

Code of Ethics - Guideline

Introduction

The purpose of this guideline is to briefly elaborate upon the Code of Ethics (“Code”) and the understanding of the nature of the professional obligations that arise from that Code. The Code states “All members must exercise integrity, competence and objectivity in their professional conduct at all times, while fulfilling their professional responsibility as set out... (within the Code)”.

This guideline is intended to be read in conjunction with the Code and generally follows a similar format. This guideline does not elaborate upon all of the sections of the Code as some require no further elaboration nor does it override the specific provisions of the Code. Although various responsibilities are set out in the Code, it is incumbent upon members to recognize that they must not allow their professional judgement to be compromised in any way by bias, conflict of interest or the undue influence of others. Members must bring objectivity and sound professional judgement to bear in providing their professional services at all times.

1. Responsibilities to the public:

- (a) Agrologists must be familiar with and understand the statutory mandate of the profession as set out in the definition of agrology in the *Agrologists Act* and ensure that they practice within the limits of that mandate.
- (b) A member must practice the profession using the science that is the basis of agrology within their respective areas of expertise. Due diligence in ensuring that the scientific principles involved in their opinions are explained and verified ensures that this stewardship takes place. Adherence to the professional development requirements set by BCIA is an integral component of this due diligence.

2. Responsibilities to the client and employer:

- (a) A member must always put quality of professional service above gain and excellence above quantity.
- (b) Technical expertise acquired by the member through employment or contract work forms part of the skills of the member and may be used in subsequent work without consent unless the technical expertise is proprietary in nature in which case express consent must be obtained.

3. Responsibilities to the profession:

- (a) If a member has reasonable grounds to believe that another member may have engaged in professional misconduct or unprofessional conduct, the member

should first consider approaching the member in question to apprise the member of the concern(s). Consultation with the Registrar is encouraged if the member is uncertain as to the appropriate action. If the concern(s) cannot be resolved in an informal manner a member may file a complaint against another member in accordance with the Bylaws of BCIA.

- (b) A member should be courteous and professional when reviewing the work of other members or members of other professional bodies and be as careful with another professional's reputation as they would be their own reputation.
- (c) Direct and honest criticism between professionals may be necessary and professional debate is encouraged when characterized by fairness and propriety.

General Note:

As a member in good standing, the member should support activities for the advancement of the profession although this is not a formal obligation under the Code. Members are encouraged to:

- participate in the activities of BCIA (i.e. meetings, elections, holding office, mentoring) as their situations and opportunities allow.
- be prepared to personally promote the practice of agrology in personal contacts and communications, and to participate in promotional initiatives organized by BCIA.