

Assayers Foundation of British Columbia



DRAFT MINUTES
of an
Meeting of the British Columbia Assayers Foundation Advisory Council
held at
Room NE1 422. British Columbia Institute of Technology,
3700 Willingdon Ave. Burnaby, BC.

April 4th, 2008

Present:

Ray Lett (Secretary/Treasurer)	Victoria, BC.
Jim McLeod (Chair)	Vancouver, BC.
Paul Morrison	Burnaby, BC.
Ron Cardinall	Richmond, BC.
Scott Daniels	Trail, BC.
Elaine Woo	Burnaby, BC.
Mac Chaudhry	Victoria, BC.
Alice Pang	Vancouver, BC.
John Gravel	Vancouver, BC.

1. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 12.40 p.m. by the Chairperson, Jim McLeod, and the meeting Agenda tabled.

Moved by Ray Lett and seconded by Jim McLeod that the Agenda for the April 4th, 2008 Advisors Council Meeting be accepted as tabled.

Discussion: None. Unanimous acceptance of the Agenda.

2. Minutes of the October 19th, 2007 Advisors Council Meeting

Moved by Scott Daniels and seconded by Ray Lett that the Minutes of the October 19th, 2007 Advisors Council Meeting be accepted

Discussion: None: Call for a vote on acceptance of the Minutes. Unanimous acceptance of the October 19th Advisors Council Meeting Minutes.

3. October 19th, 2007 Meeting Minutes – Status of Action Items

- a. Format for capturing technical publication information for the BCassayer .com site (Mac Chaudhry).** Capture of technical information for the Bcassayers.com web site has been discussed with Scott Daniels. The propriety and copyright

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nature of the material limits posting all technical information that would be captured from publications. This limitation may also extend to instructional material, but many of the general references relevant to assayer training are in a booklet posted on the BCIT assayer program web site. Links to journal papers can partly resolve the problem of posting the complete document.

Discussion: *Scott Daniels:* There is most likely some redundancy of information posted on both BCIT assayers program and the www.bcassayer.com web sites. Ideally the two sites need to be synchronized with common information. The BCIT site should focus on assayer training whereas the www.bcassayer.com site should concentrate on information relevant to the BC Assayers Foundation. Also, information of both sites about the Assayers Advisory Council needs updating.

Paul Morrison: Elaine Woo and self will be willing to transfer information for the BCIT site from Scott Daniels to Mark Glendron, BCIT web master.

Action: Scott Daniels to discuss information from the www.bcassayer.com site to the BCIT assayer page. Ray Lett to make sure current information about the program is sent to Scott.

b. Advisory Council minutes for Scott Daniels to post on the BCAssayer.com site.

Action: Ray Lett to send Scott Daniels signed copies of 2006AGM and October 19th Advisory Council Minutes for posting on the BCAssayers web site.

c. Presentation of Trainee Assayers Award at a Vancouver Mineral exploration group lunch on November 7th, 2007.

Action: Ray Lett to confirm that a photo of Dori Pan receiving the 2007 Trainee Assayers award has been sent to Scott Daniels for posting on the www.bcassayer.com site

d. Notice of assayers examination fee change (Elaine Woo). Assayers examination fees increase in June 2008 from \$225 to \$250 per candidate for the theory exam and from \$450 to \$495 for the practical exam was approved at the October 19th, 2007 Advisory Council Meeting. Notice of the fee change to be posted on the BCIT assayer site.

Action: Elaine Woo to expedite posting of the examination fee changes on the BCIT Assayers Program web site.

e. Henry Wong and Russ Callow as potential new Assayers Foundation members for the Foundation (Elaine Woo). Henry Wong is interested in having information about the Assayers Foundation. As yet, no letter has been sent to him.

Action: Ray Lett to send letters to Henry Wong and Russ Callow inviting them to become members of the Assayers Foundation.

f. Draft letter from the Assayers Foundation to laboratory managers and company executive stressing that support for students is essential during training so that students complete courses (Jim McLeod and Elaine Woo).

