



# BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF AGROLOGISTS


## OKANAGAN BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

12:40 PM

RAMADA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER, KELOWNA, BC

# Indigenous Territory Recognition



BCIA Okanagan Chapter  
AGM

02 February 2026



# Performative vs Substantive Action

- Difference between Performative and Substantive
  - Performative: Surface-level action, temporary, no long-term commitment
  - Substantive: Concrete, measurable reconciliation actions
- UNDRIP Actions your organization can implement
  - FPIC (Free, Prior, Informed Consent)
  - Indigenous Partnership in Resource Development
  - Support for Indigenous Jurisdiction
  - Training, Policy
- What are we doing as individuals to support Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination

With Gratitude for the opportunity to present today  
here on the homeland of the Sylix People







# Welcome to the 2026 Okanagan Branch AGM

## Call to Order

## Confirmation of Notice and Quorum

235 Members in the Okanagan Branch

*84 members registered for the AGM*

*(Quorum is 10% of branch registrants)*



**OKANAGAN BRANCH  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025-2026**

Monday February 2, 2026 at 12:40pm  
Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, Kelowna, BC

**AGENDA**

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER
12:40pm	Traditional Territory Acknowledgement	Maureen Grainger
12:55pm	Welcome & Call to Order	Andrew Kuiper
12:55pm	Confirmation of Notice and Quorum	Andrew Kuiper
12:55pm	Motion to Approve the Agenda	Andrew Kuiper
1:00pm	Motion to Approve Minutes Past (2024)	Andrew Kuiper
1:00pm	Branch Executive Reports <input type="checkbox"/> President's Report <input type="checkbox"/> Articling Coordinator's Report <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development Coordinator's Report <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer's Report	Andrew Kuiper Logan Pay Sarah Carlson Stephanie Lindberg
1:20pm	Provincial Report – CEO & Registrar	Jennifer Lawrence (Recording)
1:45pm	Articling Introductions	Logan Pay
2:15pm	Branch Awards <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Achievement Award <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Family of the Year Award <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Year Recognition <input type="checkbox"/> 50 Year Recognition	Jose Garcia
2:20pm	Election of Officers	Andrew Kuiper
2:30pm	Adjournment	Andrew Kuiper

---

# MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA: JOSE GARCIA SECONDER:

***Discussion and Vote: All in Favour, Opposed, and Any  
Abstaining***

***MOTION***





- 1) Territorial acknowledgement by Maureen Grainger
- 2) Call to order: 12:54 PM
- 3) Confirm quorum for meeting - yes, we have quorum
- 4) Motion to accept AGM meeting agenda - Jose Garcia makes motion, Stephanie Lindberg seconded - Passed
- 5) BCIA Update - Jennifer Lawrence, CEO
  - focus on relationships, regulatory compliance, strategic plan, governance and operations
  - Value authenticity, transparency, clarity
  - Regulatory compliance - BCIA acts for public interest, not member interest; public interest is key for organization
  - Board is finalizing a short term strategic plan - expedited process because BCIA hasn't had one - will be a more thorough process when we do another one, including member engagement, etc - members are always welcome to contact Jennifer
  - Operations includes compliance, governance support, fiscal stewardship, Truth and reconciliation training, collaboration
  - Introduced BCIA staff
  - Q & A
    - Biggest challenge facing BCIA in 2025? Meeting regulatory requirements while being fiscally responsible
    - Clarify BCIA standards and policies? Includes entrance qualifications, investigation procedures, etc. Need to be cleaned up so that we can defend our position if needed.
    - How does
- 6) Motion to accept minutes from 2024 AGM - Jose Garcia makes motion, seconded by Matt Davidson - passed
- 7) President report - as per AGM report, Andrew Kuiper
- 8) Articling Coordinator Report - as per AGM report, Logan Pay
- 9) PD Coordinator Report - as per AGM report, Sarah Carlson and Stephanie Lindbert
- 10) Treasurer Report - as per AGM report, Andrew Kuiper for Theresa Loewen
- 11) Motion to accept proposed budget for 2025
  - Q & A
    - Why is revenue ½ of last year? This is an estimate for the year; we don't know how much revenue will come into the branch from events, etc.
    - What is the branch allocation from head office? Its based on the number of registrants in each branch. BCIA is a regulator now, under the BC Professional Governance Act, so a majority of the function of head office is to be a regulator, which is expensive. Head office performs a lot of functions now that it didn't when BCIA was an association.
  - Jose Garcia makes motion, seconded by Logan Pay - passed

