



Association of Alberta Forest Management Professionals

Regulated members (“**Registrants**”) of Association of Alberta Forest Management Professionals (“**AAFMP**”) represent the forestry profession, act as stewards of Alberta’s forested lands and natural resources, and have significant forest management responsibilities. Registrants are regulated by the Association. The following Code of Ethics have been jointly developed by the Association with input from the Registrants.

Forested lands are made up of diverse ecological systems and are managed for the long-term sustainability of ecological values within these natural systems. Alberta’s forests provide significant economic, social and cultural opportunities for the benefit and enjoyment of all Albertans.

The principles expressed in the Code of Ethics cannot capture every situation in which a Registrant may need to determine the ethical course of action, but are presented to assist with interpretation and application of the Code of Ethics that, combined with moral professional judgment, guide the actions of each Registrant. All Registrants should be familiar with the Code of Ethics and should guide their daily ethical practice and guide daily professional work.

The Code of Ethics are the criteria against which the conduct of the Registrants will be measured. Contraventions of the Code of Ethics are enforceable through the complaints process¹ as set out under the *Regulated Forest Management Profession Act* (2022) (the “**Act**”).

Code of Ethics

Registrants must adhere to the Code of Ethics.

Registrants serve the interests of the public as their prime responsibility in compliance with the Code of Ethics (the “**Code**”).

Registrants of AAFMP must:

1. Engage in the practice of forestry to the highest standards

The Act, amongst other things, defines the scope of practice of Registrants. Because a majority of Alberta’s forests are on public land, Registrants must demonstrate an understanding of the value and worth of Alberta’s forests in the best interests of Albertans.

The practice of forestry is complex and continually evolving. Registrants strive to manage any competing interests between economic development, ecological outcomes and the need to support social and cultural values, all the while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the forests.

Principles

- 1.1. Registrants must comply with all Acts and Regulations relating to the practice of forestry.
- 1.2. Registrants shall ensure that the practice of forestry is based on sound ecological principles, science and technical information. Forest management will consider socio-economic and cultural values.
- 1.3. Registrants shall identify potential impacts that will or may result from their advice and decisions. Registrants will strive to mitigate negative impacts on other resource values. Where impacts cannot be mitigated, Registrants must advise the Client/Employer of the potential impacts of their decisions.
- 1.4. Registrants shall advise their respective Clients/Employer of the consequences of any contemplated course of action which, in their professional opinion, is not based on accepted forestry practices.

¹ Claims of unprofessional conduct filed through the complaint process are independent and irrespective of other legal actions.



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- 1.5. Registrants shall ensure that in decisions where there is conflict with employer direction; professional consideration of the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice will be paramount.

2. Maintain public confidence in the profession and practice of forestry

It is essential to maintain public confidence in the profession and in doing so engage the public in discussions around issues concerning forest resources, forest regulations and management practices.

When providing a professional opinion it should be clearly stated on whose behalf that opinion is being provided. Relevant information must not be distorted or withheld in order to support or refute a particular opinion or perspective.

Principles

- 2.1. Registrants shall be aware of and comply with the Act, Regulations, bylaws and the Code governing and pertaining to the Association.
- 2.2. Registrants shall engage openly and honestly with the public on the profession and the practice of forestry.
- 2.3. Registrants shall promote the practice of forestry and the profession in a positive manner.
- 2.4. Registrants shall refute erroneous, biased or exaggerated statements concerning the practice of forestry or the profession.
- 2.5. A Member shall, immediately upon discovery, inform prospective or current Clients/Employers of any apparent or potential conflicts of interest.
- 2.6. Registrants shall respect the confidential or proprietary information received from or prepared for a Client/Employer.

3. Conduct work with honesty and integrity and at a level of competence within the limits of the member's training and experience

Registrants have an obligation to the public, their clients and the profession to conduct themselves in a respectful and dignified manner.

Registrants possess specialized skills and knowledge that should be applied to the best of their ability and within their level of competence based on their training and experience.

