

## MINUTES

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

BCIT Campus Room 111, SE Building,  
3700 Willingdon Ave., Burnaby, B.C.

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1998, 9.30 A.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. Ross Kean	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. Lloyd Twaites (Chair)	Chemex Labs, Vancouver
Ms. Elaine Woo	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby

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

Lloyd Twaites welcomed those present and tabled the Agenda.

#### **2. Approval of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1998 Assayers Advisory Board Meeting Minutes:**

*Proposed (John Gravel) and seconded (Rob Edmunds) that the Minutes of the June 5<sup>th</sup> Assayers Advisory Board Meeting 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 June 5<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board Meeting.

##### **3.1 Partnership Invitations**

Lloyd stated that the Invitation to Partner information package had been sent to the BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines and the Vancouver Stock Exchange, but not to the BC Securities Commission. There had been no responses to the Invitation from either the BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines or the VSE.

##### **3.2 Source material for new Assayers Examination test samples**

Lloyd stated that Chemex would provide two sulphur test samples such as barite and pyrite. Ross Kean stated Cominco would provide ten arsenic-rich test samples grading up to 10% As. Lloyd stated Placer Dome had agreed to make the mercury-rich test samples and agreed to contact George Roger to find out progress with preparation. Keith Rogers

stated that that there had been slow progress in the preparation of a nickel-cobalt test sample and he would discuss preparation with Lakefield Research and with Inco. Mac Chaudhry stressed that 10 test samples for each element, each 1 kg of prepared material, blended material ready for examination purposes would be needed by March 1999.

### **3.3 Clarification of Partnership verses Training Programs**

Keith Errington stated that the finances of the Assayer Partnership were completely separate from the BCIT mineral analysis training program. Sending approval for any Partnership expenses would be by the Board and ultimately by the Chair. Any examination costs would be approved by the Chair before issue of cheques.

### **3.4 Brochure Revisions**

Keith Errington distributed copies of the Assayers Program Brochure printed for the September 10<sup>th</sup>, Canadian Mineral Analysts meeting in Kelowna. He recommended changes under "Training" clarifying that the BCIT mineral analysts training program was a night school course. Also, that the sponsor logo's should include the name of each company. Ray suggested that a list of the sponsor companies be added to the brochure. Mac suggested that there should be a statement in the Brochure explaining that the BCIT training program was recommended, but not an essential requirement for those wishing to take the Assayers Certification examination. He agreed to write a paragraph for a revised version of the brochure. Ross asked if a detailed examination curriculum existed for those undergoing training at the Cominco laboratory in Trail. Mac referred him to the curriculum published in Ministry of Energy and Mines, Geological Survey Branch, Information Circular 1994-2.

### **3.5 Okanagan University College Cooperation**

Keith reported that he had discussed possible cooperation between BCIT and OUC for providing mineral analysts training with Wes Johnson who had indicated that an opportunity existed for offering joint training.

### **3.6 Sponsor's Recognition Plaque**

Mac suggesting awarding an annual trophy to the Sponsor most supportive of the Program. Lloyd suggested giving a plaque to founding members of the Partnership and a certificate for subsequent years of contribution. 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 (Lloyd Twaites) and seconded (Norm Monteith) that John Gravel, Ray Lett and Mac Chaudhry discuss options for an award and report back with proposals to the Board at the next meeting. All in favour.*

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

Lloyd Twaites reported on the motions made at the June 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting

#### **4.2 Advisory Board Representation**

*Proposed (Lloyd Twaites) and seconded (Ray Lett) 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. All in favour*

#### **5. Assayers Advisory Board Partnership Status (Lloyd)**

BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines, Vancouver Stock Exchange and BC Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists had been invited to join the partnership. BCAPEAG had declined the invitation. Present Board partners are:

ACME Laboratories  
BC Ministry of Energy and Mines, Geological Survey Branch  
BCIT  
Intertek-Bondar Clegg  
Chemex Labs  
Placer-Dome  
Chem Met Consultants  
Cominco  
Eco tech Labs.  
Mineral Environmental Labs  
Teck Corp.

Lloyd volunteered to phone and thank the contributors and to send that a follow-up letter of appreciation. Keith stated that he was updating the list for mailing partnership invitations and was planning to send them out. Lloyd commented that Legend Labs, Reno was responsible for sending out the Society of Mineral Analysts Newsletter and that the deadline for the next newsletter was December 1. He suggested that copies of the brochure could be included. Keith stated that the Canadian Mineral Analysts was interested in a 2-3 paragraph news release on the partnership for their newsletter. Lloyd volunteered to write a news release.

***Action:** Lloyd Twaites to thank contributing partners, mail copies of the Assayers Advisory Board Invitation to potential new partners and to write a press release for the Society of Mineral Analysts and the Canadian Mineral Analysts Newletters.*

#### **6. List of Certified Assayers**

Keith Rogers reported that an announcement about the partnership and a request for assistance in assaying examination test samples would be sent on cards to all certified assayers presently on the list. Lloyd agreed to include the card with the SMA mailing in December.

