

## MINUTES

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

BCIT Campus, Room 166, South West 2 Building,  
3700 Willingdon Ave., Burnaby, B.C.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1999, 1.30 P.M.

#### *Present:*

Mr. Manzur (Mac) Chaudhry	BC Ministry of Energy & Mines, Victoria
Mr. Louie DeRosa	Cominco Research, Trail
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
Ms. Terry Suen	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Mr. Lloyd Twaites (Chair)	Chemex Labs, Vancouver
Ms. Elaine Woo	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Mr. Henry Wong	Placer Dome Inc.

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

Lloyd Twaites called the meeting to orders at 1.40 p.m., welcomed those present and tabled the Agenda.

#### **2. Approval of September 24, 1998 Assayers Advisory Board Meeting Minutes and Agenda for April 23rd 1999 Meeting:**

*Proposed (Keith Errington) and seconded (Ray Lett) that the Minutes of the September 24th Assayers Advisory Board Meeting and the April 23rd 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 September 24<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board Meeting.

#### **3.1 Awards Committee (John Gravel, Ray Lett, Mac Chaudhry) Report**

John Gravel stated the Committee proposed that each Contributing Partner should receive a plaque engraved with the Assayers Certification Program logo and mission statement. Partners would also receive a decal for their plaque recording annual donation to the Program. The Committee also proposed awarding a trophy annually to mark additional financial and/or material contributions to the program by an institution or company. The proposed form of the trophy would be a B.C., jade pyramid (recognizing the historical origin of assaying), engraved with the periodic table of elements and mounted on an oak base with provision for an decal to identify the annual receiver of the award. Cost for the trophy would be under \$500.

*Proposed (Lloyd Twaites) and seconded (Jim McLeod) that the Awards Committee (John Gravel, Ray Lett, Mac Chaudhry) develop a trophy to be awarded annually by the Advisory Board in recognition of an outstanding financial and/or material donation from a partner. Cost for the trophy would not exceed \$500. Each Partner would also receive a Plaque with a decal to record their annual financial contribution to the Program. All in favour.*

### **3.2 Mailing to Certified Assayers**

Keith Rogers stated that responses to a request for current information on B.C Certified Assayers had been given to Terry Suen who had agreed to set up a list at B.C.I.T. Jim McLeod recommended that copies of the list be circulated as widely as possible to encourage further updates. Lloyd suggested that the list be included with a revised Assayers Certification Program information book. He also suggested that the Advisory Board start a Newsletter to distribute with the list and proposed holding further discussion on this topic at the next meeting.

*Action Item: Lloyd to include the topic of a Newsletter at the next Advisory Board Meeting.*

### **3.3 Changes to Business Plan**

Ray Lett reviewed modification of Partnership Business Plan to state that that Board of Advisors had no responsibility for the training and the B.C.I.T. night school training program was clearly separated from the Assayers Certification Program. Elaine Woo agreed to comment on the proposed changes and suggest any revisions.

*Action: Ray Lett finalize change the Business Plan to make reflect clear separation of the B.C.I.T. training and the Assayers Certification program after discussion with Elaine Woo.*

### **3.4 Mailing to Equipment Suppliers**

Keith Rogers reported that mailing of information cards for the Assayers Program had still to be circulated to equipment suppliers. *Action: Keith Rogers to complete distribution of information cards to equipment suppliers.*

### **3.5 Payment to Mac Chaudry for a home fax/phone equipment**

Mac reported that the fax unit purchased for his home office for Assayers Examiners Board business had cost \$769.24 compared to the \$900 budgeted for this item. He asked that the Board of Advisors also consider future purchase of a photo copier. Ray offered Ministry support with photocopying of material for the Board of Examiners.

### **3.6 Letter of thanks to Contributing Partners, New mailing and Press Release to the CMA and SMA Newsletter.**

Lloyd reported that all of the contributing Partners had been thanks personally by phone. He also circulated a copy of the CMA-SMA Newsletter (Alchemists Digest) containing an article on the B.C. Assayers certification program. Keith Errington thanked Lloyd and Ron Smyth for writing the article.

