

**To: British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA)**

Attn: BCIA Nominations Committee

Email: [nominations@bcia.com](mailto:nominations@bcia.com)

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**RE: Registrant Board Member Nominations: Regional Electoral District 2**

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Dear BCIA Nominations Committee and Membership,

Thank you for your consideration of my application for Registrant Board Member for the Regional Electoral District 2 for the 2025 to 2028 term.

I am a Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.) in good standing working in Province of British Columbia, and have been a member of the BCIA for the last 10 years. During this time, I have had the pleasure of working with many outstanding agrologists on a variety of BCIA committees, both regionally and provincially. Most notably, I have been an executive member of the Okanagan Branch of Regional Electoral District 2 for the past 9 years in the roles of Treasurer and Director (2024 - present), President (2021- 2024), President Elect (2021), and Articling Coordinator (2016 – 2021). I have also served on the Provincial Credentials Committee (2018 – 2021). These experiences have given me a depth of understanding and appreciation for the BCIA as an organization as well as for the membership and all those who contribute their time so generously to ensure the continued functioning, support, and services for all BCIA members.

Over the last decade, I have seen many changes for agrologists, most notably the introduction of the *Professional Governance Act*. Through this, the BCIA has flexibly adapted by diligently taking action to align with the Act, ensuring compliance and the continued regulation of the profession of agrology as an ethical, safe, and competent practice.

I look forward to the opportunity to participate at the Board level and represent Regional Electoral District 2 by drawing upon my experience and knowledge of the past decade as well as bringing a fresh perspective for the future.

Thank you for your time in consideration of my application.

Sincerely,



Theresa Loewen, P.Ag.

# THERESA LOEWEN

*M.Sc., P.Ag.*

## EDUCATION

- **PhD Student**, Agroecology, **University of British Columbia, Okanagan (UBCO)** (2024 - Present)
- **M.Sc.**, Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences, specializing in Agroecology, **University of British Columbia, Okanagan (UBCO)** (2020)
- **B.Sc.**, Department of Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences, **University of British Columbia, Okanagan (UBCO)** (2015)
- **Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Certification**, **Douglas College** (2011)

## AFFILIATIONS

- **Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.)**, BCIA, Member # 3079 (2015 - Present)
- **BCIA Okanagan Branch**, Director, Treasurer & Mentor
- **Okanagan College**, Environmental Studies Program Advisory Chair
- **OBWB Water Stewardship Council**, Council Member

## BIOGRAPHY

Theresa is a Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.), with areas of practice including: Land evaluation, classification, mapping, conservation, and management; Protection and management of environmental resources; and, Land restoration, reclamation, and remediation. Theresa has experience across multiple sectors, including government, non-profit, academic and private industry, in the areas of environmental and agricultural consulting, finance, and management. She is a Master's graduate from the University of British Columbia, Okanagan as part of the research team with The Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience, and Ecosystem Services (BRAES). Her thesis titled "Integrating Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity in Landscape Management for Multifunctional Agroecosystems: A Case Study in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia" specializes in applied agroecology and landscape connectivity. Theresa is passionate about environmental and agricultural stewardship, sustainable innovation, and facilitating knowledge transfer within the community through teaching, education, and mentorship. She is actively involved as Director and Treasurer of the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA) Okanagan Branch, Mentor with the Invest Kelowna Connector Program, Chair of the Okanagan College Environmental Studies Program Advisory Committee, and Council Member of the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) Water Stewardship Council.

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

**McTavish Resource & Management Consultants Ltd., 2024 - Present (contract, part-time)**

### **Senior Project Agrologist**

Senior report review, report and proposal writing, and mentorship.

**Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd., 2020 - 2023**

### **Division Lead, Environment & Agriculture**

A multi-faceted role that included leading a team of agrologists and biologists (recruitment, hiring, training, supervision, and mentorship of

## TRAINING & CERTIFICATES

- **WHMIS**, Worksafe BC (2024)
- **First Aid Level 1**, Worksafe BC (2023)
- **Field Soil Description & Classification Certificate**, Columbia Mountains Institute (2022)
- **Riparian Areas Protection Regulation (RAPR) Certification**, UVIC (2021)
- **Soil Sampling Certificate**, Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science (2019)
- **Wetland Classification**, BC Wildlife Federation (2019)
- **Ethics for Professionals**, BCIA (2017)
- **ChemSafe**, UBCO (2017)
- **Teaching Assistant Training**, UBCO (2017)
- **Advanced Tutoring Certificate**, Douglas College (2010)