# Acceptance of Minutes Past

- 2025 AGM Minutes were posted on January 16<sup>th</sup> for membership review
- No errors or edits were brought to our attention



---

# MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES PAST: JOSE GARCIA SECONDER:

***Discussion and Vote: All in Favour, Opposed, and Any  
Abstaining***

***MOTION***



- Membership in the Okanagan Branch has grown by 10 members in the past year to a total of 235. This includes 164 Professional Agrologists, 34 Articling Agrologists, 18 Technical Agrologists, 7 Articling Technical Agrologists, 9 Student Members, and 3 Limited Licence Members
- Thank you to the 2025 Executive: Jose Garcia (President/Chair Elect), Luke Dimler and Sarah Carlson (PD Coordinators), Logan Pay (Articling Coordinator), Stephanie Lindberg (Treasurer), Melissa Graydon (Secretary), Maureen Grainger (Director Central), Christina Forbes (Director South), Sally Ruoss (Student Rep), and Alana Crump and Carl Withler (Members at Large). These are the people who volunteer their time behind the scenes to ensure our branch runs smoothly and provides our membership with the PD and social events you see throughout the year. I am very excited for the next chapter of the executive now that my time as Chair is finished and look forward to seeing what this fine group of individuals accomplishes going forwards.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



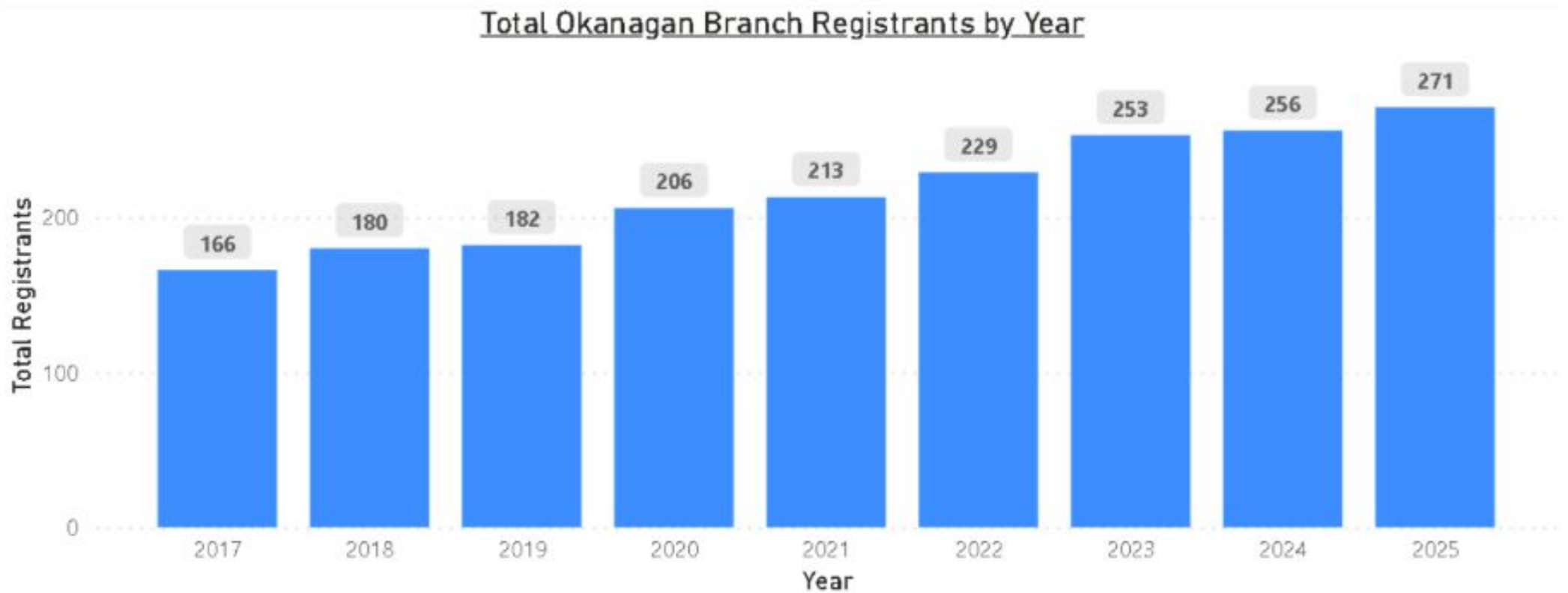


Statistics:

7 New PAGs since last Branch AGM		4 New TAGs since last Branch AGM		2 New LLAGs since last Branch AGM		19 New AAGs since last Branch AGM		4 New ATAGs since last Branch AGM		3 New Students since last Branch AGM	
Trevor	Baker	Charity	Edser	Robert	Gass	Ammar	Ahmed	Elaine	Desjarlais	Marissa	Brunetti
Jonas	Bateman	Julie	Ellison	Susan	Wolfe	Hallie	Barker	Maria	Durfeld	Jessica	Mayes
Erin	Carlson	Sophia	Goertsen			Leanne	Bentsen	Marlon	Forrest	Talli	Richardson
Bart	Fieten	Logan	Pay			Brian	Beulah	Levyn	Radomske		
Kenneth	Galloway					Tanya	Brouwers				
Cole	Schweb					Abigail	Chapman				
Viviana	Toledo					Renan	da Silva Macedo				
						Hannah	Friesen				
						Sarah	Gafner-Bergeron				
						Carter	Hildebrand				
						Kimberly	Kennedy				
						Chloe	Kushner				
						Conor	McCune				
						Juan	Paez Ruiz				
						Megan	Postnikoff				
						Harjinder	Singh				
						Karen	Smith				
						Jody	Wright				
						Natasha	Wuthrich				

# ARTICLING COORDINATOR REPORT

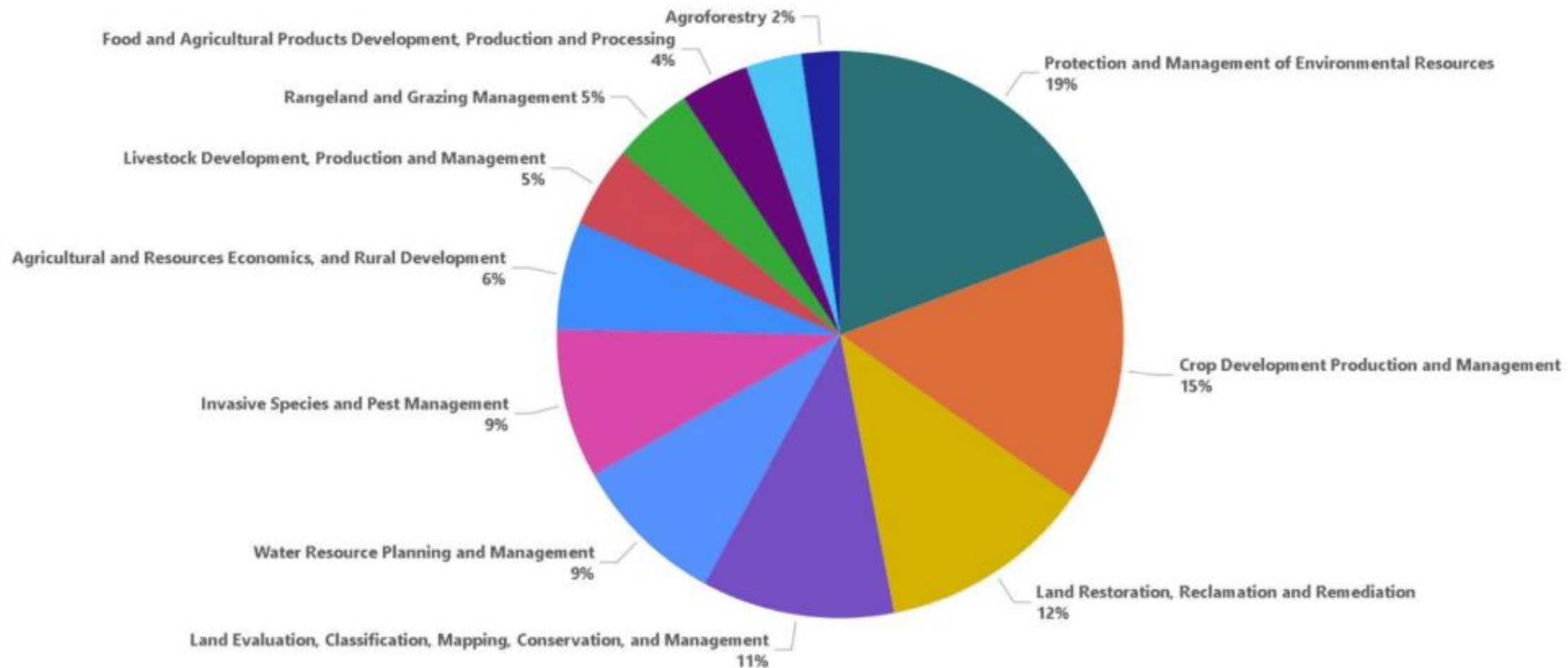
# A little context...



