

**IN THE MATTER OF THE *PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE ACT*
S.B.C. 2018, C. 47**

AND

IN THE MATTER OF A CONSENT ORDER BETWEEN:

AARON PEDERSON

AND

BC INSTITUTE OF AGROLOGISTS

CONSENT ORDER

The *Professional Governance Act* (the “PGA”) authorizes the BC Institute of Agrologists (“BCIA”) to propose resolution by consent order on matters that may otherwise be dealt with at a discipline hearing. Section 73 of the PGA and the BCIA Bylaws provide the specific processes and procedures by which a consent order may be made.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 BCIA received three complaints regarding the professional conduct of Aaron Pederson, a BCIA registrant (the “Registrant”). The complaints are identified as complaint files 2024-01, 2024-02 and 2024-03 (the “Complaints”). The Complaints are described in more detail below at section 4.0.
- 1.2 The Investigation Committee (the “Committee”) of BCIA investigated the complaints pursuant to section 66 of the PGA.
- 1.3 The Committee and the Registrant wish to resolve this matter by consent pursuant to section 73(2) of the PGA to avoid the need for a discipline hearing.
- 1.4 The Registrant consents to the disposition of the Complaints on the terms set out below.

2.0 LEGISLATION

- 2.1 On February 5, 2021, the *Agrologists Act* was repealed and replaced by the PGA.
- 2.2 The PGA, the *Agrologists Regulation*, and the BCIA Bylaws govern the profession of agrology in British Columbia.
- 2.3 The Complaints are governed by the PGA and BCIA Bylaws.

3.0 THE REGISTRANT

- 3.1 The Registrant has been a registrant of BCIA since 2005 and is self-employed as Managing Director of P&A Environmental.

4.0 SUMMARY OF THE COMPLAINTS

A. Complaint 2024-01

- 4.1 On July 23, 2024, the BCIA received a complaint from an employee of an engineering company, regarding the Registrant's professional conduct. The complaint alleged "numerous irregularities" with respect to soil certificates which the Registrant relied upon in providing information to a client.

4.2 The complaint alleged that the Registrant submitted a Soil Relocation Report confirming that deposited soils met residential land use standards, despite third-party data indicating the soil contained contaminants — specifically BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes) and naphthalene — exceeding the applicable standards under the *Contaminated Sites Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 375/96.

4.3 The investigation obtained the original "system copy" of the reports directly from the issuing laboratory. A comparison confirmed that the reports provided by the Registrant to the client differed from the official records retained by the laboratory. The laboratory confirmed the data in the Registrant's version was not authentic.

B. Complaint 2024-02

4.4 On August 8, 2024, the BCIA received a complaint from the Environmental Compliance Officer of a First Nation. The complaint alleged anomalies, including in the PAH data for sample 23- 2 at Location 1, and discrepancies in metals and sodium/chloride data for samples at Location 2, as well as the accuracy of laboratory certificates and the Certificate of Analysis provided by the Registrant as part of work conducted by his company, P&A Environmental.

4.5 The investigation verified with the issuing laboratory that the Certificate of Analysis provided by the Registrant to the First Nation differed from the laboratory's official system copy.

C. Complaint 2024-03

4.6 On August 15, 2024, the BCIA received a complaint from a registrant employed by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. The complaint alleged that a Contaminated Sites Services Application submitted by the Registrant contained fabricated or altered information and cited specific documents and dates where data integrity was in question.

4.7 Complaint 2024-03 also revealed concerns with respect to the Registrant's failure to properly supervise an employee involved in the delivery of agrology services and with respect to the Registrant's record management and retention.

D. The Interim Agreement

4.8 On January 28, 2025, as a result of the allegations in the Complaints, the Registrant agreed to a voluntary undertaking and agreement pending the outcome of the investigations into the Complaints (the "Interim Agreement").

4.9 Pursuant to the terms of the Interim Agreement, the Registrant agreed:

- a. To undertake and agree not to participate in the practice of agrology;

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- b. To consent and agree to the BCIA changing his registration status from "P.Ag" to "On Leave", and noting that change in the BCIA registry and in the monthly newsletter to registrants; and
 - c. To consent and agree that the BCIA may update the complainants in each of the Complaint Investigations that the section 67 proceeding has been adjourned and the Registrant has voluntarily changed his registration status to "On Leave".

5.0 **ADMISSIONS**

- 5.1 The Registrant admits that he engaged in professional misconduct, contrary to the BCIA Code of Ethics (Schedule A of the BCIA Bylaws) and the PGA, specifically:
 - a. The Registrant admits to utilizing fabricated and/or altered information, specifically by altering or falsifying laboratory reports.
 - b. The Registrant admits to failing to appropriately supervise the work of non-regulated individuals under their professional responsibility.
 - c. The Registrant admits to failing to document project communication and failing to maintain necessary records or information.

6.0 **DISPOSITION**

- 6.1 Based on the Admissions set out above, the Committee and the Registrant agree to the following disposition under section 73(2) of the PGA:
 - a. The Registrant is reprimanded;
 - b. The Registrant's registration as a Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.) with BCIA is cancelled, effective immediately upon execution of this Consent Order.
 - c. The Registrant must immediately surrender his Professional Agrologist seal/stamp to BCIA.
 - d. The Registrant must not engage in the regulated practice of agrology or use the title "Professional Agrologist" or the designation of "P.Ag."
 - e. The Registrant is not eligible to apply for any class of registration with BCIA until:
 - i 10 years from the effective date of this Consent Order; and
 - ii The Registrant has done all of the following:
 - A Successfully completed a professional ethics course approved by the Registrar of BCIA;

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- B Successfully completed education or training courses approved by the Registrar of BCIA regarding:
 - I Professional documentation;
 - II Appropriate supervision of non-registered employees;
 - III Effective professional communication; and
 - IV Soil sampling and data analysis; and
 - C Remitted full payment of any fees, dues, or penalties outstanding to BCIA.

- f. The Registrant undertakes not to repeat the conduct admitted to in Section 5.0.
- g. The Registrant must pay to BCIA the sum of \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) as a contribution towards the legal and investigative costs incurred in this matter.

7.0 PUBLICATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 7.1 The full text of this Consent Order will be published on the BCIA website. A summary may be published in print and electronic publications, including public communications, in accordance with the PGA and BCIA Bylaws.
- 7.2 The Registrant acknowledges that the matters admitted to in this Consent Order relate to other legislative or regulatory requirements, and that the BCIA may notify appropriate regulatory entities or agencies regarding the admissions contained herein.
- 7.3 This Consent Order has the same force and effect as an order made under section 75 of the PGA.

This Consent Order may be executed and delivered in one or more counterparts, whether by facsimile transmission or other electronic means, with the same effect as if all parties had signed and delivered the same document and all counterparts.

The Registrant acknowledges that he has been given adequate opportunity to seek legal or other professional advice with respect to the negotiation, execution and consequences of this Consent Order and has taken such advice or freely elected not to do so.

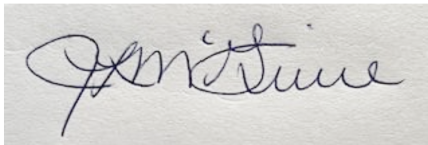
A a r o n P e d e r s o n

Aaron Pederson

April 17, 2026

Date

On behalf of the Investigation Committee:



Jennifer McGuire (Panel Chair)

April 20, 2026

Date (Effective Date of Order)