***Action:** Keith Rogers to send an announcement about the partnership and a request for assistance in assaying examination test samples would to all known certified assayers presently on the list.*

#### **7. Changes to Business Plan**

Lloyd asked Ray Lett to make sure that the Partnership Business Plan was changed to indicate that that Board of Advisors has no responsibility for the training program and that there is a clear distinction between the BCIT night school training program and the Assayers Certification Program.

*Action: Ray Lett to change the Business Plan to make reflect clear separation of the BCIT training and the Assayers Certification program.*

## **8. Canadian Mineral Analysts Meeting, September 10, 1998**

Elaine stated that the BCIT booth at the CMA meeting in Kelona had generated interest in mineral analysts training and in the Assayers Certification Program from delegates from other parts of Canada, the USA, Chili, Argentina and Russia. Keith confirmed that much of the interest arose because the BC has an Assayers Examination Program is controlled by government regulations.

Lloyd stated that equipment suppliers such as Delta Scientific and had expressed an interest in joining the partnership. All agreed that suppliers could joining the partnership. Lloyd also suggested that mine-site laboratories should be contacted through the parent mining companies to invite partnership membership.

Keith Errington offered BCIT resources to assist with mailing out further invitations.

*Action: Keith Errington to arrange for a partnership invitation mailing through BCIT targeting equipment suppliers using lists supplied by Keith Rogers and Lloyd Twaites. Keith will also supply invitation cards.*

## **9. Offices Expenses**

Mac Chaudhry asked that personal phone and other expenses related administering the Assayers Program from his home be covered by the Partnership.

*Proposed (Ray Lett ) and seconded (Keith Rogers) that the Assayers Advisory Board approve payment to Mac Chaudhry for up to \$900 for a phone fax/copy machine for Mac Chaudhry and up to \$50 for a dedicated phone line and long distance charges.. **All in favour***

Lloyd suggested for the short term that e-mail inquiries about Assayers Certification are routed through Elaine.

## **10. Changes to the Assayers Certification Examination Fees**

Mac stated that any decision about changing examination fees should be made be the Board of Examiners as stated in the legislation. He stated that the issue of fees would be discussed at the next Examiners Board Meeting. Lloyd asked if the Board of Advisors could assist with information for setting examination fees Mac relied that there was a need to establish the real cost for administering the Program. Keith Rogers stated that non-financial contributions from program supporters should be taken into account and that the examinations fees should be reasonable.

## **11. Other Business**

### **11.1 Financial Status.**

John Gravel suggested that the Program finances routinely reviewed at future meetings. Terry commented that \$16, 546 remained in the Program account and that the main expenses to date had been for the CMA meeting costs.

## 11.2 Future Assayers Certification Examination

John asked about flexibility for the March, 1999 examination date. Mac relied that 30 days advanced notice of the examination data was given to candidates and that both written and practical were scheduled for same period to coincide with the BCIT mid term break. In the last examination the practical examination was held from Monday to Friday and the theory examination on the Saturday of the same week. Under the existing legislation the Board of examiners can set up two full examination each year. Elaine stated that a limit of four candidates be set for a practical examination, but there should presently be no limit the number of candidates for a theory examination.

## 11.3 Inclusion of Environmental Testing in the Examination Syllabus

Rob Edmunds suggested expanding the Examination Syllabus to include environmental analytical topic so that the Program would be more attractive for training opportunities in developing countries. Russ noted that there was considerable interest in environmental analysis at Cominco. Mac stated that the Board of examiners had previously recognized the need to include environmental topics such as acid based accounting, graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometry and agreed to discuss including more environmental analytical topics such as mass spectrometry. Rob suggested inviting environmental groups such as Greenpeace and to join the Partnership. Mac relied that environmental analytical topics should be included in the BCIT course curriculum. Lloyd stated that there had been little interest in the Partnership from strictly environmental analytical labs. Mac recommended that the first priority of the Assayers Program should be to support mineral labs, but that environmental topics could be incorporated in the theory examination. Lloyd recommended that environmental analysis in the examination curriculum be discussed at the next Advisors Boards meeting. He also stated that updates to the Brochure should also be an Agenda Item at the meeting.

*Action Items: Addition of Environmental topics in the Assayers Examination curriculum and Updates to the Program brochure be tabled Agenda Items at the next Advisors Board meeting.*

## 12. Next Meeting (Lloyd Twaites)

The next meeting scheduled for Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, 1999 at 1.00 p.m. at BCIT.

## 13. Adjournment (Lloyd Twaites)

*Proposed (Lloyd Twaites), Seconded (Ray Lett) that the meeting be adjourned at 12.03 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: \_\_\_\_\_