

## MINUTES

### Meeting of the BC Assayers Certification Program Board of Advisors

BCIT Campus Room 214 E Building,  
3700 Willingdon Ave., Burnaby, B.C.

June 5th, 1998, 1.00 P.M.

#### *Present:*

Mr. Manzur (Mac) Chaudhry	BC Ministry of Energy & Mines, Victoria
Mr. Rob Edmunds	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Mr. Keith Errington	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Mr. John Gravel	ACME Analytical Labs, Vancouver
Mr. Keith Rogers	Intertek Testing Services, Vancouver
Mr. George Rodger	Placer Dome Research Lab.
Mr. Louie DeRosa	Cominco Research, Trail
Mr. Ray Lett (Secretary)	GSB, BC Ministry of Energy & Mines Victoria.
Mr. Jim McLeod	Cominco Research Labs, Vancouver
Mr. Norman Monteith	Eco-Tech Lab, Kamloops
Ms. Terry Suen	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Mr. Wilfred Tsang	Min-En Labs, Vancouver
Mr. Lloyd Twaites (Chair)	Chemex Labs, Vancouver
Ms. Elaine Woo	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Mr. Henry Wong	Placer Dome Research Labs.

#### **1. Welcome and Introduction Remarks (Lloyd Twaites):**

Lloyd Twaites welcomed those present to the second Assayers Advisory Board meeting. He welcomed Keith Errington (BCIT) to the Board.

#### **2. Approval of the Meeting Agenda:**

*Proposed (Keith Errington) and seconded (John Gravel) that the meeting Agenda be accepted. All in favour*

#### **3. Status of Action Items:**

Lloyd Twaites reviewed the status of the action items arising from the Minutes of the March 27<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board Meeting

##### **3.1 Distribution of Partnership Package**

Lloyd stated that the Invitation to Partner information package had been sent to 35 companies. Responses had been received and would be discussed later in the meeting.

##### **3.2 Assayers List Updates Committee**

Keith Rogers agreed to give a report later in the meeting.

### **3.3 Inventory of Examination Materials**

Mac Chaudhry reported that an inventory of examination test samples was complete.

### **3.4 Mailing List for Circulating Information on the Assayers Program**

Keith Rogers stated that this list was being prepared with the help of Ray Lett and Ross Kean.

### **3.5 Brochure Revision**

Ray Lett reported that he had received some suggested revisions to the brochure from Mac Chaudhry.

### **4.0 Status of Motions made at the March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Lloyd Twaites reported on the motions made at the March 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting

#### **4.1 Board Chair Term.**

Lloyd suggested discussion on this topic to be deferred.

#### **4.2 Advisory Board representation**

It was agreed that there would be no limit to the number of company representatives on the Advisory Board, but there would only be one vote for each company.

#### **4.3 Assayers Self Regulatory Body sub-committee**

John Gravel reported that there was industry support for the formation of a self regulatory body of certified assayers.

#### **4.4 Approval of the Assayers Certification Program Business Plan**

Lloyd stated that following approval of the Business Plan at the last meeting, invitations to join the partnership and a request to provide examination sample material had been sent to 35 companies and individuals. Eight companies had responded to the invitation.

#### **4.5 Examination Fees and Examination liability**

Keith Errington stated that the BCIT insurance policy covered students liability during the practical examination. Mac Chaudhry suggested that candidates should also be required to sign a liability waiver before taking the exam. Keith replied that a waiver would be unnecessary because the examination was being held on campus. Also, students were covered by their employers insurance. Mac noted that some candidates were non-BCIT students. Keith explained that BCIT's insurance covered all examination held on campus. Terry Suen explained that the liability insurance protected BCIT from possible litigation should an incident occur during the examination. Henry Wong asked who would be liable if an incident occurred to a candidate when carrying chemicals to the examination. Mac Chaudhry replied that candidate, not BCIT would be liable in the event of a chemical spill off campus. Also, sufficient reagents were supplied at the examination. Norm Monteith asked if candidates should be even allowed to bring their own reagents. Mac Chaudhry stated that this policy would be reviewed by the Board of examiners since bringing of reagents could give a candidate an unfair advantage. Keith Errington suggested that the cost of supplying the chemicals should be built into the examination fee.

## 5.0 Background to the Assayers Certification Program (Ray Lett):

Ray Lett reviewed the history and background to the Assayers Certification Program.

## 6.0 Results of the Invitation to Partner Mailing

Lloyd reported that the invitation to partner information package had been sent to 35 companies and individuals. Contributions totaling \$7500 from 8 companies had been received and had been entered into a BCIT account. A grant of \$10,000 had also been received from the BC Ministry of Energy and Mines. Lloyd volunteered to phone and thank the contributors. Mac Chaudhry suggested that a follow-up letter to contributors should also be sent. John Gravel suggested that a copies of the invitation letter go to the Vancouver Stock Exchange, BC Chamber of Mines and BC Securities Commission.

*Action: Lloyd Twaites to send copies of the Assayers Advisory Board Invitation to Partner letter to the Vancouver Stock Exchange, BC Chamber of Mines and BC Securities Commission noting that 8 companies had already joined the partnership.*

## 7.0 List of Certified Assayers

Keith Rogers reported that a list of Certified Assayers had been started, but that work was needed to update addresses. Mac Chaudhry suggested that Phone Canada service was used to help verify records. George Rogers agreed that Placer Dome and Jim McLeod agreed the Cominco could help provide information for updating the list.