*\*Including retired, on leave, and student registrants.*



### 2025 Okanagan Branch Practice Area Distribution



*\*Including retired and on leave. Including all declared practice area sub-sectors.*



## PD Events

- Exploring Artificial Intelligence in Agrology: Opportunities and Considerations - Feb 25, 2025
- Growing Smarter: Irrigation Innovation & Efficiency - Jun 27, 2025
- Syilx 13-Month Calendar Workshop - Aug 25, 2025

## Field Tours

- Regional Composting Facility Tour - April 24, 2025
- Wildfire & Grasslands Walking Tour - April 26, 2025
- Sncewips Heritage Museum - June 10, 2025
- Syilx Traditional Plant Use Walking Tour - July 10, 2025
- Syilx Traditional Plant Use Walking Tour - Aug 13, 2025
- Sncewips Community Core Tour - Aug 18, 2025

## Networking Socials

- Okanagan Speed Networking Night - May 14, 2025
- Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science Trivia Night - Nov 25, 2025
- Penticton Holiday Social - Dec 16, 2025
- Vernon Holiday Social - Dec 17, 2025
- Kelowna Holiday Social - Dec 18, 2025

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT





## Upcoming Events

### **Get to Know the Okanagan Basin Water Board**

February 5, 2026

Creekside Pub & Grill, Kelowna 6-8pm

### **Southern Interior Horticultural Show**

February 11-12, 2026

Penticton, BC

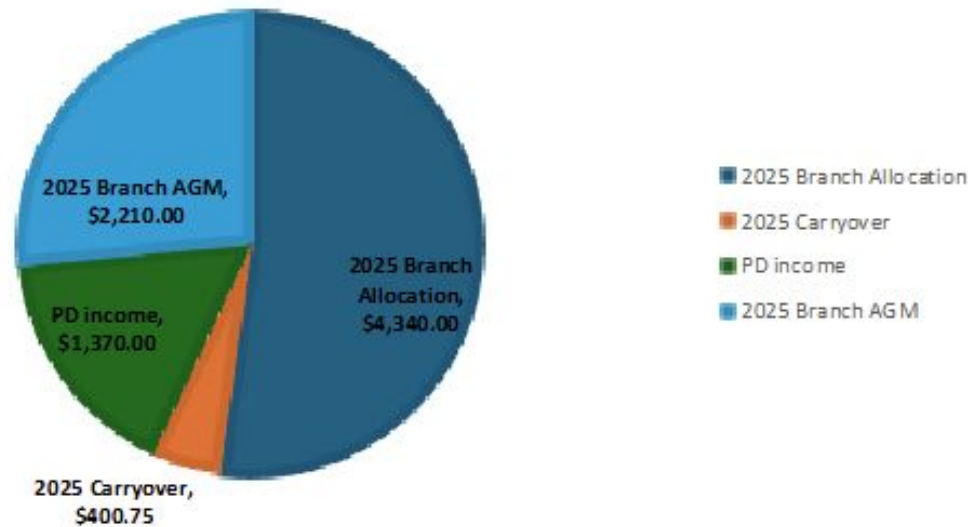
### **Soil Agricultural Capability Tour**