Principles

- 3.1. Registrants shall not knowingly mislead or misrepresent a Client, Employer or other persons and Registrants shall make aware of the limits of knowledge available in a particular situation.
- 3.2. Registrants shall not provide advice or professional services unless competent to do so.
- 3.3. Registrants shall use the appropriate mechanisms established by the Association to address concerns regarding the professional conduct of another Member.
- 3.4. Registrants shall maintain competence in all areas of their practice.
- 3.5. When a Member believes that their Client's/Employer's actions are detrimental to good stewardship of forested land, they shall promptly advise as to appropriate actions that may be taken.
- 3.6. Registrants shall express the results of their work precisely and accurately, noting any deficiencies, unresolved issues or limits of knowledge. Where alternatives are provided, the implication(s) of the choices shall be disclosed.
- 3.7. Assumptions supporting a particular course of action and the anticipated results must be explained to the fullest extent possible. Where assumptions are made, a range of outcomes, based on a range of



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reasonable assumptions should be provided. Tests and procedures that can verify whether assumptions are reasonable or need to be adjusted must be included.

- 3.8. Registrants shall properly qualify professional opinions and clearly identify relevant facts and assumptions.

4. Respect and acknowledge the contributions of other professionals.

Managing and maintaining a high standard of forest stewardship requires collaboration with and contributions of other professionals. Such collaboration and contributions help to create a more complete understanding and add value to desired outcomes. It is incumbent upon Registrants to understand when to involve other professions and to integrate and recognize their contributions.

Principles

- 4.1. Registrants shall give credit for assistance, methods, facts or opinions provided by other Registrants or professionals.
- 4.2. Other professionals shall be engaged on matters that are beyond Registrants' skill and knowledge.
- 4.3. Registrants shall assign work only to others that are competent to perform that work, or who are under their direct training and supervision.
- 4.4. Registrants shall not, without cause, discredit the work of others.
- 4.5. Registrants, who overrule recommendations and/or decisions made by other Registrants or professionals, assume responsibility for such action.
- 4.6. Registrants shall conduct themselves towards other Registrants and professionals with fairness and in good faith.
- 4.7. In circumstances where a Member has direct knowledge of unprofessional conduct, the Member shall inform the Association.

5. Advance the practice of forestry and support the profession.

Registrants are afforded the privilege of practicing forestry in Alberta and should seek opportunities to be actively involved in developing and promoting the profession.

Principles

- 5.1. Registrants shall assist other Registrants by sharing professional experiences and best practices.
- 5.2. Registrants shall strive to improve the practice of forestry through active participation in continuing competence programs and the practice of forestry.
- 5.3. Registrants shall improve the competence, dignity and prestige of the forestry profession and actively support and promote the forestry profession.
- 5.4. Registrants shall inform the public, their clients, employers and associates about the benefits of professional regulation.
- 5.5. Registrants shall recognize, welcome and support individuals admitted to the Association and are encouraged to take on a mentorship role.
- 5.6. Registrants should explore and communicate new methods and approaches of emerging science and applications to other Registrants.

6. Conduct the practice of forestry with the highest regard for respect, health and safety

The forest contains many hazards which present potentially dangerous conditions. Registrants must comply with the legal obligations set out under applicable occupational health and safety legislation. All necessary



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onsite and operational safety precautions must be taken, and no plans should be approved or undertaken if they are seen to jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of the public, forest workers or other forest users. The demonstration of respect is the commitment and responsibility of every AAFMP Member. Inappropriate behaviour, including bullying and harassment, will not be tolerated.

Principles

- 6.1. Registrants shall comply with Client/Employer policies concerning public and Member safety and all legal obligations set out under applicable occupational health and safety legislation.
- 6.2. Registrants shall demonstrate proper safety practices and procedures to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public, forest workers or other forest users.
- 6.3. Registrants shall not prepare, propose or approve any plan, or consent to any action that in their opinion would jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of their fellow employees, their employer or the public.
- 6.4. Registrants shall ensure their words and actions contribute to a respectful work environment.
- 6.5. Registrants shall be accountable for their conduct, regardless of intent.
- 6.6. Registrants shall understand that disrespectful behaviours will not be tolerated.
- 6.7. Registrants shall address issues of disrespectful conduct with those directly involved and the supervisor(s) prior to escalation.

7. Engage in ongoing learning and professional development

Registrants must make themselves aware of current technical, professional, social, economic and environmental issues pertaining to forestry.

Knowledge of current environmental laws and policies underpins the practice of forestry in Alberta. Registrantship in the Association and involvement with educational institutions will help maintain an understanding of technical and policy matters. Participation in continuing education programs (formal and informal) is beneficial to members and serves to protect the public interest.

Principles

- 7.1. Registrants shall maintain and improve their knowledge, understanding, and competence regarding the practice of forestry and at minimum shall meet the continuing competence standards specified by the Association.
- 7.2. Registrants shall consult with other Registrants outside their area of expertise for training and advice to stay current and ensure advice and opinions are based on accepted standards of practice.