#### **4.0 Review of Motions made at the September 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

##### **4.1 Committee formed to discuss options for an award to be presented to contributors (John Gravel, Ray Lett, Mac Chaudhry).**

Lloyd stated that John Gravel had reported earlier in the Meeting and that the Committee would proceed with creating the awards in time for the next meeting.

##### **4.2 Proposal to limit voting privileges for contributors to the Partnership**

Lloyd stated that the motion passed at the meeting allowed no limit to the number of company representatives on the Advisory Board, but placed a limit of one vote for each company.

#### **5.0 Discussion on the addition of environmental topics in the Assayers Examination curriculum and updates to the program brochure (Rob Edmunds)**

Rob noted that the Assayers Examination Program was presently designed mainly for mineral assaying and the mining industry, but that there was an increasing interest from environmental analysts in the certification offered by the Assayers Examination. He asked for opinions on the extent to which the Board should recognize environmental topics in training and in the assayers examination.

Mac noted that environmental analysis could be extremely complex especially in the area of elemental speciation. If the environmental topics were to be considered more in the examination there would have to be a limit to the complexity of topics.

John Gravel noted that the quality control and quality assurance procedures for environmental analysis was more rigorous than for mineral assaying.

Rob commented that if assayers were to ignore environmental analysts this group could form their own association.

Lloyd remarked that the environmental field was large and that the present assayers examination not sufficiently comprehensive.

Mac noted that the B.C. Ministry of Environment has an accreditation scheme for environmental labs. Also, the legislation regulating the Assayers Program would have to be changed to extend the curriculum into environmental analysis. Environmental issues are recognized in the present theory examination, but environmental analysis has not been separated into a distinct field. Mac expressed concerns about the legal implications of including more environmental analysis in the examination. He suggested that the curriculum could be modified to include general topics on acid rock drainage most relevant to mining. If a general topic were successfully incorporated then the examiners could include more detailed topics such as chemistry and mineralogy.

Ross asked how recommended safe levels of metal pollutants and discharge levels were incorporated in the curriculum.

Mac replied that this topic was covered in the examination curriculum.

Keith Errington asked how ISO 14000 (discharge of potential pollutants from labs) was treated in the curriculum.

Mac relied that this topic was under regulations for municipal control of pollutants and stressed that modification of the examination syllabus to include pollution and environmental topics should be at the discretion of the Board of examiners.

### **6.0 Internet Web Site (Keith Rogers)**

Keith noted that the Assayers Program web site would simplify contacting existing and potential certified assayers. Keith Errington remarked that B.C.I.T had the necessary resources to design and install a web site onto the Internet. Creation of the site could be part of the B.C.I.T. contribution to the program. Information would be needed from Board members about the logo, topics for the site and a suitable domain name.

Mac suggested topics could include Program aims, training, employment for certified assayers, a list of candidates for the current year and the certification procedure.

Keith Errington noted that much of the information could be captured from the Program brochure.

Discussion followed on what information for certified assayers and examination candidates could be included on the web site.

John Gravel suggested that a request could be include in the first Assayers Newsletter for candidates to express a preference for the type of information (e.g. e-mail address) to be on the web site.

Elaine noted that Assayers training was covered on the B.C.I.T. web site.

Lloyd asked if Keith Errington could start designing an Assayers Program web site using information in the Assayers Program brochure and using suggestion from individual members.

***Action:** Keith Errington to initiate design of an Assayers Program web site at B.C.I.T. The prototype web site would be circulated to members for comments before installation.*

### **7.0 Financial Review and new Board members (Terry Suen and Lloyd Twaites)**

Terry distributed a financial update on the program.

Mac suggested a more detailed explanation of the expenses be added to the statement to help in developing new budgets. Lloyd recommended publishing an annual, detailed financial statement for the Program. Terry agreed to develop a spreadsheet with a detailed explanation of expenses.

Ray recommended that the Program fiscal year be from April 1st to March 31st.

Lloyd stated that CANMET had recently joined the partnership with a contribution of \$1000.

