

CANADIAN FORESTRY ACCREDITATION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT - 2017

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) and entrance into professional practice. Its role is to implement a national accreditation 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.

Established in 1989 by the Canadian Federation of Professional Foresters Associations (CFPFA), the Board 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, ten Baccalaureate level and two Master's level forestry programs in Canada enjoy accredited status. The Board does not accredit faculties or institutions, nor does it review programs outside Canada.

The Board continued its fifth round of reviews with two regularly scheduled site visits, one to the Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick and another to the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Alberta. (All accreditation-eligible programs of the member schools of the Association of University Forestry Schools of Canada (AUFSC) are reviewed each round over a six-year period.)

The Board met three times during the report year - a face-to-face session in Ottawa on September 29 and in teleconference on April 11 and June 30. At the Ottawa session, it was determined that "accreditation of the Forestry Program of the Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick, leading to the baccalaureate degree, shall be granted for a period of six years, the maximum allowed by the CFAB Policy Statement". Similarly, accreditations were granted to the Forestry and Forest Business Management Programs at the University of Alberta. In each of the three, accreditation begins with the 2017/2018 academic year and continues to June 30 2023.

Review activity in 2018 will consist of two site visits, one to the University of British Columbia (two undergraduate programs) in March and another to Lakehead University (one program) in April. The schools have agreed to receive site visit teams and have

received documentation required for the completion of Questionnaire response submissions. A review of the Master of Sustainable Forest Management at the Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia, initially scheduled for 2018, has been deferred to 2019. An extension of the current accreditation of the program to June 30, 2019 has been granted.

On the teleconference sessions, the Board reviewed sets of instruction and assessment modules developed by the Faculty of Natural Resources Management, Lakehead University, under the Bridge Training Program for Foresters (BTP) of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA) and determined that the submitted materials “cover adequately the Demonstrable Competency requirements” of associated Certification Standard of the CFPFA. BTP-related determinations do not constitute, and are not to be viewed as, accreditation actions.

The Board oversaw the conduct of follow-up surveys for review of the efficacy of delivery and uptake of BTP module instruction through direct contact with those who have successfully completed courses. All CFAB obligations under the BTP agreements with the OPFA have been completed.

The instruction modules offered by Lakehead and previously reported modules developed by a University of Toronto/Canadian Institute of Forestry consortium are being used in the CFPFA’s Credential Assessment Process (CAP), a program of assessment for candidates who do not have a CFAB-accredited program degree and who must make up academic shortfalls identified by CAP assessors. All CFPFA member agencies accept successful completion of modules as meeting related professional certification requirements.

The joint AUFSC-CFPFA review and revision of the CFPFA’s Certification Standards was completed when the Competency Review Working Group (CRWG) presented its final product to the CFPFA regulatory member councils for consideration and approval. All councils have given formal approval to the new standards which will be implemented for certification purposes during 2018.

Completion of the 2-1/2-year CRWG undertaking signalled the beginning, in September, of work by an Accreditation Standards Working Group (ASWG) comprised of three members from each of the CFAB, the CFPFA and the AUFSC, plus the Executive Director, CFAB.

The task of the ASWG is to develop new academic standards for use by the CFAB in the review of AUFSC forestry programs. As has been the case since the startup of the national forestry accreditation review process, the standards will be designed to ensure that the credentials of graduates of accredited programs satisfy the academic requirements for certification.

Using the revised Certification Standards as its base, the ASWG completed revision of the Accreditation Standards in the fall and provided them to the CFPFA for consideration against the academic requirements for entry into professional practice. Wording differences are few and minor with no effect on intent or meaning. In every respect, the proposed Accreditation Standards revision is fully harmonized with the academic requirements of the Certification Standards. Approval of the new standards is anticipated early in the new year for initial implementation by the CFAB in 2019.

Next steps for the working group will include adjustments to elements of the CFAB Questionnaire and of the CFAB Policy Statement to ensure consistency with the changes made to the Accreditation Standards.

