

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Meeting of the BC Assayers Certification Program Advisory Council**  
**Room 118, South West 9 Building, BCIT Campus**  
**3700 Willingdon Ave., Burnaby, B.C., November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002.**

***Present:***

Manzur (Mac) Chaudhry	Victoria
Luigi Iserwina	Teck Cominco Metals, Trail, B.C.
Ray Lett (Acting Chair)	GSB, BC Ministry of Energy & Mines, Victoria.
Elaine Woo	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby
Keith Rogers	ALS Chemex Ltd, Vancouver
Jim McLeod	Teck Cominco Metals, Vancouver
Paul Morrison	BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby

**1. Welcome and Introduction Remarks (Ray Lett)**

Meeting called to order at 1.30 p.m. Introduction and welcome to those present by the Acting Chair.

Ray will communicate wishes for a speedy recovery from members to Lloyd Twaites (Council Chair).

Regrets for absence from Lloyd Twaites, John Gravel, Glen Armanini, Dean Willows, Rob Stevens and Derek Blundell.

Ray noted that this is the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting since the Advisory Council was formed.

No changes to the Agenda. Corrections to the May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001 meeting minutes identified by Elaine Woo.

**2. Approval of May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002 Assayers Advisory Council Meeting Minutes and Agenda for the November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002 Meeting:**

*Proposed (Mac Chaudhry) and seconded (Elaine Woo) that the Minutes of the May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002 Assayers Advisory Council Meeting be accepted after correction by the Secretary and the November 15<sup>th</sup> 2002 Meeting Agenda be accepted as tabled. All in favour.*

**3. Status of Action Items from May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002 Meeting**

**3.1 Preparation of Ca, Mg standards for the Assayers Board of Examiners (Mac)**

Mac reported that Lawrence Ng had prepared most of the Ca-Mg test samples. The remaining preparation and round-robin analysis of the standards would be finished and all samples delivered in time for the next practical examination.

*Action: Lawrence Ng to complete preparation, round-robin analysis and delivery of Ca-Mg test samples by the next practical assayers examination.*

**3.2 Establishment of a link between the BCIT analytical dialogue site and the Association of Exploration Geochemists (AEG) web site (Ray)**

Ray reported that the AEG web site was linked to the Assayers Program web page. More work would be needed to establish the analytical question/answer dialogue page.

*Mac:* Links between commercial analytical laboratory web pages and the Assayers Program dialog site would be useful so that questions about different analytical services could be addressed.

*Action: Ray and Mac continue to work on establishing the analytical dialogue site.*

**3.3 Membership renewal notices to Advisory Council members (Ray)**

Ray referred to an email on November 6<sup>th</sup> from Lloyd Twaites. Lloyd reported that he had sent a letter of thanks to five Council member companies who had paid 2002-2003 membership dues.

#### **4.0 Review of Issues raised at the November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2001 Meeting and Updates**

##### **4.1 Web Pages ([www.assay.bcit.ca](http://www.assay.bcit.ca)) & GSB Information Circular update (Ray)**

Logo updates (e.g. for Teck-Cominco) should be sent to Mark Gendron, BCIT.

Existing GSB Assayers Program Information circular needs updating.

*Mac:* Will discuss updating the examination syllabus in the Circular at the next Examiners Board meeting in February.

*Action:* Mac to update the Program Information circular by the next Council Meeting.

##### **4.2 Financial Report (Paul Morrison)**

Copy of current financial report distributed. Budget surplus is now \$21,795.78.

*Ray:* Sources of revenue (e.g. assayers examination fees, government grants) should be identified in the financial report.

*Jim:* A more detailed breakdown of income and expenses would be useful and information on the year-to-year membership subscriptions to indicate the level of interest in the program.

*Action:* Dean Willow to identify Program revenue sources for next Council meeting.

##### **4.4 BCIT Assayers training program (Elaine)**

Of 27 students previously registered in the training program, four have completed all of the course modules. Most of the remaining 23 students are completing modules three and four. Another 12-14 students are ready to start the program in January 2003 and will register in December 2002. Eight students are from outside B.C. Final revisions are being made to course module five (acid rock drainage) for interactive distance instruction. There are no plans to translate the course modules into another language (Spanish). A BCIT Advanced Specialty Certificate could recognize the assayers training program qualification. There are plans to set up an internal Board of examiners at BCIT and a committee of advisors.

*Paul Morrison:* Presently an Advanced Specialty Certificate is awarded to a BCIT graduate completing 20-30 credits of course work. The assayers training program only accounts for 15 credits. Paul will work with Elaine to reconcile differences in number of credits needed for the Certificate and the present number of course credits and the revise the credit allocations. BCIT approval to award Advanced Specialty Certificate for assayers training course could be given by next Council meeting.

Will also consider permitting part time students to use *My BCIT-email* account allowing entry into on-line discussion groups.

*Elaine:* New part-time students can register on-line for the assayers training program after on-line screening to assess experience level needed for the different course. There is a need to accommodate students with different learning speeds who may be able to skip modules depending on level of training and experience.

*Mac:* One challenge will be allowing for new developments in analytical methods within the course material and in the theory examination questions.

*Elaine:* Several letters complementing the BCIT assayers training program have been received including one from an assayer at the Britannia mine, Manitoba.

*Keith:* Certified assayers at Bondar Clegg have gained more confidence from having taken the BCIT assayers training program.

*Jim:* Suggest the supportive letters be added to the program web site.

*Elaine:* Will discuss posting program testimonials and supportive quotations (after publication approval from authors) on BCIT web sit with Mark Gendron.

#### **4.5 Assayers Examination Update (Mac Chaudhry)**

Mac reported that a theory examination would be held on December 21<sup>st</sup> at BCIT and he expected that four candidates would write the exam. Location of the next practical examination, scheduled for March 2003, had still to be decided.

#### **5 Recognition by Council of support of program by industry, BCIT and by government (Ray)**

Ideas for showing Council's appreciation of industry, BCIT and government support were discussion at previous meetings, but no decision was reached on how appreciation should be marked. Ideas proposed included giving a jade plaque and/or certificate to member organizations. A letter from Council Chair to senior staff in member organization could be one way of expressing appreciation.

*Action: Ray to discuss status of making a jade plaque with John Gravel.*

#### **6.0 Other Business**

##### **6.1 Co-op training (Luigi Iserwina):**

Questioned if co-op training (e.g. assayers training at Teck-Cominco) could be offered as part of the BCIT assayers training program.

*Elaine:* Would be difficult to fit co-op option into the two-year assayers training program.

##### **6.2 Scholarship (Ray)**

Awarding scholarships using part of program budget surplus was discussed at the last meeting.

*Paul Morrison:* The BCIT awards committee presently decides on granting scholarships to full-time BCIT students. The Advisory Council needs to consider the criteria for awarding a scholarship to part-time students taking the assayers training. Suggest that an e-mail discussion be started among Council members to decide on award criteria.

*Keith:* Scholarship award should not be limited to trainee assayers, but could include students in other areas of chemistry at BCIT.

*Action: Ray to initiate e-mail discussion to establish criteria for awarding scholarships.*

#### **6. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Friday April 11th, 2003 at 1.30 p.m. at BCIT. There will be a pre-meeting tour of the BCIT assay teaching labs from 12.30 to 1.30.

#### **7. Adjournment**

*Proposed (Mac Chaudhry), Seconded (Jim McLeod) that the meeting be adjourned at 3.10 p.m. with thanks to those present for attending. All in favour*

Acting Chair, Ray Lett

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Secretary, Ray Lett

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