



Victoria and Islands Branch Executive

Reports for October 20, 2021 Annual General Meeting

President's Report

The Victoria and Islands Branch Executive (VIBE) has demonstrated resilience, inventiveness, and adaptability during a period of societal transformation, as brought about by BC (Nov 2019) and Canada's (June 2021) adoption of UNDRIP; the Professional Governance Act (PGA) coming into effect (Feb 2021), and lastly – a Global Pandemic (2020 - ???).

Who we are: Our 2020/21 VIBE consisted of seasoned veterans making up slightly over half of our group, with an overwhelming number of us being focused on environmental practice. We brought forward an even split between government and non-government perspectives that has served us well during discussion of Agrology practice, role and responsibility of the VIBE, Professional Development opportunities, and means of supporting our Branch Members.

Our VIBE, at the outset, strongly supported professional development opportunities, which dovetailed to social/inter-collegial awareness goals, as well as local best practices and technical mentorship. Through the PD events and outreach efforts this past year, I feel that we have stayed true to that initial perspective and extended to include new voices such as: recent graduates; articling agrologists, practitioners with novel foreign experience; and agricultural foreign-worker stakeholders.

As a concurrent outcome from some PD events, our members were exposed to the legislation and realities of Regulatory and Practice Rights – particularly under the newly implemented PGA. Through implementation, the PGA has altered the fundamentals of Professional Agrology in B.C. with increased requirements for accountability, continuing education, training on indigenous issues and decorum between professions. I, like many, have had to pay particular attention to how this impacts my practice of Professional Agrology. Through that exercise, I feel that our Branch Members are well positioned to seamlessly adopt the PGA in their respective areas of practice.

Lastly, I miss our Branch Members – as a pandemic reality, our in-person events and social soiree have been curtailed. We have all adapted to a socially distanced and digital-office work environment, although I continue to lament the loss of casual discussion between colleagues in the cramped quarters of a soil test pit.

I look forward to what the 2021/22 VIBE will bring about, and how I can best support their vision for our Victoria & Islands Branch of the BC Institute of AgrologyAgrologists.

Prepared by:
Dr Thomas R. Elliot, PhD P.Geo, PAg
President, Victoria and Islands Branch, BCIA

Articulating Articling Agrologist Coordinator's Report

As of September 23, 2021, the Victoria and Islands Branch has 38 36 Articling Agrologists (AAg) and 64 Articling Technologists (ATAg) in Agrology. The branch accepted 18 11 new A.garticling registrants since the last AGM. We also have a total of 75 student members.

Our branch has had five seven AAg complete their articling requirements and gain their Professional Agrologist status over the course of the year. A big congratulations to the following members:

- Landon Benson
- Emily Carmichael
- Megan Wainwright
- Darren Stewart
- Cali Stazoe (nee Melnechenko)

Anne Molony

Erin Brown

The AAgThose articling continue to look for volunteer opportunities to fulfill the articling requirements, or through attendance at a branch Executive meeting.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, all the articling requirements that were previously offered in-person have been offered online; however, we are transitioning back into in-person events, while continuing to adhere to any applicable restrictions.

On behalf of the entire Executive, I would like to thank BCIA Staff: Laurena Olsen, Tess Karuvetti and Julia Henshall, who help keep track of newly minted PAgs/TAGs, new AAg articling registrantsmembers, branch transfers, and other tasks to help the Executive.

Prepared by:

Stephanie James, PAg

Articling Agrologist Coordinator, Victoria and Islands Branch, BCIA

Professional Development Coordinators' Report

During the 2021 PD Events, our members had the opportunity to virtually visit spots favoured by locals, as well as listen to our own professionals speak on topics of interest. Below are summaries of these events since January 2021.

1. Event name: Video tour of North Island Wildlife Recovery Association facility in Errington, BC – January 12, 2021

Event type: Pre-Recorded Virtual

Tour Location: Virtual

Description: Registrants were transported to September 2020 at the North Island Wildlife Recovery Association in Errington, BC. Dr. Lynne Brookes led a previously recorded tour of the facility introducing registrants to the role and efforts of the centre as well as long-term residence like Casey the bald eagle with a malformed wing. The video tour was followed up with a live question and answer period with Dr. Brookes.

2. Event name: British Columbia's Fossil Heritage - from resource management to tangible outcomes in the community - February 9, 2021

Event type:

Virtual

Description: Elisabeth Deom, PAg, gave a virtual presentation on implementing the Fossil Management Framework in BC and introduced registrants to a local fossil site. The presentation discussed the role of the Fossil Management Framework to protect and manage fossils for cultural tourism and rural economic development. Registrants learned that BC has an exceptional diversity of fossils and how these fossils can contribute to rural sustainability and diversification.

