

ABCFP 2014 Member Survey Results

Table of Contents

Demographic Make Up of the ABCFP Membership 3
Awareness of Key ABCFP Initiatives 4
ABCFP Service Delivery..... 4
Interactions with ABCFP Staff 5
Member Comments 5

In October 2014 we asked members to tell us how the ABCFP was performing some of our basic duties. We thank the members who took the time to respond and who left us detailed comments.

One issue of note is that there was an error in this survey caused by a server reboot at our survey provider (Fluid Surveys). This reboot, which took place approximately five minutes before we sent the survey invitations to our members, caused the survey to revert to a previous version. The result was that many districts were left out of the question that asked members to identify where they worked. We corrected this error as soon as we became aware of it; however, if you completed the survey in the first hour after the invitations were sent, you would have noticed the missing districts. In addition, some members received multiple copies of the survey invitation; however, the system only allows for each person to submit one set of survey responses. We apologize for any confusion this error caused.

Demographic Make Up of the ABCFP Membership

Age: The majority of members (58%*) are between 40 and 59 years old. Only 22% are younger than 40 and 17% are older than 59 (3% chose not to answer).

Gender: 77% of members are male and 17% are female (6% chose not to answer this question).

Employer Group: The three big employer groups are government (34%), industry (27%); and consultants (26%). 6% of members report being retired.

Length of Membership with the ABCFP: 27% of respondents have been a member for 6-10 years while 19% have been a member for fewer than 6 years and 10% have been a member for over 31 years

*All numbers in this report have been rounded to the nearest whole percentage.

Awareness of Key ABCFP Initiatives

Natural Resource Professional Designation

- 61% of respondents are aware of the designation and 56% understand that the designation will include a certificate of accreditation with a limited scope of practice.

ForesTrust – We asked members to tell us which of two options they prefer on how to distribute ForesTrust moneys

- 53% of respondents were in favour of continuing to provide scholarships and bursaries
- 47% of respondents were in favour of funding forest education efforts

Forest Science

- 90% of respondents agree that they are aware of the science necessary to conduct elements of professional practice while 10% report that they are not aware

ABCFP Service Delivery

Not all questions add up to 100% because not all respondents answered each question.

How satisfied are you with the way the association provides you with guidance with respect to forest practices legislation?

- 84% are satisfied or very satisfied
- 17% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied

How satisfied are you with the way the association provides you with guidance with respect to standards of practice?

- 84% are satisfied or very satisfied
- 16% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied

I am receiving the advice I need in order to practise forestry efficiently and effectively.

- 68% say yes
- 18% say no

How satisfied are you with the job the association does to enforce the *Foresters Act*?

- 54% are satisfied or very satisfied
- 28% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied

How satisfied are you with the work the association has done to enforce the bylaws?

- 62% are satisfied or very satisfied
- 19% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied

How satisfied are you with the work the ABCFP has been doing in promoting good forest stewardship?

- 76% are satisfied or very satisfied
- 25% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied

Do you understand the meaning and application of professional reliance in the context of managing BC's forests and natural resources?

- 93% say yes
- 7% say no

How satisfied are you with the way The Increment lets you know what's happening in advocacy and operations at the association?

- 93% are satisfied or very satisfied
- 7% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied

How strongly do you agree with: As a member, I understand my role and responsibilities in managing BC's forests?

- 97% agree or strongly agree
- 3% disagree or strongly disagree

Interactions with ABCFP Staff

- 62% of respondents who had non-membership renewal related interactions with the ABCFP are either satisfied or very satisfied with their interactions.
- A large portion of respondents (30%) reported that they didn't have any non-membership renewal interactions with staff.

We also asked members about their membership-renewal interactions with staff.

- 93% are satisfied or very satisfied
- 7% are unsatisfied or very unsatisfied

Member Comments

We thank the 152 members who took the time to leave us very thoughtful comments and suggestions. The comments have been shared with the appropriate staff members.

One of the areas that received a large number of comments was the application process and the ASFIT application process. Some members commented that the exams were too easy and should be made more difficult. Others felt that there wasn't really a need for an exam at all and more emphasis should be placed on the articling period. The ASFIT application process with the required competency assessment was deemed by many to be overly cumbersome. The ABCFP is currently looking at our registration process to see if we should make change, and, if so, what those changes should be. Earlier this year we conducted several focus groups to learn from newly registered members, sponsors, and employers. Look for more information on this review in the coming months.

Another concern was with a perceived "watering down" of the RPF designation. A few members told us that they worry about the value of an RPF designation is being eroded by the RFT designation of the new NRP designation. All three designations have different scopes of

practice so we don't agree that the RPF designation is being devalued. Some of the angst may be coming from members who see dual postings (job postings requiring either an RPF or RFT designation) for government positions. We are working with the government to ensure that jobs that include the full scope of the practice of professional forestry are only filled by RPFs. Jobs that incorporate the RFT scope of practice can be filled by either an RFT or an RPF.

The forest roads crossings issue is top of mind for many members. Some members felt that adding a requirement to follow the guidelines to the bylaws was going too far. Others wanted the ABCFP to punish the members involved in building the bridges that were deemed to be unsafe in the Forest Practices Board report. The work on this important issue isn't over. Ensuring that all forest road users have access to safe crossings will continue to be a priority.

Another topic that is top of mind for many members is professional reliance. Many members feel that professional reliance has gone too far while others say it hasn't gone far enough. Some members implored the ABCFP to do more work to ensure professional reliance is a success. Others took a more pessimistic view and felt that professional reliance would lead to more discipline cases. We will continue to work with members and employers to make professional reliance a success.