

# Technical Agrologist (TAg)



# Purpose

- Introduced for Reserved Practice (practice rights), now in force (as of September 2021)
- Assists with those that don't meet **PAg** requirements
- Aligns with partner organizations and other provincial agrology institutes
- Fills gaps in Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) areas of practice

# Rationale

- *Professional Governance Act (PGA)*: “Serve and protect the public interest..”
- Provides another avenue for those working in the practice of agrology to become registered professionals
- Clear gaps with agrology-related jobs that do not fit the scope of practice of other provincial regulators
  - ASTTBC does not have an agrology or agriculture scope of practice

# Benefits to the Registrant

- Benefits for a Person to Register as a **TAg**:
  - registration in a professional regulatory organization
  - professional development opportunities
  - recognition of academic training
  - employment opportunities and higher wages
  - insurance benefits
  - eligible to transfer to other provinces
  - Compliance with Reserved Practice (practice rights)

# Scope of Practice

- Scope of Practice is:
  - declared at time of application
  - reviewed by Registrar, Deputy Registrar and/or Credentials Committee to ensure in line with education, training, and experience
  - change in the scope of practice must provide affirmation of competence to BCIA via formal request and must be approved
  - recognized that most diploma programs are limited to two years and do not fully explore relationships between disciplines as a bachelor's degree would

# Restricted Practice

- **TAg**s may practice independently with a restricted scope of practice which.....
  - Allows for:
    - collection of data, to operate equipment, make recommendations to other professionals
  - Does not allow for:
    - sign off on documents that specifically require a **PAg** authorization
  - Prevents:
    - advising, interpreting, or recommending in situations where they may present a risk to the public
- Mirrors Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA) and College of Applied Biologists (CAB) of BC

# Entrance Requirements

- Entrance Option 1: Approved Diploma Program
  - BCIA has a prepared list of approved programs
  - Criteria includes 60 total credits, 60% must be agrology related
- Entrance Option 2: Non-Approved Diploma Program
  - Graduation from a college diploma program not on approved list, will be reviewed in full by Registrar/Deputy Registrar and the Credentials Committee
  - Applies where programs are not as prescriptive and elective categories are not consistent across applicants
- Entrance Option 3: Applicants with Degrees
  - Degree does not meet requirements of a **PAg**
  - Applicant will be subject to practice limitations of a **TAg**

# Articling Program

- New registrants must complete the Articling Program prior to achieving **TAg** of which includes:
  - Articling Technical Agrologist (**ATAg**) designation
  - a two-year articling term
  - completing various program elements and milestones
  - being employed in the practice of agrology for two years
  - mentored by a **TAg** or **PAg**
  - may be eligible for term reduction; assessed only at time of application

# Upgrade to AAg or PAg status

- Any **ATAg or TAg** is eligible to upgrade their education to meet the requirements for **AAg or PAg** designation
  - some foundational courses in a diploma program may not meet foundational course requirements for a degree (i.e. Math vs Applied Math)
  - Outstanding courses must be endorsed/confirmed by the Deputy Registrar: Registration before enrolling

# Rights of Registration

- **TAgs** and **ATAgs** have the same rights of registration as **PAg** and **AAg**, respectively such as:
  - voting rights
  - ability to serve on the Board
  - ability to serve on committees or working groups

# Registration and Application Fees

- The Board approved that fees mirror **PAg** and **AAg** fees to reflect the standard of work expected by, and protection of the public, placed on work of the **TAg** or **ATAg**
  - Check the [Fee Schedule](#)
  - Apply at [www.bcia.com](http://www.bcia.com)