



## **BCIA Reserved Practice Communications and Engagement Plan**

**February 2022 (updated April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022)**

### **History**

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Agrologists Regulation (“Regulation”) was added as an Appendix to the Professional Governance Act (“PGA”) which, amongst other aspects, confirmed that the environmental sciences, specifically restoration, reclamation and remediation of terrestrial, aquatic, and atmospheric ecosystems are within the regulated practice of agrology. On September 13, 2021, the Regulation was amended by adding a definition of reserved practice whereby certain activities were reserved to the four official designations of agrologists (“practice Rights”) being Professional Agrologists (“PAgs”), Articling Agrologists (“AAgs”), Technical Agrologists (TAgs”), and Articling Technical Agrologists (“ATAgS”).

Unlike other professional Regulators under the jurisdiction of the PGA, to move forward with practice rights BCIA must first update and right size the official areas of practice in which each Registrant of BCIA declares competency on an annual basis. Once the definition for reserved practice was confirmed within the Regulation BCIA proceeded with this extensive process with the assistance of a consultant and the BCIA PGA Working Group. That process has now progressed to the point that BCIA can commence the implementation of a staggered Communication Plan as outlined herein. Actual production of the required descriptive materials however will be directly tied to the ongoing development of the official areas of practice.

Over the past 3 years BCIA has presented at each Annual General Meeting of each of its 8 Branches summaries and updates as to the definitions and effects of practice rights once those rights are enforceable within the province. The Regulation confirmed that the effective date of practice rights for BCIA Registrants is September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

The purpose of this Communications Plan is to educate our Registrants, the public, and perhaps most importantly, the employers of individuals providing agrology services, (as now defined in the Regulation), within the province. Most of these individuals are already BCIA Registrants but there are many that will be required to become Registrants as of Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. This education will focus on the benefits of employing Registrants to ensure competent protection of the natural environment of British Columbia.





**BC INSTITUTE OF  
AGROLOGISTS**  
Cultivating Natural Resource Professionals

## **BCIA Reserved Practice Communications and Engagement Plan**

**February 2022 (updated April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022)**

### **Objectives**

The primary objectives of this plan are as follows:

1. Inform external employer stakeholders, including the provincial government, of the legislative requirements and advantages of employing BCIA Registrants.
2. Educate existing Registrants of the new official areas of practice and the strengthened requirement for tracking mandatory professional development activities.
3. Strengthen communications with post-secondary educational institutions to assist those institutions in offering relevant courses which will be accepted by the BCIA towards qualifying for one of BCIA's four professional designations.

### **Tools & Outcomes**

To attain these objectives BCIA shall develop, and once approved by the OSPG, publish illustrative materials, including virtual presentations, that:

- clearly articulate the scope of practice(s) reserved to BCIA Registrants under the PGA;
- outline processes by which individuals can become Registrants of BCIA;
- identifies intersection of practices with other regulatory bodies;
- does not contradict, broaden or restrict the practice(s) reserved to BCIA or to other regulatory bodies that are subject to the PGA;
- addresses, to the extent possible, any perceived overlaps with traditional knowledge and practice of Indigenous Peoples.

The desired outcomes from the publication and dissemination of the above noted descriptive materials include the following:

- BCIA Registrants understand the scope of the new areas of practice and the correlations between BCIA reserved practice and the reserved practice of other professions regulated under the PGA;
- to the extent possible, members of the public can understand the practice areas and restrictions of BCIA Registrants;
- assist potential clients in determining which type of professional should be retained to address a specific project or concern;
- increased understanding between the PGA Regulatory Bodies as to each respective regulated and reserved practice.





**BC INSTITUTE OF  
AGROLOGISTS**  
Cultivating Natural Resource Professionals

## **BCIA Reserved Practice Communications and Engagement Plan**

**February 2022 (updated April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022)**

### **Regulatory Body Collaboration Plan**

To facilitate the orderly development and use of descriptive materials produced by any and all of the Regulatory Bodies subject to the PGA, (or as directed by the Superintendent) the BCIA proposes the following:

- prior to finalization, the descriptive materials shall be provided to each of the other Regulatory Bodies and to the OSPG for comment;
- subsequent to the consideration of any comments received the final draft of the descriptive materials will be provided to OSPG for formal approval;
- if a dispute arises between the BCIA and another PGA Regulatory Body respecting a substantive aspect of the proposed descriptive materials which cannot be resolved by frank discussion between the interested Regulators, each of the Regulators in the respective dispute shall appoint 3 of its own Registrants to sit upon a resolution panel. The panel shall meet, (which can be done virtually) to resolve the dispute which decision, if approved by 2/3 of the members of the panel, shall be binding on all involved Regulators. If a 2/3 majority cannot be attained the matter(s) shall be referred to the Superintendent for assistance.