Spring 2026 - TBD

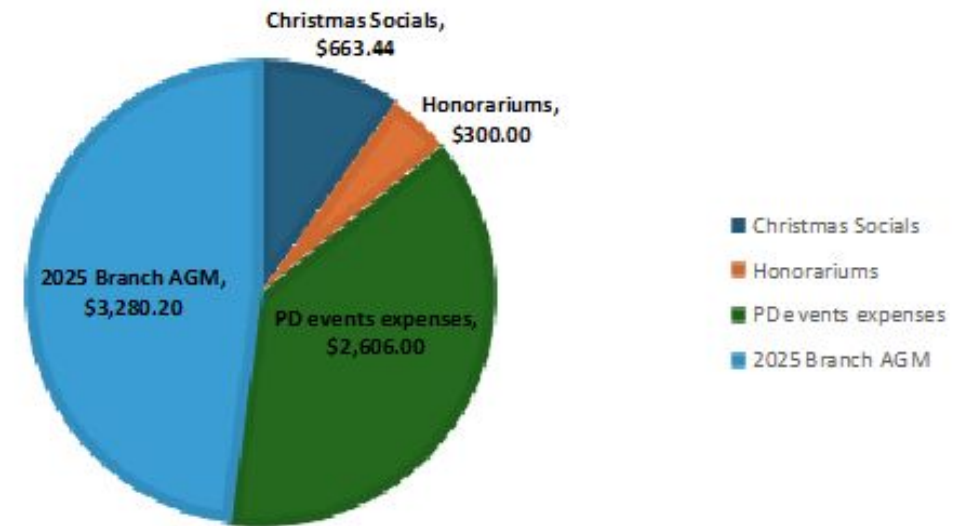
# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

# TREASURER'S REPORT: 2025 FINANCIALS

## 2025 OKANAGAN BRANCH REVENUE



## 2025 OKANAGAN BRANCH EXPENSES



**Total Revenue: \$8,320.75**

**Total Expenses: \$6,649.64**

**Net Surplus: \$1,471.11**

---

# TREASURER'S REPORT: 2025 Branch Funding

- BCIA transitioning to new cost recovery funding model
- Most branch events going forward will include modest registration fee.
- Change is to meet regulatory requirements of the Professional Governance Act
- Will be a fund branches can apply to in order to offset costs of higher-cost and specialized offerings
- Expected branch deliverables for 2026
- For more information see What to Know ABout Branch Funding for 2026 article posted to BCIA website on Jan 28, 2026.



---

## Video from BCIA CEO & Registrar



# Articling Member Oral Presentations

## Welcome to all new Members!

- Kurstin Barta, ATAg
- Brian Beulah, AAg
- Tanya Brouwers, AAg
- Abigail Chapman, AAg
- Hannah Friesen, AAg
- Alannah Jagpal, AAg
- Jane Jenkins, AAg
- Renan Macedo, AAg
- Madison Poole, AAg
- Pankaj Sharma, AAg
- Savannah Shirley, AAg
- Harjinder Singh, AAg
  - Karen Smith, AAg
  - Jody Wright, AAg
- Natasha Wuthrich, AAg

# Kurstin Barta, ATAg



- I am an Articling Technical Agrologist (ATAg) with experience in environmental and agricultural systems.
- I hold an Applied Environmental Science degree, focused on Industrial Ecology and systems-based sustainability from Calgary, AB, which led me into roles applying science-based solutions across production and environmental management.
- My BCIA practice areas include Crop Development, Production and Management & Protection and Management of Environmental Resources.
- My career includes experience as a Plant Health Manager in a commercial nursery, I played a key role in developing and implementing preventive plant health systems, regulatory audits, and biological agriculture strategies in a tree nursery setting, achieving significant reductions in pesticide use.
- I previously worked as a Junior Biologist, supporting fisheries assessments and environmental monitoring, and as a Junior Scientist, conducting contaminated site investigations and technical reporting for the oil & gas sector in Alberta. I also held roles applying Industrial Ecology principles, including researching green material alternatives and optimizing production processes, resulting in improved efficiency and reduced waste streams.
- I currently work with a civil engineering company in Salmon Arm, where I support with Riparian Area Assessments (RAPRs), site plans with AutoCAD, MWR registrations, environmental compliance and permitting, development permitting, revegetation planning, and Clean Plant audits for the nursery.



# Brian Beulah



- B.Sc. Earth and Ocean Science 2011 - UBC Vancouver
- Updated with courses in Environmental Engineering Technology - BCIT 2013-2014
- Started as a mining geologist, moved into environmental after going to BCIT.
- Have worked in a variety of industries including mining, contaminated sites, and most recently solid waste.
- Currently work in environmental compliance for the City of Kelowna's Glenmore landfill. My main focus is the landfill gas system, also support all other compliance activities including water and air quality.

