



Forest news

Association of Alberta Forest Management Professionals (AAFMP) Newsletter

March 2017

AAFMP is:

- * A voice
- * A resource
- * A connector

Representing over 1,600 Registered Forest Management Professionals, we work on behalf of members to strengthen and grow the profession in Alberta, and on behalf of all Albertans as stewards of our forest ecosystems.

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Presidents' Message



2017 began with a number of activities and renewed momentum as we continue to transition the two Colleges under the Alberta Association of Forest Management Professionals (AAFMP). January saw the hiring of a new Executive Director, Wendy Graden. We also asked for a status update from the Minister of Labour, Honourable Christina Gray, on the progress of legislative amendments that would enable the amalgamation of the Colleges. Minister Gray's response resulted in a meeting with Deputy Minister Jeff Parr who understands and supports the initiative and has committed to trying to get the legislative change on the Spring Agenda which commenced March 2.



We are well underway with planning two key events; the Spring Professional Workshops (previously known as the Spring Town Halls) and the fall conference (previously known as AGM and Technical Training Sessions). Communication to members has begun on the locations, venues and the agendas. More information is found in this newsletter and we urge you to visit the website often and stay tuned. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for these important dates and don't delay in registering as capacity is limited.

Beginning with this Newsletter issue, we are also committed to ensuring that you can view the notes of the Joint Council meetings. [You can view the notes here.](#)

We would also like to extend our gratitude to all of our hard working and deeply committed volunteer Committee members without whom we would be unable to manage the many important and complex activities for which we are responsible. To that end, we are also extending an invitation to you. Participating on a Committee provides an opportunity to influence the direction of policy and programs, provide oversight and due diligence of education and ensures the memberships' needs are addressed. In addition, you will gain greater awareness and appreciation of your Associations initiatives and you can increase your networks and leadership skills. [Access the new Committee Interest form here.](#)

2017 will be a busy and exciting year and we will keep you, our members up to speed on our progress.

Career Profile:

Mark Townsend

Northwest Region Heritage Protection Team Lead
Alberta Parks and Environment



Association of Alberta
Forest Management Professionals

For 20 years, Mark Townsend has dedicated his time to protecting and preserving Alberta's forests. From starting out as a compassman with a timber management crew, to working as part of a wildland firefighting crew, and in more traditional roles as a forest officer, area forester, and resource analyst, Townsend has seen the forestry industry from almost all angles. It's this vast breadth of experience that gives him a unique perspective on the role forest management professionals play across Alberta.

"After many years I have come to understand and appreciate that foresters, or those involved in natural resource management, face complex problems and issues regularly," he says. "This leads to the development of traits such as critical thinking, a systematic approach to problem solving, and the ability to think globally. These are the skills and abilities that allow foresters to be successful in non-traditional roles."

Now, as the Northwest Region's heritage protection team lead with Alberta Environment and Parks, Townsend works with a group of parks management professionals from a Grande Prairie-based office. He and his team use their expertise and keen interest in the environment to preserve the province's forested areas and ensure they are taken care of for generations to come.

"I find it especially rewarding to be part of a very dedicated group of people who promote and protect the rich diversity of this province's natural and cultural heritage," he says.

In order to make sure that Alberta's natural landscapes are being used with both present and future generations in mind, Townsend and his team create and implement detailed Parks Management Plans. They use long-term strategic documents, such as the Alberta Plan for Parks or Land-use Framework Plans, to guide their work, finding balanced solutions that meet

the needs of various stakeholders, including government ministries, First Nations groups, municipal districts and counties, and the general public.

"My day-to-day tasks are varied, and include duties such as planning for park improvements, historical resource assessments, First Nations consultation, participation in large-scale plans, assisting conservation officers, interacting with recreational users...the list is long and interesting," Townsend says.

A graduate of the University of Alberta's Bachelor of Science in Forestry program, Townsend has taken supplementary courses throughout his career to allow him to better manage this wide range of tasks. Courses he has taken include a business course from the University of Calgary and conversational Cree lessons, as well as conflict resolution and advanced forest management courses.

In recent years, the continuous growth of Alberta's population has led to increasing demand for recreational activities in Alberta parks. This growth has had a significant impact on Townsend's work, as he and his team seek out solutions that allow the public to enjoy natural forested areas while still respecting the needs of natural ecosystems.

"The challenge is to provide excellent recreational opportunities while conserving Alberta's cultural and natural heritage for future generations," he says.

For Townsend, a systematic approach to problem solving, relationship development, management planning, critical thinking, and a sound technical knowledge base are required in this position. With these skills at the ready, he and his team at Alberta Parks and Environment ensure that the province's natural areas will last well into the future.



