

John Stevenson



Feb 12, 2025

Registrant Board Member Application - Regional Electoral District 1

Thank you for the opportunity to be considered for the District 1 Registrant Board Member position. I have a valuable and unique range of experience and knowledge related to BC Natural Resources Ministry operations, Provincial Acts and Regulations, land use planning tools and local government governance, prior non-profit board member experience, and holding a full-time office within the Professional practice of Agrology. I'm a firm believer of working as a Team, with safe and inclusive workplace practices. These are some assets and experience I can bring to the BCIA Board of Directors.

I have a UNBC B.Sc degree in Natural Resources (Forestry) and have worked for 25 years in the BC Public Service. Currently I am employed (13 years) as a Professional (Regional) Agrologist with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) and am based in Smithers, serving an area from Endako to Haida Gwaii, north to the Yukon border. I have been an active BCIA Cariboo Central Interior (CCI West) Professional Agrologist since 2005 and currently volunteered as the CCI Branch Vice-President.

My full time Professional Agrologist employment with MAF requires a combination of technical expertise to support farmers and crop growth utilizing diverse communication skills, working with local government land use planning staff, other Provincial Ministries and Federal agencies, and Indigenous leaders and their communities to name a few. I spend a significant amount of time assisting with the design and delivery of MAF programs to effectively reach frontline farmers and food processors as well as providing regional oversight for field research extension projects.

In addition to providing technical agronomic advice to support agriculture producers, I provide land use planning recommendations and advice to local governments to help strengthen regional food security initiatives through creative bylaws, zoning, and OCP's for example.

Previously I spent 9 years working as a Licenced Land Officer (P.Ag) for the BC Crown Lands Branch based in Smithers. I am a problem solver and systems thinker to try and find solutions to complex problems and challenges.

I am the current Secretary for the Bulkley Valley Hospice Society <https://bvhospice.ca/> and work with a dedicated group comprising of other board members, volunteers, and paid employees. This is a new area of growth for me; I am gaining valuable new experience specific to the operations of a charitable non-profit that provides a critical community service.

Thank you for considering my application for Registrant Board Member with the BCIA. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me

[REDACTED]

Warmly,  
John Stevenson, P. Ag

# John Jeffrey Stevenson P. Ag

• Ministry of Agriculture and Food,

## Education & Credentials

Professional Agrologist #1834

- BC Institute of Agrologists (2006)

Justice Institute of British Columbia

- Emergency Operation Essentials, Advanced Logistics and Operations Training, (2014)

University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George BC

- Bachelor of Science (Forestry), (1998)

## Employment

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) | 3333 Tatlow Road, Smithers BC

Regional Agrologist, Extension and Support Services Branch, March 2013 to Current

- Professional horticulture production knowledge and developed and delivered resources relevant to northern climates with a specialty in greenhouse planning, set-up, and operation.
- Working collaboratively with Indigenous communities to support food security needs and requests by identifying and implementing meaningful projects that are scaled to local resources and capacity available, leveraging various funding sources.
- Developed a vast stakeholder network of long relationships that include: agriculture industry sectors and Indigenous communities, local governments, elected officials, Provincial Ministry and Federal agency colleagues across Northwestern BC for over 25 years.
- MAF lead to Northwest BC Indigenous-Province reconciliation negotiations; provide technical (land, soil, climate, trends) agriculture information to Northwest BC Treaty tables via MIRR.
- Provide professional agriculture guidance and briefings / notes to senior government officials across multiple ministries and agencies, including deputy and ministerial levels, on various issues such as policy and legislation, land use, sector trends, environmental scans / SWOTs encompassing all agriculture-rated sectors and commodities in Northwestern BC.
- MAF Emergency Management Provincial emergency coordinator to guide resource response and deployments to active wildfires and floods as required.

Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources | 3726 Alfred Avenue, Smithers BC

Land Officer, June, 2005 to March, 2013

- Seven years of BC *Land Act* tenure administration and statutory decision-maker BC Crown Land Division; completed files ranging from industrial use to Indigenous Nations' community tenures.
- Adjudicated *Land Act* applications to determine appropriate form of legal tenure, review of legal land status, encumbrances, and prior rights. Evaluate and review technical site information including: municipal zoning and bylaws, survey plans, environmental site constraints, Indigenous historical use and occupation, strength of claim, land pricing and timber appraisals.



- Lead meaningful Indigenous consultation; developing accommodation and/or mitigation strategies in recognition of aboriginal rights and title impacts.

## Volunteer Experience

Bulkley Valley Hospice Society

- Secretary (2022 – current)

BC Institute of Agrologists (BCIA)

- Cariboo Central Interior Branch Vice-President (current)
- Created and presented to membership: *Food Security Across Northwest BC*, Oct 2020

## Skills and Abilities

- Providing technical advice, reviews & guidance for internal and external stakeholders
- Critical thinking and complex systems analysis for grounded, innovative solutions
- Highly proficient in MS Office Products, including Teams and Skype
- Highly adaptable and enthusiastic, easy to start new conversations
- Proven abilities to work independently or in a team environment
- Facilitating group discussions and leading technical workshops
- Developing meaningful relationships
- Quickly pivot to embrace new challenges
- Experience in non-profit governance and structure
- Passionate about equity, accountability, and transparency
- Experience working safely in all environments including remote travel

## References

- Available on request