# Tanya Brouwers, M.Sc.

**About me:** passionate about sustainable agriculture having farmed crops and livestock for many years; love hiking, paddling and most recently biathlon.

**Areas of interest:** sustainable crop & livestock production and management, agroforestry, and restoration & reclamation, especially riparian restoration efforts within livestock industry.

**Professional experience:** BCLL coordinator for TRU, Crop and livestock organic verification for 17 years, proprietor of Wild Edge Ecological, Environmental Science instructor at OK College, Darke Creek ranch co-owner/operator.





## Abigail Chapman



- Beekeeper, studying honey bee health and UBC Vancouver since 2017
- Completed PhD in 2024
- Research investigated the impact of virus infection on honey bee queen health and reproductive potential.
- Has worked with queen-breeding beekeeper, EMily Huxter in Armstrong for past 3 summers.
- Currently employed as a Postdoctoral Fellow at UBC in collaboration with Ms. Huxter on a multi-year research project aiming to develop and refine new management practices to improve the overwintering of small colonies as a means to increase the availability of locally-adapted honey bee stock in BC.





## Hannah Friesen

Hannah Friesen is an Articling Agrologist and Research Affiliate with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, working in applied agricultural research in perennial cropping systems in the Okanagan Valley. She has a background in soil science and entomology, with experience in soil nutrient management, insect monitoring, landscape evaluation and mapping, and ecological modelling. Her current research focuses on how vegetation management and landscape context influence beneficial organisms, with applications to sustainable viticulture and integrated pest management. Having lived and worked on farms across British Columbia and grown up in a farming community in Northern BC, Hannah brings a practical, hands-on perspective to her work and is motivated by bridging research with real-world decision-making.

# ALANNAH JAGPAL

Mentor: Leah Riley



## EDUCATION

**SCHOOL:** UBC

**DEGREE:** Bachelor of Science in Applied Biology

**MAJOR:** Sustainable Agriculture & Environment

**PRACTICUM:** UBC Dairy Education & Research

- Health and Reproduction

## EMPLOYMENT

- **WORKPLACE:** Terralink Horticulture
- **ROLL:** Technical Support; Richardson Seed & Forage

## PRACTICE AREAS



- Crop Development Production & Management
- Livestock Development, production and Management
- Agroforestry



# Jane Jenkins, BSc., BIT, AAgr

## Areas of Practice:

- ▶ Land Evaluation, Classification, Mapping, Conservation, and Management
- ▶ Protection and Management of Environmental Resources
- ▶ Land Restoration, Reclamation and Remediation

## Academic Background:

- UNBC BSc. in Wildlife and Fisheries
- NAIT Bio Sci Tech Diploma in Renewable Resources

## Professional Experience:

- Roy Northern Environmental Ltd. (recently merged with Aim Land Services Ltd.) – Environmental Scientist and Project Manager





# Renan da Silva Macedo, AAg

BCIA – Okanagan Branch (District 2) | Data Scientist (Agriculture) | Semios



## Bio

Agricultural professional with combined experience in field agronomy, applied research, and digital agriculture, focused on using data to support practical, on-farm decision-making.



## Areas of Interest / Practice



Digital Agriculture & Decision Support



Pest, Disease & Invasive Species Management



Soil, Climate & Irrigation Management



Land & Water Resource Planning



Sustainable & Climate-Resilient Agriculture

## Professional Experience

### Data Scientist – Semios (Canada, 2021–present)



Develop data-driven tools for pest, disease, nutrition, and irrigation management



Integrate climate, soil, imagery, and field data using statistics and machine learning

### Agronomist & Field Researcher (Brazil)



Hands-on experience working directly with growers, trials, and field data



Background in crop protection, experimental design, and applied agricultural research

### Ph.D. in Agronomy (Plant Protection)



International research experience and peer-reviewed publications



Awarded Junior Fellowship, British Society of Plant Pathology (UK)



## Community Involvement

Volunteer Member – Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO). Appointed member, Regional Agricultural Advisory Committee (2025–2027)

## Madison Poole



Hello everyone! My name is Madison Poole and I am an AAg with the Okanagan-District 2 Branch of the BCIA. I graduated with my BSc in Environmental Science with a minor in Aquatic Science from the University of Northern British Columbia in May 2024. My area of practice is Water Resource Planning and Management. My relevant work experience includes two Water Quality Co-ops with the City of Kelowna, where I focused on drinking water and drainage water quality and source protection. Currently, I am working for the City of Chilliwack as a Utilities Environment Specialist. My role includes environmental support for the drinking water and sanitary sewer infrastructure, including water conservation, source control, Indigenous consultation, identifying potential drinking water sources, groundwater protection, and managing environmental monitoring projects.





