

Summary of ABCFP Practice Review Findings for 2012

In 2012, a total of 70 members went through some sort of review. ABCFP staff carried out practice reviews on 67 members chosen at random. Additionally, one of the members randomly selected for a practice review, chose to conduct a peer review instead. Finally two mandatory peer reviews were conducted as part of a discipline process. Of the 70 reviews, 48 were conducted on RPFs and 22 were conducted on RFTs.

The following is a summary of the findings from these reviews.

As in the past three years, results were generally encouraging. All members reviewed:

1. Annually engaged in continuing education activities to maintain their competency.
2. Worked within their authorized scopes of practice and in areas of practice where they were competent.
3. Were able to retrieve work records (adequate filing).
4. Practised an adequate amount of quality assurance and due diligence.
5. Consulted with specialists and other qualified professionals when applicable.
6. Had adequate resources to carry out their work.

General Findings Sixty-four percent of the practice reviews in 2012 were perfect with no mandatory instructions given. This result is up from 46% in 2011.

Remedial recommendations were issued on the remaining 36% of the reviews and ABCFP staff followed up on the implementation of these recommendations where appropriate.

Members can use the following summary of remedial recommendations as direction for their practices:

1. Lack of signing and sealing/stamping professional work continued in 2012, but was less common than in past years and dropped to 6%.
2. The most significant concern in 2012 was with respect to the use of professional designations in members' e-mail signatures and other completed professional work. At 17%, this was the most common issue, but it also was less common than the 20% reported in 2011. Members must include their professional designation in e-mail signatures and all other completed professional work documents.
3. Four percent of practice reviews lacked adequate professional development plans generated from self-assessments. Once members complete their annual self-assessment, it is important to record action items in a professional development plan and include the date when these action items are achieved. Again, this was a reduction from the 14% reported in 2011.
4. For members working on their own or in small organizations, it is important to ensure all digital files are backed up off site to prevent catastrophic loss. There was an increase in the occurrence of this issue to 4%.
5. Several issues had only a single occurrence. These were: insufficient use of daily record keeping, inadequate tracking of professional development, and failure to complete annual self-assessments.

Overall there was a significant improvement in the findings during the practice reviews. Since most reviewed members share their learning experience with their colleagues, this trend towards improved compliance with the basic continuing competency requirements can be expected to continue.

Significant Negative Findings

There was one incident of a significant negative finding (failure to complete the annual self-assessment) which resulted in a remedial recommendation and will require follow up by association staff over the next several years to ensure compliance with the requirements. This incident is the first situation of a significant negative finding in the four years practice reviews have been conducted. While one occurrence in the 140 reviews conducted to date indicates a uniformly high level of responsible practice, it also serves as a reminder that in order to fulfill its responsibility to ensure competent practice of forestry in BC, the association must continue to provide a practice review service to its members.

Feedback from Members

The reviews also offered the opportunity for members to express issues of concern. The most common of these, in order of frequency were:

- resolution of issues associated with the use of the seal and digital signing (noted above),
- more training opportunities, particularly better and more frequent training opportunities designed for access by people in remote locations,
- a need for member support by the association in public complaint situations,
- better delineation of the roles between RFTs and RPFs; and the issue of dual positions in government, and
- the relatively recent dues increase.

A number of members also expressed their appreciation for the role that the association has played in recent forestry issues such as the provincial inventory and AAC. A number of members also commented on the practice review process itself noting that they found it to be a positive experience.

If anyone has questions about the practice review process, please contact Brian Robinson, RPF, director of professional development and member relations at brobinson@abcfp.ca or Jim Crover, RPF, practice review specialist at jcrover@abcfp.ca.