## SKILLS & PROFICIENCIES

- Program & Project Management
- Academic and Technical Writing
- Teaching & Mentorship
- Research Design & Implementation
- GIS (ArcGIS & QGIS)

junior staff), full-cycle project management of a portfolio of large and small scale environmental and agricultural projects, including: environmental impact assessments, agricultural capability assessments, ecological field inventories, soil surveys, terrestrial and riparian habitat assessments and restoration plans, and environmental monitoring. Senior level technical report writing and review. Project procurement, cost estimates and proposal writing. Responsible for maintaining budgets and financial forecasting, client and agency liaison, possessing extensive knowledge of applicable legislation and permitting processes (i.e., Water Sustainability Act, Riparian Areas Protection Regulation, Species At Risk Act, Local Government Act, Agricultural Land Commission, Environmental Management Act, etc.), data management and GIS mapping, and research and development projects including policy development and feasibility studies (i.e., Invasive-Free Soil Feasibility Study, Central Okanagan Wildlife Corridor Action Plan, UBCO West Lands development).

### British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA), 2016 - Present

**Current: Director, Treasurer & Mentor**

**Past: President, Articling Coordinator & Credentials Committee Board Member**

**Director (North):** Represent the North Okanagan members, organize professional development events throughout the Okanagan, build and maintain relationships with community partners. **Treasurer:** Manage all branch finances, prepare budgets, approve expenses.

**President:** Chair of the Okanagan Branch Executive, including ensuring the business of the branch is conducted in accordance with the BCIA Bylaws and the Professional Governance Act. Represents the branch at BCIA functions and other professional or community events. Mentor to articling members. Organizes the Annual General Meeting (AGM). **Articling Coordinator:** Administered the Articling Program, provided advice and assistance to members through mentorship, resources, and technical guidance of the Articling program. **Credentials Committee Board Member:** Reviewed and evaluated new membership applications according to BCIA criteria, including evaluating Canadian and International academic credentials according to the International Credential Assessment Service (ICAS), provided recommendations to the committee and BCIA head office. Attended committee meetings bi-annually to provide input on BCIA policies, bylaws, and membership requirements.

### South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP), 2019 - 2021

**Sustainable Agriculture Program Manager**

## PUBLICATIONS

- Okanagan Nation Alliance & Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program. **2023.** Okanagan Mountain – K'nmalka Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. (**Contributor**)
- Reiter, D., Pittman, J., Ayambire, R.A., Brown, H.C.P., Colla, S.R., **Loewen, T.M.**, McCune, J.L., Olive, A., Parrott, L. **2022.** Lessons learnt from multiple private land conservation programs in Canada to inform species at risk conservation. The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien 2022, 1-14, DOI: 10.1111/cag.12770.
- **Loewen, T.M. 2020.** Integrating Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity in Landscape Management for Multifunctional Agroecosystems: A Case Study in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia. Master's Thesis. University of British Columbia, Okanagan.
- **Loewen, T.** and Parrott, L. **2019.** Regional Species at Risk on Agricultural Lands (Phases 3, 4 & 5): Final Report. Prepared for: BC Ministry of Agriculture. Project Number: H17-02341.
- Garcia, K., **Loewen, T.**, Oland, J., Garn, J., Britain, A. **2018.** Winery Process Wastewater Management Handbook: Best Practices and Technologies. Sustainable Winegrowing BC.

Development of the Sustainable Agriculture Program, including writing the Strategic Plan, convening the Steering Committee, and establishing the program framework. Lead stakeholder engagement for development of sustainable agricultural practices and stewardship programs for landowners. Organized educational workshops and events with community partners. Created program content and design of website, promotional materials, and factsheets. Prepared grant applications and annual reports to funders and maintained program budgets.

### Sustainable Winegrowing BC, 2017

#### Environmental Consultant

Contract for the Winery Process Wastewater Management Handbook: Best Practices and Technologies (listed in publications). Assisted with research and writing to provide an overview of the characteristics of winery process wastewater and the benefits of good water and wastewater management, how to understand water use and wastewater generation, best practices for using water more efficiently and improving the quality of wastewater produced, and the fundamentals of wastewater treatment and discharge.