There were a number of Board membership changes during the year. Ian Millar, R.P.F., a longstanding regular member appointee of the Registered Professional Foresters Association of Nova Scotia (RPFANS), stepped down. The then standing alternate member appointee, Rob Young, R.P.F., assumed the regular member position on the Board. The Association then named Kevin Keys, R.P.F., as its new alternate member appointee. After many years at both membership levels, Jean-Louis Brown, the alternate member for l'Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec (OIFQ) at the time, resigned. L'Ordre has appointed Pierre Breton, ing.f., to succeed Jean-Louis.

Board members and alternates at the end of 2017 were Peter Marshall, R.P.F. (Chair) and Casey Macaulay, R.P.F. (alt.), Association of BC Forest Professionals; David Blackmore, R.P.F. and Charles Backman, R.P.F. (alt.), College of Alberta Professional Foresters; John Daisley, R.P.F., and Peggy McDougall, R.P.F. (alt.), Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals; Faye Johnson, R.P.F. and David Winston, R.P.F. (Ret.) (alt.), Ontario Professional Foresters Association; Germain Paré, ing. f. and Pierre Breton, ing. f. (alt.), Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec; Roger Roy, f.a. and Rod O'Connell, R.P.F. (alt.), Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick; Rob Young, R.P.F. and Kevin Keys, R.P.F. (alt.), Registered Professional Foresters Association of Nova Scotia; Jason Pond, R.P.F. and Glen Knee, R.P.F. (alt.), Association of Registered Professional Foresters of Newfoundland Labrador; and Bruce Dancik, R.P.F., Canadian Institute of Forestry (no alternate member). It is expected that those serving at year end will continue their respective participations in 2018.

As a member of each, the Board remained fully active during the year in the meetings and activities of the CFPFA and of the joint collaborations of the CFPFA and AUFSC in the Competency Review and Accreditation Standards Working Groups noted above.

The Board continued as a member of the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC) which counts some 32 professional disciplines in its membership. Typically, the Association meets once each year to consider items of mutual accreditation interest and to share accreditation experiences.

The CFAB Annual Report for 2016, including the then current record of accredited programs, was submitted to the CIF for publication in *The Forestry Chronicle*. That journal has, however, changed its focus to research only and the report was not published. Arrangements have been made with the CIF to include CFAB submissions in two new publications – the Member Magazine and a quarterly e-newsletter, both of which are targeted at CIF members. The Board will continue to give broad access to its periodic offerings through its website at <www.cfab.ca>.

All CFAB formal documents are available in English and French, in hard- or electronic copy, and may be obtained upon request to the Executive Director.

Lorne F. Riley, R.P.F. (Ret.)
Executive Director

January 2018

**STATUS OF CFAB PROGRAM ACCREDITATIONS
AT CANADIAN SCHOOLS OF FORESTRY
DECEMBER 2017**

September 2012

University of British Columbia, Faculty of Forestry, Forest Resources Management and Forest Operations majors

Accredited for six years to June 30, 2018

September 2012

Lakehead University, Faculty of Natural Resources Management, Forestry Program (H.B.Sc.F.)

Accredited for six years to June 30, 2018

September 2013

University of British Columbia, Faculty of Forestry, Master of Sustainable Forest Management Program

Accreditation extended one year to June 30, 2019

September 2014

University of Toronto, Faculty of Forestry, Master of Forest Conservation Program

Accredited for six years to December 31, 2019

September 2015

Laval University, Faculty of Forestry, Geography and Geomatics, Forest Management and Environment and Forest Operations Programs

Accredited for six years to June 30, 2021

September 2015

University of Northern British Columbia, College of Science and Management, Ecosystem Science and Management Program, Forest Ecology and Management Major

Accredited for six years to June 30, 2021

September 2016

University of Moncton, School of Forestry, Forest Management Program

Accreditation for six years to June 30, 2022

September 2017

University of New Brunswick, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, Forestry Program

Accredited for six years to June 30, 2023

September 2017

University of Alberta, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Alberta School of Forest Science and Management, Forestry and Forest Business Management Programs

Accredited for six years to June 30, 2023

P.L. Marshall, R.P.F., Chairman

L.F. Riley, R.P.F. (Ret.), Executive Director