3. Event name: The Environmental Impacts of Cannabis Production – March 24, 2021 Event type: Webinar

Event type: Virtual

Description: Tom Ulanowski, AAg, hosted the first of a series of four virtual presentations related to the environmental impacts of Cannabis production. This presentation explored the regulated cannabis market, how cannabis is grown, and the energy balance of a conventional indoor cannabis grow operation.

4. Event name: Home is where the hops are: re-examining the host range of one aphid species in a new cannabis landscape – April 15, 2021

Event type:

Virtual

Description: Emily Carmicheal, PAAg, presented her graduate program research on

aphids in cannabis. The presentation explored research completed by Emily during her graduate studies on the host ranges of two similar aphid species, cannabis aphid and damson-hop aphid.

5. Event name: Conservation Agriculture: Principles and practice in Tanzania, Mozambique and Nicaragua – May 5, 2021

Event type:

Virtual

Description: Angela Boss, PAg, spoke about her experience in international agriculture development using a case study of putting the principles of conservation agriculture into practice with farmers in semi-arid, high rainfall and humid tropic regions of Sub-Saharan Africa and Central America. She highlighted how the focus on principles, rather than practices, led to high levels of farmer innovation.

6. Event name: Cannabis Processing: Overview and Potential Environmental Impacts – June 10, 2021

Event type: Virtual

Description: The second presentation of a series of four, Tom Ulanowski, AAg, returned to present on the post-cultivation side of the cannabis industry. Tom provided a high-level review of the most common processing techniques utilized in the cannabis industry today, touching on environmental best-practices related to the handling of solvents, wastes, and other by-products.

7. Event name: Agrologists Reading Club - Victoria and Islands Branch – June 14, 2021

Event type: Virtual

Description: Jenn Wilson, PAg, hosted the branches first Reading Club. In advance of the event, registrants were asked to read a journal article titled “Environmental Escherichia coli: ecology and public health implications” (J. Jang, H.-G. Hur, M.J. Sadowsky, M.N. Byappanahalli, T. Yan, S. Ishii, 2017, Journal of Applied Microbiology). On the day of the event, Jenn facilitated a discussion for the reading where registrants could discuss key concepts in the reading and share their thoughts. The event was well-received and the branch plans to host future events like it.

8. Event name: Potential Environmental Impacts of Cannabis Cultivation: Nutrient and Pesticide Use and VOC Emissions – August 11, 2021

Event type: Virtual

Description: Tom Ulanowski, AAg, presented his third out of a series of four presentations on the environmental impacts of Cannabis production. This presentation explored the use of water, fertilizers, and pesticides commonly utilized in legal cannabis production, as well as various outputs (runoff and VOCs) and their potential

environmental impacts.

9. Event name: The Importance of Quality Assurance in Cannabis Production – September 22, 2021

Event type: Virtual

Description: Tom Ulanowski, AAg, presented his fourth and final presentation on the environmental impacts of Cannabis production. This presentation of the series focused on the various aspects of GAP/GPP (Good Agricultural Practices/Good Production Practices), including chemical and microbial contaminants, with a particular focus on the Canadian *Cannabis Regulations*.

10. Event name: Indigenous Workshop -States of Wonder: Storytelling and Nature Connection – September 1730, 2021

Event type: Interactive

Workshop Location: Virtual

Description: Hosted by hazel Belk-Koski (her first name is not capitalized), an Indigenous two- spirited woman of mixed Anishinaabe, Finnish, Irish, and English heritage, this workshop guided through an outdoor exercise. Registrants were invited to find wild places, open their senses to the natural world, and share stories.

Several upcoming workshops and tours are planned for the remainder of the year such including another Reading Club event. Most of these events are not yet finalized, except the following:

11. Event name: Little Qualicum Cheeseworks on Morningstar Farm Tour – October 23, 2021

Event type: Tour

Location: 403 Lowrys Rd, Parksville, BC V9P 2B5

Description: An upcoming event organized as part of the AGM PD events, this tour of Little Qualicum Cheeseworks on Morningstar farm will be our first in-person event since the beginning of the pandemic! Albert, the farm manager, will guide registrants around the dairy farm where guests will learn about the entire milk production process, cheesemaking, and have the option to see the milking cows. COVID precautions provided by the farm will be followed throughout the tour.