### BC Ministry of Agriculture, 2015 - 2017

#### AgriStability Verifier, Business Risk Management Division

Worked direction with landowners to evaluate farm production data to analyze production trends and farm-scale changes from year to year, including tree fruit and grape plantings (density, spacing, varieties, replants), seasonal production, and overall farm productivity for the AgriStability farm income assistance program. Worked with BC producers, regional staff and industry organizations to validate data and obtain information on farm operations and commodity production. Maintained considerable, up-to-date working knowledge of agricultural practices and environmental issues, particularly in the Okanagan region, BC commodities, farm income determination, farm tax preparation, and business risk management processes.

## ACADEMIC PROFILE

### University of British Columbia, Okanagan (UBCO)

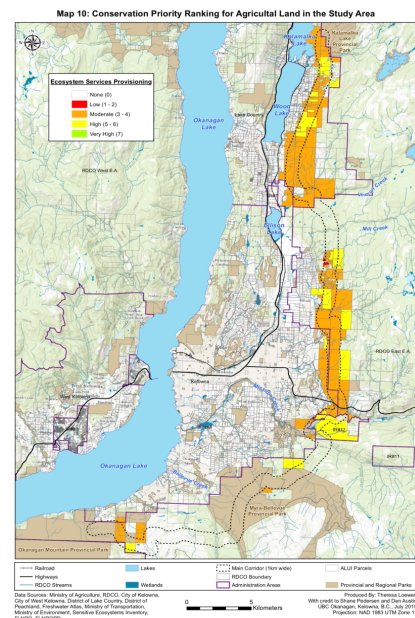
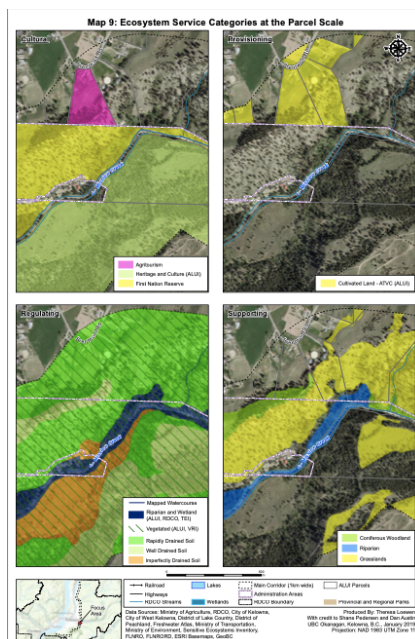
#### 2024 - Present

#### PhD Student

Coordinate with a team of researchers from UBCO and BRAES to develop research project design, implementation, and reporting. Collaborated with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Summerland Research Station for the BC Living Labs program.

### Winery Process Wastewater Management Handbook: Best Practices and Technologies

February 2018



Selected examples of publications and maps.

## University of British Columbia, Okanagan (UBCO)

2024 - Present

### Graduate Teaching Assistant

Instruct labs within the Department of Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences (EEGS) for undergraduate courses including Geomorphology (GEOG 222; EESC 222) and Hydrology (GEOG 205; EESC 205). This includes lab preparation such as creating lab content and PowerPoint presentations, lab instructions, setting up lab instruments and equipment, ensuring proper safety equipment and emergency protocols, lab experiment demonstration, and providing technical support to students. Administer and evaluate student lab assignments, reports and exams according to university standards, maintain records in a secure and confidential manner.

## University of British Columbia, Okanagan (UBCO)

2017 - 2020

### Graduate Research Assistant

Research design and implementation for the Regional Species at Risk on Agricultural Lands project Phases 3, 4, & 5 funded by the Ministry of Agriculture. Included developing research questions, leading an expert advisory committee and stakeholder consultations, conducting interviews with landowners, policy review, and writing academic and technical reports and manuscripts. Use of data from research to provide recommendations to local, regional and provincial governments for land use planning policies, programs, and practices on agricultural land in the Okanagan.

## University of British Columbia, Okanagan (UBCO)

2017 - 2019

### Graduate Teaching Assistant

Instructed labs within the Department of Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences (EEGS) for undergraduate courses in physical geography, hydrology, and earth science/mineralogy (GEOG 108, 109; EESC 205, 111).

## Okanagan College (OC), 2018

### Sessional Instructor

Instructed Geography 224, Canadian Landscapes. Course preparation including developing the course syllabus and course content, preparing lectures and course materials, and delivering weekly lectures to students. Created student activities including writing assignments, presentations, field trips, and exams. Evaluated student assignments and exams according to Okanagan College's academic standards for instruction and grading, maintained student records in a secure and confidential manner. Maintained professionalism, expertise of subject matter and effective communication while supporting students.