Paul Morrison: Suggest a preliminary draft of the letter circulated by Jim McLeod

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be edited so employers are urged to provide more varied practical training in commercial laboratories as a compliment the BCIT the assayers training program.

Action: Jim McLeod and Elaine Woo to edit letter and send the final version to commercial laboratories.

- g. Detail schedule of the assignments comprising each course module to be made available to students and employers so that the expected time allocation for the assignments could be compared to the trainees actual progress (Elaine Woo)** This schedule is still being completed and needs more information about specific students and their progress in completing the course modules. However, there is a privacy issue in obtaining this information for individuals. There are many factors and reasons for delays in students completing the trainee assayers program from Module 1 through 4 to final graduation. Motivated students move faster though the modules but less motivated students often remain at module 1. The proposed schedule, when finished, will give employers have a time-line along which a student-trainee assayers progress through the course modules can be measured.

Discussion: *Jim McLeod:* Teck-Cominco use an incentive approach so that if trainee competes a course module and/or passes part of the assayers examination the trainee is awarded a salary increase and/or promotion.

Paul Morrison. The BCIT assayers web site could have an expected allocation of expected time for an average student to progress through the training program modules.

Mac Chaudhry: Regardless of completion incentives the proposed completion time-line should allow for differences in learning curve for each trainee. High marks gained by candidates sitting past assayer examinations reflect the excellence of instruction by Elaine Woo. Students can be helped to prepare for examinations if past theory exam papers are readily available. At least one recent, past exam should be posted on the www.bcassayer.com web site.

Action: Scott Daniels to contact Mac Chaudhry about obtaining recent examination for posting on the BC Assayers Site

4. Examiners Board Report - Mac Chaudhry

- a. Future Examinations:** A minimum ten candidates are expected to sit a practical assayer examination in June 2008. There are 10 to 12 candidates for the December 2008 theory exam.
- b. Board of examiners succession:** Several potential candidates for the BC Assayers Program Board of Examiners when contacted were reluctant to serve because of a time commitment and the absence of remuneration from government for the service. Ideally, candidates need a vision for the program future and have the practical experience necessary for replacing existing Board members. At least one candidate needs to be identified within the next three months.

Discussion: *John Gravel:* The ideal candidate must be a certified assayer, should have wide technical experience of assaying, have a vision for the Program's future

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and should be from industry rather than government. A candidate should be willing to make a time contribution to the assayers program rather than seeking remuneration for the service. A candidate with these qualities will be difficult to find.

Scott Daniels: Encouraging new assayers to enter the industry emphasizes the importance of the Assayers Program to industry growth. Government should be urged to increase financial support for the Board so that experienced candidates can be attracted.

Action: Ray Lett to advise Mac Chaudhry of any potential examiner candidates.

5. New Professional Association for Chemists in BC (Scott Daniels)

A group of chemists in BC led by Paul West at the University of Victoria and Grant Bruce of Hatfield Consultant are working to establish a body of professional chemists similar to the association of professional engineers and geoscientists in BC and the professional chemists in Ontario.

Presently they have formed the Association of the Chemical Profession of BC (ACPBC) to act as a voice for practicing chemists in the province.

Members of the group are academics and from industry and have not as yet fully defined the chemical professional in their literature. If ACPBC established under legislation the group could be responsible for regulatory functions in the chemical industry. ACPBC may be prepared to integrate BC certified assayers into their organization or may wish to remain independent of the assayers. Motivation for forming a professional chemist body may be to increase the status of an academic institution and attract more funding for university programs.

Discussion: *John Gravel* - Profession chemists might be established by amending the existing Professional Geoscientist/Engineers legislation. There could be advantages of linking assayers with Professional Chemists.

Scott Daniels: Ray Lett could contact Paul West and determine progress towards ACPBC forming a legislated body.