# Articling Registrant – AGM

- Name & Designation: Pankaj Sharma, AAg
  - Location: Kelowna, British Columbia
  - Mentor: Leah Riley
  - Educational Background: Bachelor of Science in Agriculture
  - Main Area of Practice: Crop Production and Management
  - Current Role: Sales Representative, Terralink Horticulture

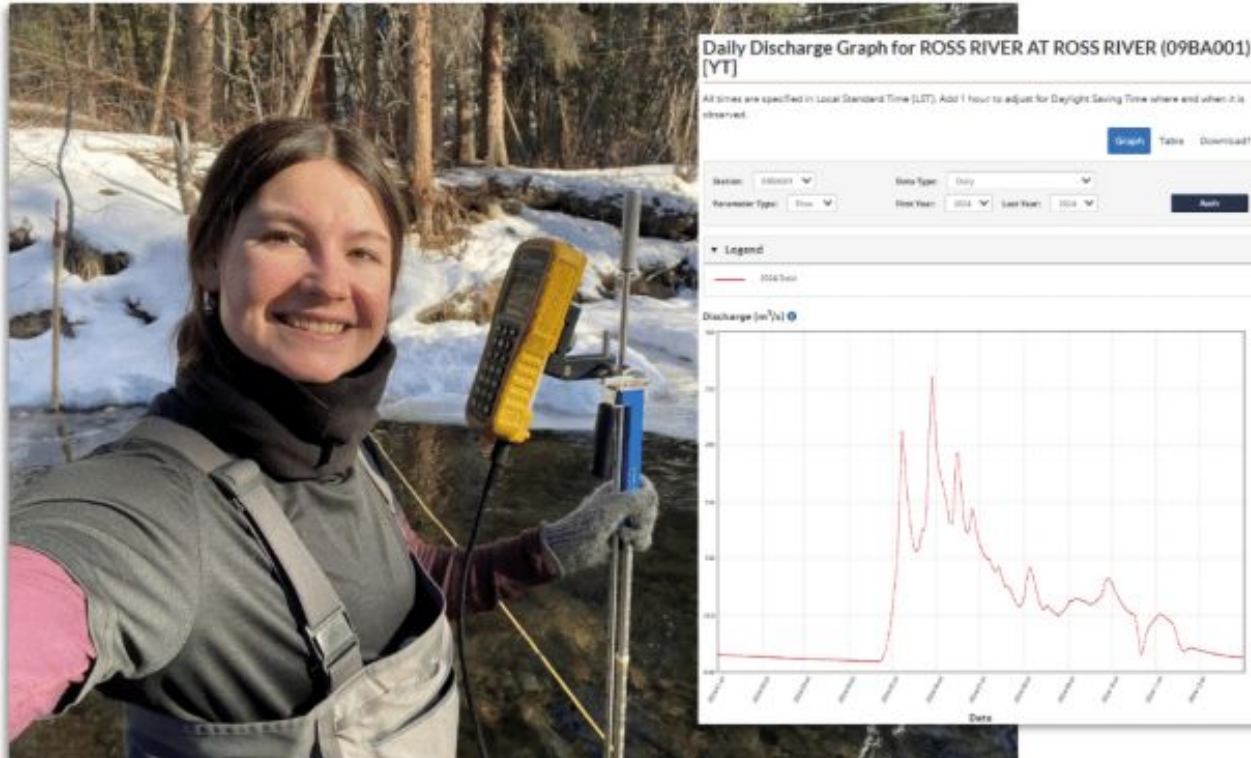


# Savannah Shirley A.Ag.

Vernon, BC

Current Job: Environmental Program Officer for  
National Hydrological Services (Environment Canada)

Education: BSci in Environmental Science, SFU



## Practice Areas:

- Land Evaluation, Classification, Mapping, Conservation, and Management
- Water Resource Planning and Management
- Protection and Management of Environmental Resources
- Land Restoration, Reclamation and Remediation
- Invasive Species and Pest Management



# Oral Presentation

## Harjinder Singh

I am experienced agricultural graduate based in Penticton, BC with a lifelong passion for helping various stakeholders involved in agricultural industries. I grew up in a farming family and moved to Canada from India in 2021. I have hands-on agricultural experience with a background which has given me deep insights into farmers' issues, challenges, and opportunities faced by agricultural industries.