## 8.0 Inventory of Examination Samples

Mac Chaudhry reported that the priority for replacing the inventory of examination test samples was:-

- a. Most Urgent replacement-test material almost depleted: Key elements As, Ca, Mg, P
- b. Depletion expected in 1.5 years: Key elements Mn, Ni, S, Hg, Si
- c. Depletion expected in 2 years: Key elements Pb, Zn, Cu, Cr, Co
- d. Depletion expected in 2.5 years: Key elements Au, Ag, Fe, Cd, Bi

*Proposed (Mac Chaudhry) and seconded (Ray Lett) That a source of material is needed for the for highest priority examination test samples (As, Ca, Mg, P) to cover the range of values expected in examinations and to produce 5-10 kg of material following CANMET guidelines. All in Favour*

Mac Chaudhry stressed that considerable work was involved in the preparation of the test materials. Also, for the preparation of the arsenic standard, sulphide and oxide materials were needed. Ten samples for each elements were needed.

Louie DeRosa stated Cominco could supply material for an arsenic standard.

Lloyd Twaites asked if those present could help supply material for less urgent replacement test samples.

Keith Rogers agreed to ask Russ Calow (Bondar and Clegg, Ottawa) for a nickel-rich test sample. Lloyd offered a supply of material rich in sulphur. Mac Chaudhey stressed that that the sample should contain soluble sulphur, insoluble sulphur and sulfide species (e.g. gypsum, barite and pyrite) in the 1-20% range. He also stressed that mercury content should be less than 0.5%.

John gravel suggested that the Advisory Board work cooperatively with CANMET for initial preparation of the standards. Ray Lett notes some of the preparation work could be carried out in the Geological Survey sample preparation facility.

Commenting on the practical examination, Keith Errington suggested that candidates be given a list of the equipment needed before the examination. Mac Chaudry explained that a list of equipment was normally given to candidates before the exam and that candidates were invited to visit BCIT for a day to become familiar with the examination.

## **9. Administration**

### **9.1 Training**

Elaine gave an update on the training program. She explained that the training program was in the middle of module 3. 15 students had already finished modules 1 and 2 and would write the theory examination in Spring 1999 and consequently BCIT would be seeking students to start the next module at that time. BCIT was also looking into the feasibility of remote training at such sites as Trail and setting up a dry laboratory where students would be given the opportunity of performing stimulated analytical techniques using software. The software would be available on CD ROM and through the Internet. She conclude by asking Board members to inform potential student in their organization's of the start of the new course in 1999.

### **9.2 Business Plan**

Rob Edmunds noted that the Business Plan should indicate that that Board of Advisors is not responsible for the training program and that there should be a clear distinction between the BCIT night school training program and the Assayers Certification Program.

*Proposed (Mac Chaudhry) and seconded (Wilfred Tsang) that there should be a clear separation between the Assayers Certification Program and the BCIT Training Program as stated in the original Partnership Proposal. The external funds generated from the Partnership Proposal are for the Assayers Certification Program only. All in favour.*

### **9.3 Assayers Program Brochure**

Keith Errington agreed to update the Brochure with company logo's. Ray Lett will arrange for a digital copy of the Brochure to be e-mailed to Keith. The final brochure will be ready for a Canadian Mineral Analysts meeting in Kelona in September.

*Action: Ray to send a digital copy of the brochure to Keith. BCIT to produce the brochure.*

### **9.4 Canadian Mineral Analysts (CMA) Meeting**

Keith Errington agreed to contact Wes Johnson (Okanagan University College) to inform him that BCIT planned to have a display booth at the CMA Meeting. Information on the BCIT assayers and mineral analysts training program would be displayed on the booth. Lloyd Twaites noted that the cost for the booth was not included in the program budget and that a committee should be formed to organize the booth. He proposed that the committee would comprise Keith Errington, Lloyd Twaites, Ron Smyth and Norm Monteith. Lloyd agreed to ask Ron Smyth if he would serve on the committee.

## 9.5 Program and Sponsor Logo's

Norm Monteith asked if a Program logo had been developed. Mac Chaudhry replied that concepts for a logo had been discussed at the previous meeting, but no decision had been made. He suggested that a contest could be held for a suitable logo. Ray Lett suggested that some mark of recognition should be given to the Program such as an engraved plaque.

*Proposed (Ray Lett) and seconded (Norm Monteith) that a plaque be designed and made to recognized support from corporate sponsors. All in favour.*

## 9.6 Examinations

George Rogers asked for information on the number of candidate who passed the practical assayers examination. Elaine Woo replied that out of 12 candidates for the practical exam only 5 had actually taken the exam. Mac Chaudhry stressed that a high pass grade had to be maintained to keep the examination standard high. Keith Rogers commented that candidates from assay companies often had insufficient practical training time in order to pass the exam. Elaine Woo stressed that student self motivation, especially during the BCIT course, was also an important factor. Lloyd Twaites stated that the Board of Examiners had the mandate for setting examinations and the pass grades whereas the Board of Advisors could suggest improvements. He recommended that this issue be discussed at the next meeting.

## 11. Next Meeting (Lloyd Twaites)

The next meeting scheduled for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of September, 1998 at BCIT.

## 12. Adjournment (Lloyd Twaites)

*Proposed (Lloyd Twaites), Seconded (Ray Lett) that the meeting be adjourned at 3.13 p.m. with thanks to those present for attending. All in favour*

Chair Person, Lloyd Twaites

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Secretary, Ray Lett

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_