### **Key Stakeholders**

Stakeholder Group	Primary Methodology(s)	Interaction History
BCIA Registrants	Established BCIA communication, (*applies to all stakeholder groups): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic Newsletters</li> <li>• President Special Reports</li> <li>• Direct responses to inquiries</li> <li>• Website</li> <li>• Social media platforms</li> <li>2022 Conference &amp; AGM</li> <li>Volunteer meetings</li> <li>Webinars</li> </ul>	Constant communication with Registrants on all platforms and venues





**BC INSTITUTE OF  
AGROLOGISTS**  
Cultivating Natural Resource Professionals

## **BCIA Reserved Practice Communications and Engagement Plan**

**February 2022 (updated April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022)**

<p>Professional Partners (i.e. OSPG, ABCFP, BCIA, ASTTBC, EGBC, AIBC, ASPB, etc.)</p>	<p>One on one meetings Facilitated group meetings 2022 Conference &amp; AGM</p>	
<p>Employers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial Government             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Federal Government</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Municipal Governments             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Regional Governments</li> <li>➤ First Nations Governments</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Industry</li> </ul>	<p>Invitations to present/meet through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union of BC Municipalities</li> <li>• BC Business Council</li> <li>• Council of Forest Industries</li> <li>• Mining Association</li> <li>• PGA Advisory Group</li> <li>• Department of Fisheries and Oceans</li> <li>• Organic Farming Association</li> <li>• Members of the Investment Agricultural Foundation of BC (Cattleman’s Association, Fruit Growers Association etc.)</li> <li>• Environment Canada</li> <li>• First Nations governments</li> <li>• First Nations Industry Associations</li> <li>• Employers that request a specific meeting/information session</li> <li>• Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries: Energy Mines and Low Carbon Innovation; Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Environment &amp; Climate Change Strategy</li> </ul>	<p>There has been an ever-increasing frequency of inquiries from private sector employers requesting information on reserved practice. We will start scheduling meetings with governmental and industry associations as soon as a first draft of our new areas of practice has been developed, which is expected by May 6th, 2022.</p>
<p>Environmental NGOs</p>	<p>Meeting Invitations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association of Applied Biology Professionals             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eco-Canada</li> <li>• Nature Trust</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	





**BC INSTITUTE OF  
AGROLOGISTS**  
Cultivating Natural Resource Professionals

## **BCIA Reserved Practice Communications and Engagement Plan**

**February 2022 (updated April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022)**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other ENGOs that request a specific meeting /information session</li> </ul>	
<p>Academic Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty</li> <li>• Students</li> </ul>	<p>Presentations and/or meeting invitations concentrating on curriculum development to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accredited Universities and Colleges</li> </ul>	<p>The BCIA has long-standing relationships with UBC, UBCO, Thompson Rivers University and Royal Roads University. There are 11 other institutions that provide agrology related courses that will need to be engaged.</p>
<p>Non-registered practitioners</p>	<p>BCIA communications platforms Well-advertised webinars and information sessions</p>	<p>We are receiving increased reports from Registrants as to the extent of non-registrants' practice. Focus of communication to those individuals and companies will be pathways to registration.</p>
<p>Public</p>	<p>Public will be invited to BCIA Registrant information sessions</p>	<p>We have never had an inquiry from the public respecting these matters since the start of the Professional Reliance Review</p>





## **BCIA Reserved Practice Communications and Engagement Plan**

**February 2022 (updated April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022)**

### **High-Level Timeline/Schedule**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Considerations</b>
First Draft of new Regulated Areas of Practice	Complete by April 30, 2022	Foundational step before descriptive materials can be finalized
Produce descriptive materials	Already commenced however will not be fully complete until May 30,2022	Will require conversations with regulatory partners
Produce pathways schematic (includes limited license)	Complete April 29, 2022	Credentials Committee currently working to this deadline
Develop collaborative agreements with other regulators as per currently in place with both ASTTBC and with EGBC	Complete May 30, 2022	Will depend on availability of other regulators and their work priorities
Produce digital presentation to be used on line and with meetings with external stakeholders	May 30, 2022	Exact content dependent on meeting above deadlines
Extend invitations to engage to above listed stakeholders	May 30 to July 29, 2022	BCIA is scheduling preliminary meetings with stakeholder groups prior to these dates
Conduct a series of informational webinars available to Registrants and the public free of charge	June- July 2022	Webinars will focus on specific topics of interest especially special limited licenses and reserved practice activities.  Webinars will be recorded and available on the website
Finalize reserved practice roll out	August 2022	





**BC INSTITUTE OF  
AGROLOGISTS**  
Cultivating Natural Resource Professionals

## **BCIA Reserved Practice Communications and Engagement Plan**

**February 2022 (updated April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022)**

### **Contact Information**

To request more information, please contact the BCIA Office: 110-2800 Bryn Mar Road, Victoria, BC, V9B 3T4  
(250) 380-9292 | 1(877) 855-9291