Action: Ray Lett to contact Paul West and determine progress towards ACPBC forming a legislated body.

6. BCIT Training Program – Elaine Woo

There are 12 students enrolled in Module 1 of the BCIT assayers training course in February 2008 and 9 students enrolled in Module 1 starting in June 2008. The June BC Certified assayer practical examination has 10 candidates and the December BC Certified assayer theory examination has an estimated 12 candidates.

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7. Approval of Scholarships for 2008 and Canadian Mineral Analysts Contribution (Jim McLeod)

A \$1000 BCIT graduation achievement award was approved at the October 19th, 2007 Advisory Council Meeting. Ray Lett has informed BCIT that the award would be made in June 2008 and will arrange for a cheque to be issued to the BCIT Foundation.

Discussion: *Elaine Woo:* A candidate for the Assayers Graduation achievement award must have a good academic standing in the BCIT assayer course, an interest in assaying and must preferably be working in the mineral analysis industry. The selection will be based on an evaluation of the criteria with a recommendation to the BCIT.

The Canadian Mineral Analysts are prepared to fund two \$1000 trainee assayer awards but have requested that the awards be linked to a mineral analyst who would be identified by CMA. The contact in the CMA for expediting transfer of the funds is Mr. E. Debicki (Ontario Geological Survey). The awards would be made at the CMA 2008 conference. Candidates will be needed for the CMA trainee assayers awards and also a \$500 award from the BC Assayers Foundation. Commercial laboratories should strongly encourage staff to apply for the awards when notices are posted.

Action: Ray Lett to arrange for notices inviting applicants for trainee assayer awards to be sent to commercial laboratories with June 30th 2008 closing date for applications and also issue a \$1000 cheque to BCIT.

8. Other Business

Foundation membership renewal letters (Jim McLeod): Jim McLeod recommends that 2008-2009 contributions in the Foundation membership renewal letters remain the same as in 2007-2008 and that the letters be sent as soon as possible.

Action: Ray Lett to send out renewal letters for 2008.

9. Next Meeting:

The Assayers Foundation Annual general meeting will be held at BCIT in room SW9-118 on October 17th 2008. Paul Morrison will try to arrange conference contact with remote BC centers using SKYPE.

10. Appreciation (Ray Lett): The Assayers Advisory Council thanks Paul Morrison, BCIT, for providing lunch and a room for the meeting.

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11. Adjournment: Moved by Ray Lett and seconded by Mac Chaudhry that the Advisory Council Meeting be adjourned at 3.00 p.m. April 4th, 2008. Accepted Unanimously.

Chair, Jim McLeod_____

Secretary, Ray Lett_____

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Summary of Action Items

1. Scott Daniels to discuss information from the www.bcassayer.com site to the BCIT assayer page. Ray Lett to make sure current information about the program is sent to Scott.
2. Ray Lett to send Scott Daniels signed copies of 2006AGM and October 19th Advisory Council Minutes for posting on the BCAssayers web site.
3. Ray Lett to confirm that a photo of Dori Pan receiving the 2007 Trainee Assayers award has been sent to Scott Daniels for posting on the www.bcassayer.com site
4. Ray Lett to send letters to Henry Wong and Russ Callow inviting them to become members of the Assayers Foundation.
5. Jim McLeod and Elaine Woo to edit letters urging more training and send the final version to commercial laboratories.
6. Scott Daniels to contact Mac Chaudhry about obtaining recent examination for posting on the BC Assayers Site
7. Ray Lett to advise Mac Chaudhry of any potential examiner candidates.
8. Ray Lett to contact Paul West and determine progress towards ACPBC forming a legislated body.
9. Ray Lett to arrange for notices inviting applicants for \$500 trainee assayer award to be sent to commercial laboratories with June 30th 2008 closing date for applications and also issue a \$1000 cheque to BCIT.
10. Ray Lett to send out renewal letters for 2008 to Council members.