Detailed Forest Management Plans

One of the key roles of Registered Professional Foresters and Registered Professional Forest Technologists is the authority to develop, sign-off and submit DFMPs to the Government of Alberta. These plans follow a regulated planning standard and includes extensive consultation with key stakeholders, resulting in a diligent and responsible approach to balancing the needs of industry against numerous considerations, including species protection. It enables industry to harvest on the landscape while considering other ecological and environmental factors, and protection of habitat.

RPFs and RPFTS are highly skilled, intensively trained and regulated professionals. Ensuring that the Government of Alberta recognizes and respects the roles and responsibilities of our membership is fundamental to our advocacy efforts. To that end, we are seeking your input. At the upcoming Professional Workshops, we will be engaging with you to obtain your thoughts and feedback on your interaction with government concerning the role of the regulated professional in Alberta. We also invite you to provide feedback to info@aafmp.ca.

Your input will assist us in developing a resolution that will be brought to the AGM in October for discussion. The outcome of that discussion will formulate the position that AAFMP will adopt in advocating on your behalf, to the Government of Alberta.

Upcoming Events and Education

AAFMP Spring Professional Workshops:

- **April 25** – Stonebridge Hotel, Grande Prairie
- **April 26** – Galloway Museum, Edson
- **May 2** – Multiplex, Athabasca
- **May 3** – Delta Edmonton South, Edmonton

AAFMP Annual Conference, Edmonton October 11&12

April 4 Forest Industry Workshop, Royal Executive Hotel, Leduc

April 21-24 CONFORWest graduate student conference, Canmore

April 22 Professional Exam High Level & Edmonton

June 19-22 North American Forest Ecology Workshop, University of Alberta, Edmonton

September 21-22 WPEF 2017 Science and Management Conference, Jasper National Park



Legislative News

We have met with and will continue to work alongside staff within the Government of Alberta's Labour and Solicitor General Ministries and to prepare all the documentation, legislative and regulatory changes required for the Cabinet Agenda.

Concurrently, we have been actively pursuing meetings with a number of Ministers and Deputy Ministers to engage support for the amalgamation of CAPF and CAPFT under AAFMP when the legislation is presented. The following meetings have taken place or are scheduled:

Meetings with Ministers:

- Hon. O'Neill Carlier, Agriculture and Forestry - **Mar 7**
- Hon. Richard Feehan, Indigenous Relations - **Apr 11**
- Hon. Shannon Phillips, Environment - **TBD**
- Hon. Deron Bilous, Economic Development and Trade - **TBD**
- Hon. Marg McCuaig Boyd, Energy - **TBD**
- Hon. Marlin Schmidt, Advanced Education - **TBD**

Meetings with Deputy Ministers:

- Jeff Parr, Labour - **Feb 21**
- Bev Yee, Agriculture and Forestry - **Mar 15**
- Andre Corbould, Environment - **Mar 22**
- Donovan Young, Indigenous Relations - **Apr 11**
- Brad Pickering, Municipal Affairs - **Apr 13**
- Colleen Volk, Energy - **TBD**
- Rod Skura, Advanced Education - **TBD**

We will continue to engage and advocate for support.

Executive Director's Update

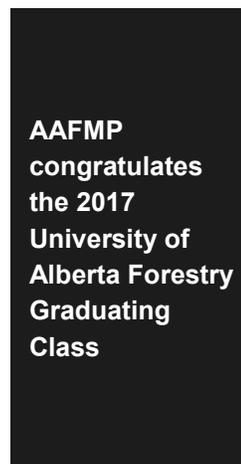
The first quarter of 2017 has been both busy and rewarding as I learn about the Association, the Colleges, their rich histories and the many exciting opportunities before us. I have immersed myself in understanding the operations and the many roles and responsibilities the organization has in helping to ensure Alberta's forest ecosystems are responsibly and ethically managed on behalf of all Albertans.

February and March have seen reviews of the IT and Telecommunications infrastructure with the objective of consolidating them under a single platform. This will help to lay the operational foundation for the amalgamation, as well as leveraging opportunities to streamline operations and re-deploy capacity into areas that will deliver greater value to you.

I have also met with several Deputy Ministers to engage their support in helping to further our cause of a single comprehensive Association under unified legislation.

Much of my time has also been spent reviewing the strategic plan, assessing various business models in preparation for transformation and developing structures and frameworks that I hope will help improve both efficiency and effectiveness of operations and governance.

As we plan for the upcoming Spring Sessions, I look forward to meeting many of you at our events. I also extend my deep thanks to all of you for the warm welcome and to the staff for their outstanding support and assistance.



Feature article

We would like to publish a feature article in our Quarterly Newsletter. Our hope is that you, our members, will write and submit timely and relevant articles by the end of April, May, August, November so that we can publish your article and share it with your colleagues. Writing an article also counts toward your Continuing Competency Credits so it's win-win all around. Please submit a 500 word max. article to wendyg@aafmp.ca.

