

CANADIAN FORESTRY ACCREDITATION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT - 2016

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 one regularly scheduled site visit, to the School of Forestry on the University of Moncton's Edmundston campus, in March. (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 year, on September 16 in Vancouver, British Columbia and in teleconference on May 25 and December 21. At the Vancouver meeting, it was determined that "accreditation of the Forest Management Program of the School of Forestry, University of Moncton, leading to the baccalaureate degree, shall be granted for a period of six years, the maximum allowed by the CFAB Policy Statement". Accreditation begins with the 2016/2017 academic year and continues to June 30, 2022.

In a further accreditation-related action, the Board considered a status report on the Master of Sustainable Forest Management program at the University of British Columbia. The Board determined that, and was satisfied that, the supplementary requirements for accreditation of a Master's level program had been faithfully maintained and implemented by the Faculty in the four years since the inception of the program.

Review activity during the coming year will consist of two site visits, one to the University of New Brunswick and another to the University of Alberta. The schools have agreed to receive site visit teams.

As reported last year, the Board entered into an arrangement with the Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA) to participate in an Ontario Government-funded project titled the “Bridge Training Program for Foresters” (BTP). The purpose of the program is to make available supplementary instruction for professional forest practice candidates who, after panel review, have had academic and/or experiential gaps identified in their bids to obtain certification. Two Ontario university-based suppliers were contracted with by the OPFA to develop and deliver the instruction modules. The results of the OPFA’s BTP undertaking will be available for use by all professional forest practice regulators in Canada.

On its May 25 teleconference, the Board reviewed four sets of instruction and assessment modules developed by a Canadian Institute of Forestry/University of Toronto (Forestry) consortium and determined that the submitted materials “cover adequately the requirements of the Demonstrable Competencies” of the associated Certification Standard of the CFPFA.

On a further teleconference meeting December 21, the Board reviewed two sets of instruction and assessment modules developed by a team at Lakehead University (Natural Resources Management). The Board determined that the submitted materials “cover adequately the requirements of” the associated practice areas.

In each of the above developments, implementation of the accepted module sets by the respective suppliers has begun, or is about to begin.

In a second phase of the BTP, the Board entered into agreement with the OPFA to conduct follow-up review of the efficacy of module delivery through online survey and direct contact with those who have successfully completed the module courses and with instructors who are delivering the materials. This short-term undertaking by the Board will be completed by mid-2017.

One Board membership change occurred during the year. Roger Aggas, R.P.F., alternate member for the Registered Professional Foresters Association of Nova Scotia, stepped down. The association has named Robert Young, R.P.F. as its new alternate member to the Board.

Board members and alternates at the end of 2016 were Peter Marshall, R.P.F. (Chairman) 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.), Ontario Professional Foresters Association; Germain Paré, ing.

f. and Jean-Louis Brown, 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; Ian Millar, R.P.F. and Robert Young, 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 2017.

As a member, the Board remained fully active during the year in the meetings and activities of the CFPFA and the joint CFPFA-AUFSC collaborative undertaking (Competency Review Working Group) to review and, potentially, adjust the requirements for certification to broaden the base of academic backgrounds and career paths considered acceptable for professional forestry practice in Canada. Work was significantly advanced during the year with full reworkings of all existing standards nearing completion. Five new specialization standards have been developed to address areas of forest practice that have come more fully into play since the implementation of the current standards in 2008. The revisions and additions will be presented to CFPFA member agencies during the year for approval at which time, if approved, review and revision of the accreditation standards employed by the CFAB will be triggered.

The Board is a full member of the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC) which includes some 36 professional disciplines in its membership. Typically, the Association meets once each year to consider items of mutual accreditation interest and to share accreditation experience.

The CFAB Annual Report for 2015, including the then current record of accredited programs, was published in the April 2016 issue of *The Forestry Chronicle*.

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. The CFAB maintains a website containing pertinent information on Board activity at <www.cfab.ca>.

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

January 2017

**STATUS OF CFAB PROGRAM ACCREDITATIONS
AT CANADIAN SCHOOLS OF FORESTRY
DECEMBER 2016**

September 2011

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

Accredited for six years to June 30, 2017

September 2011

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, 2017

September 2012

University of British Columbia, Faculty of Forestry, Forestry Program, 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

Accredited for six years to June 30, 2018

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

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

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