### **8.0 B.C.I.T. Training Program Update (Elaine Woo)**

Elaine stated that the final module of the program had just been completed. Of 15 students who stated the training program, 9 had taken the march theory examination. Training module 4 was schedules to start in late April with 5 local and 5 out-of-town

students. The module included a pilot project combining week-end class room sessions, CD material and video tape lectures to make the course more attractive to out-of-town students. Examples of the CD lectures covering Module 1, Part 1 (Mineral Identification) and Wet Assaying were shown to the Board who congratulated Elaine and the B.C.I.T. production team.

Rob Edmunds commented that B.C.I.T. planned to send mineral sets obtained from the B.C. Mining Museum with the c.d.'s to students.

Elaine explained that the next CD production would be on Quality Assurance and Control.

Keith Errington noted that the CD's could be translated into other languages and therefore could have great potential for training.

### **9.0 Examination Schedule for 1999 (Mac Chaudhry)**

Mac commented that nine candidates had completed the theory examination. Grading of the exams was still in progress. There were 4 certain candidates for the practical examination in August. Mac proposed limiting the August examination to 8 candidates because of the size of the B.C.I.T. examination laboratory facilities.

### **10. New Funding for 1999**

Lloyd proposed sending letter out to partners for 1999 contributions. Keith Errington agreed to arrange distribution of the letter from B.C.I.T.

*Action: Keith Errington to arrange distribution of a letter inviting a financial contribution to the partnership for 1999.*

### **11.0 Examination Fee Structure for theory and practical examination (Elaine Woo)**

Elaine explained that new examination fees would be decided at the next Examiners Board meeting.

### **12.0 Equipment donation to the Assayers Training program by industry (Elaine Woo)**

Elaine acknowledged and thanked the contribution of equipment and supplies from:-

- a. Geological Survey Branch, Ministry of Energy and Mines (graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometer, assay supplies)
- b. Bondar and Clegg (3 furnace atomic absorption spectrometers, 1 inductively coupled plasma emission spectrometer).

### **13.0 Examination Standards (Lloyd Twaites)**

Henry Wong stated that Placer Dome could provide 2 mercury standards each consisting of 1 kilo of material.

Louis DeRosa stated that Cominco could provide 10-15 kilo of material for 4 arsenic standard. The material would need drying, blending, bucking and partitioning before being suitable as standards.

Following discussion, Louie and Ross agreed that Comico would blend and split the material for the 4 arsenic standards into 5 kilogram lots.

Lloyd stated that Chemex had prepared 10 sulphur standards. Mac agreed to transfer these to the GSB standards storage room.

#### **14.0 Other Business**

**14.1 19th IGES Short Course (John Gravel):** John referred to a presentation by Henry Steger (CANMET) on laboratory accreditation that had no mention of the BC Assayers Program. He agreed to send information about the B.C. Assayers Program to CANMET for inclusion in their web site.

**14.2 Examiners Meeting (Mac Chaudry):** Mac requested the Advisory Board fund examiners travel to attend an Examiners Board meeting in May. He estimated costs would be \$800. The Advisory Board approved costs for the examiners travel.

*Action: The Advisory Board fund travel for examiners to meet in May.*

**14.3 Assayers Program Information Circular (Mac Chaudry):** Mac explained that the program information book (GSB Information Circular 1994-2) should be revised. He volunteered to start updating the book. Ray agreed to establish if GSB could provide publishing resources for the updates.

*Action: Mac to start revising GSB Information Circular 1994-2. Ray to establish if GSB can provide resources to assist.*

**14.4 Nevada training (Elaine Woo):** Elaine commented on opportunities for Assayers training in Nevada. She suggested that Newmont and Barrick resources could be sites for training using the B.C.I.T modules.

**14.5 Keith Rogers** asked if students were given course critique forms for the B.C.I.T. training courses. Elaine agreed that they were given forms to comment on the courses.

#### **15. Next Meeting (Lloyd Twaites)**

The next meeting scheduled for Friday 15th October, 1999 at 1.30 p.m. at BCIT.

#### **12. Adjournment (Lloyd Twaites)**

*Proposed (Lloyd Twaites), Seconded (Ray Lett) that the meeting be adjourned at 4.30 p.m. with thanks to those present for attending. All in favour*

Chair Person, Lloyd Twaites

---

Secretary, Ray Lett

---

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