their participation.

As a member, the Board remained fully active in the meetings and activities of the CFPFA. Much time was spent over the year by that body deliberating the labour mobility requirements of the federal/provincial Agreement on Internal Trade's Chapter 7, which came into effect during the first half of 2009, and the means by which those requirements will be implemented by the profession locally and nationally. Chapter 7 requirements have essentially replaced the profession's longstanding mutual recognition agreement for labour mobility although the latter remains as a guidance document for member agencies. Latterly, the member agencies have focussed their attention on the means by which the credentials of applicants for certification from non-accredited programs, as well as those of foreign-trained applicants, will be evaluated. This will not be an easy nut to crack and the undertaking has pointed up the very real benefits for applicants of graduation from an accredited program.

The Board has redesigned its website ([www.cfab.ca](http://www.cfab.ca)) which features new graphics and improved site navigation. The website contains much information the same as or similar to that on the old site but now contains greater detail on the competency-based standards for the information of those seeking to know the requirements of accreditation. The CFAB standards and the certification standards of the CFPFA member agencies are fully harmonized with only minor wording variations thereby providing easily accessed guidance for foreign trained applicants and graduates from non-accredited programs.

The Board is an active member of the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC). The AAAC considers items of mutual accreditation interest and shares accreditation experience amongst its thirty-five member agencies. As reported last year, most AAAC member agencies have become involved

in developing outcomes-based protocols for accreditation purposes or are seriously considering moving in that direction. A number have entered into the development of competency-based protocols similar in nature to the one approved by the forestry profession.

The CFAB Annual Report for 2008, including the then current record of accredited programs, was published in the March/April 2009 issue of *The Forestry Chronicle*.