### **Professional Experience:**

August 2025 to continue - Sales Representative - TerraLink Horticulture Inc., Canada

January 2022 to August 2025- Quality assurance associate - Nighthawk Cannabis Inc., Canada

December 2018 to November 2021- Senior Research Fellow - Punjab Agricultural University, Punjab, India

August 2018- December 2018- Bee Professional - Punjab Agricultural University, Punjab, India

### **Academic background:**

MSc (Agriculture) Genetics and Plant Breeding – Punjabi University, Punjab, India – May 2016-August 2018

BSc Agriculture (Hons.) – Guru Kashi University, Punjab, India, May 2012 – May 2016

### **Area of practice:**

Crop Development Production and Management

Food and Agricultural Products Development, Production and Processing

### **Mentor:**

Leah Riley

Division Manager, TerraLink Horticulture Inc., Canada



# Karen Smith - BSc, MBA, AAg (on leave)

- Bachelor of Science (Agricultural Economics), MBA
- Experience in Food and Wine Marketing
- Agricultural Economics
- Currently seeking employment in Agriculture
- Smith Family Farm, member of BX Farm Tour, Agritourism







**Jody Wright, PhD**  
**Co-Founder / General Manager / Viticulturist**  
**Rigour & Whimsy Wines**

**RIGOUR**  
**& WHIMSY**



# Natasha Wuthrich, B.Sc., A.Ag.

## About Me

*I am a recent graduate from UBC Okanagan with an undergraduate degree in Earth and Environmental Sciences. I'm passionate about spending time outdoors, and my favourite activities include climbing, hiking, running, yoga, skiing, and ice climbing. When I'm not outside, you can usually find me with my two cats, Moose and Mabel, or relaxing while knitting, playing chess, or reading.*

## Areas of Interest

*Soils • Vegetation • Wetlands • Wildlife • Water Resources*

## Professional Experience

- *Associated Environmental – Environmental Scientist*
  - *Water and Climate Services.*
  - *Applied Ecology (Agricultural Capability and Assessments).*
- *Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Canadian Wildlife Services Branch – Whitehorse, YT.*
  - *GIS, information and data management.*
  - *Wildlife research and field support.*
- *Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Science & Technology Branch – Yellowknife, NT.*
  - *Water quality monitoring for the Athabasca Oil Sands.*
  - *Field sampling, data analysis, and reporting support.*



# Okanagan Branch Awards



**Lifetime Achievement**  
*Scott Smith, PAg*



## 25 Year Recognition

- *Lisa Jarret, PAg*
- *Lindsay Paterson, PAg*

## 50 Year Recognition

- *Paul Christie, PAg (Retired)*





Jose Garcia, PAg



Sarah Carlson, PAg

# NOMINATIONS FOR 2025 EXECUTIVE

## **Automatic Transitional:**

Chair: Jose Garcia, PAg

Vice Chair: Sarah Carlson, PAg

PD Coordinators: Luke Dimler, ATAg

Anastasia Ivanusic, PAg

Treasurer: Stephanie Lindberg, PAg



Luke Dimler, ATAg



Stephanie Lindberg, PAg



# NOMINATIONS FOR 2025 EXECUTIVE

## Nominations/by Acclamation

- Director North:
  - Kate Bulmer, PAg
- Director South:
  - Christina Forbes, PAg
- Director Central:
  - Maureen Grainger, PAg
- PD Coordinator:
  - Logan Pay, ATAg





# NOMINATIONS FOR 2024 EXECUTIVE

## Nominations/by Acclamation:

- Secretary:
  - Melissa Graydon, PAg
- Past Chair:
  - Andrew Kuiper, PAg
- Members at Large:
  - Carl Withler, PAg
  - Alana Crump, PAg
- Student Representative:
  - Sally Ruoss, UBCO





---

MOTION TO ADJOURN: JOSE GARCIA

SECONDER:

*MOTION*

THANK YOU TO ALL  
WHO ATTENDED