We would like to thank all the BCIA members inside and outside of our branch for participating in the PD events that we worked hard to developed. We would also like to acknowledge the support we received from Bonnie Keleher and Seija Laukkanen, BCIA Provincial PD Coordinators, for their support and sharing of ideas during these challenging times.

We hope that physical distance restrictions are eased in 2022 so that we can provide our members with more face-to-face engagement and learning opportunities. However, should this not be the case, we will continue to develop and offer virtual events to facilitate professional growth and networking for our members.

Prepared by:

Melissa Demyen, AAg and Bejay Mills, PAg

Professional Development Coordinators, Victoria and Islands Branch, BCIA

Treasurer's Report

Below is a spreadsheet of VIBE 2020 and 2021 financial statements as well as projections for the 2022 budget. VIBE was allocated \$4980 in 2021 and carried over \$6331.53 from 2020, for a total 2021 budget of \$11,311.53.

We currently have an anticipated surplus of \$10,711.53 as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has once again disrupted plans for an in-person AGM event, including professional development opportunities, and most of our budget is normally allocated to these costs. There were many online PD events coordinated by the branch, but these events were available to all members, so the costs were covered by BCIA.

The branch has not spent the carryover from 2020. The branch is entitled to have no more than two year's allotment, so the 2020 surplus is not permitted to be carried over to 2022, but the 2021 allotment will be carried over.

2021 Expenses and Revenue Include:

- Estimate \$500 for PD events over the next month
- Estimate of \$50 in annual bank charges (as determined by BCIA admin)
- \$50 in presenter expenses

2022 Projected Expenses

Based on the 2021 budget we have prepared a summary for projected expenses in 2022. It is anticipated that the COVID-19 pandemic may continue to limit the opportunity for in-person events and meetings, but we anticipate more in-person opportunities in 2022. We encourage members to reach out to the executive with ideas and opportunities for PD events.

Prepared by:
Kate Bergen, M.Sc., PAg
Treasurer, Victoria & Islands Branch, BCIA



**BC Institute of Agrologist
Victoria & Islands Branch**

2020-2021 Financial Report

Balance as of Jan 1, 2020	\$ 4,419.45	Balance as of Jan 1, 2021	\$ 6,331.53
2020 Allocation	\$ 7,260.00	2021 Allocation	\$ 4,980.00
Expenses and revenues for 2020	-\$5,347.92)	Expenses and revenues for 2021	-\$600.00)
Balance as of December 31, 2020	\$ 6,331.53	Balance as of Sept 16, 2021	\$ 10,711.53

* items highlighted in yellow have not yet been processed

Items	Jan 1 2020 to Dec 31 2020		Jan 1 2021 to Sept 16 2021	
	2020 (Actual)		2021 (Expenses to date)	
	Expenses	Revenues	Expenses	Revenues
Branch Executive Meetings				
A.Ag. /Mentor Events				
Member Travel Subsidies				
Non-PD Activities/Outreach				
Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 400.00			
Other (supplies, awards, etc)				
Credit Card / Bank Fees	\$ 51.81		\$ 50.00	
Branch AGM	\$ 500.00			
Catering/Food/Venue				
Materials/Gifts/Supplies/Awards/Other				
PD at AGM			\$ 500.00	
Professional Development		\$ 1,900.00		
Presenter Expenses	\$ 6,296.11		\$ 50.00	
Catering/Food				
Transportation (Bus/Parking)				
Partnering/PD Subsidy				
PD Organizer Travel				
Total	\$ 7,247.92	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
	2020 surplus		Current 2021 anticipated surplus	
Net Balance (Expense/Revenue)	\$6,331.53			\$10,711.53

2022 Estimated Budget

2022 Budget Proposal	
2021 Carryover	\$4,980
2022 Estimated budget	\$4,980
Total 2022 budget (estimate)	\$9,960
Items	
Branch Executive Meetings	
A.Ag. /Mentor Events	\$200
Member Travel Subsidies	
Non-PD Activities/Outreach	
Donations/Sponsorships	\$200
Other (supplies, awards, etc)	
Credit Card / Bank Fees	\$60
Branch AGM	
Catering/Food/Venue	\$1,500
Materials/Gifts/Supplies/Awards/Other	\$200
PD at AGM	\$2,000
Professional Development	
Presenter Expenses	\$4,000
Catering/Food	
Transportation (Bus/Parking)	\$1,000
Partnering/PD Subsidy	\$800
PD Organizer Travel	
Total expenses	\$9,960