

Assayers Foundation of British Columbia



MINUTES
of an
Meeting of the British Columbia Assayers Foundation Advisory Council
held at
1486 East Pender Street, Vancouver, BC, November 21st, 2008

Present:

Ray Lett (Secretary/Treasurer)	Victoria, BC
Jim McLeod (Chair)	Vancouver, BC
Scott Daniels (Vice Chair)	Trail, BC (Via Conference phone)
Elaine Woo	Burnaby, BC.
Mac Chaudhry	Victoria, BC
John Gravel,	Vancouver, BC
Alice Pang	Vancouver, BC

1. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 1.35 p.m. by the Chairperson, Jim McLeod, those present welcomed and the meeting Agenda tabled. Corrections and additions to the Agenda were noted by the Chairperson.

Moved by Ray Lett and seconded by Mac Chaudhry that the Agenda for the November 21st, 2008 Advisory Council Meeting be accepted with corrections and additions.

Discussion: None. Unanimous acceptance of the revised Agenda.

2. Minutes of the April 4th, 2008 Advisors Council Meeting

Moved by Mac Chaudhry and seconded by Alice Pang that the Minutes of the April 4th, 2008 Advisors Council Meeting be accepted

Discussion: Corrections to the minutes noted by the Chair. Call for a vote on acceptance of the Minutes. Unanimous agreement that the Minutes of the April 27th Advisory Council Meeting be accepted after corrections.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes – Status of Action Items

3.1 Posting of new information including examples of recent BC assayer examinations to the www.bcassayer.com web site. (Mac Chaudhry)

The information has been sent to Scott Daniels for posting on the www.bcassayer.com web site.

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3.2 New members of the BC Assayers Foundation and annual contributions to the Foundation – Ray Lett

W. Richardson, North Sannich, has become a paid member of the Foundation. Letters inviting membership have been sent to W. Wong & Russ Callow. Russ Callow has responded to the letter.

3.3 Letters to commercial laboratories urging more training for mineral analysts – Jim McLeod

A draft letter to commercial laboratories urging more internal training for assayers was circulated at the April 4th meeting. The letter was discussed, but there had been no decision about the final text. A second draft of the letter will be circulated to Council for review and comments.

Action: Council members review the letter and comment to Jim McLeod.

3.4 Contact with the Association of Chemical Professionals of BC – Ray Lett

Paul West, BC Association of Chemical Professionals (ACPBC), states that ACPBC now has an estimated 450 members. ACPBC has defined qualification requirements for ACPBC members and is working to gain the status of a professional provincial legislated body similar to the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC).

Mac Chaudhry: Establishing a provincial legislated professional body is a lengthy process. Most ACPBC members are most likely not involved in assaying so that it would be preferable for BC Certified Assayers to consider joining APEGBC rather establishing a stronger link with ACPBC. Merging with APEGBC would help policing the BC Certified Assayer program because there would be a larger administrative body available. However, any proposed association would need Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources approval to approach APEGBC. New BC Certified Assayers might be required to pass APEGBC examinations whereas existing BC Certified Assayers could be grandfathered.

John Gravel: A receptive APEGBC contact will be needed to start negotiations.

Jim McLeod: A previous attempt by geo-technicians to join APEGBC was unsuccessful so a receptive contact is important.

Ray Lett: APEGBC will be contacted if approved by MEMPR.

Action: Ray Lett to obtain approval from MEMPR to contact APEGBC about an association with BC Certified Assayers.

3.5 Assayer Scholarship – Ray Lett

A \$500 BCIT graduate achievement scholarship sponsored by the Assayers Foundation was awarded to Patty Lin in June 2008 at the BCIT graduation ceremony. There were 13 applications for the two \$1000 trainee assayer scholarships sponsored by the Canadian Mineral Analysts and a \$500 Assayers Foundation award. The scholarship committee (Ray Lett, Elaine Woo, Mac Chaudhry) recommended that Nancy Pan and Sophie Li receive a \$1000 Canadian Mineral Analysts award and Joseph Wu receive a \$500 BC Assayers Foundation award. The awards will be presented at a Vancouver Mineral Exploration Group (MEG) lunch on November 26th. Biographical information about those receiving

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awards will be sent to Scott Daniels for posting on the www.bcassayer.com web site.

4. Examiners Board Report - Mac Chaudhry

Seven candidates attempted the practical examination in June 2008 and six were successful representing the largest number candidates passing a practical examination to date. Elaine Woo is sincerely thanked for helping to set up and invigilate the practical examination at BCIT. A theory examination is tentatively scheduled for January 2009. Confirmed for Scott Daniels that students traveling to examinations should bring their own standard solutions for atomic absorption analysis but if there are travel restrictions to carrying chemical then standards could be provided at the examinations.

Two major concerns related to future examinations are:

4.1 Language Proficiency: A potential safety hazard during the practical examination arises because some candidates have limited knowledge of English and may have difficulty communicating with invigilators and in understanding instructions. The problem could be resolved if candidates were required to present an English proficiency certificate before the exam. Candidates for BC Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists examination have to pass an English language proficiency requirement. The Examiners Board will discuss an English language requirement amendment to the Assayers Examination syllabus.

John Gravel: Laboratory staff must be able to clearly communicate in English but an English proficiency examination requirement may conflict with personal rights.

Elaine Woo: Full-time BCIT students are required to pass a language proficiency test but part time students do not.

Alice Pang: There is a need for English language skills training for new Canadian immigrants in order to obtain professional qualifications.

Scott Daniels: The BCIT language requirements for registration are posted on the BCIT web site.

4.2: BC Assayers Code of Ethics: A code of ethics for BC Certified Assayers needs to be developed by the Board of Examiners so that a Certificate could be revoked when there is a proven violation to the code of ethics. The ethics code could be incorporated in the BC Certified Assayers section if there were to be future revisions to the MEMPR Act. An association with APEGBC. A proposed incorporation of BC Certified Assayers into the BC Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists would provide a legal umbrella body so that conflicts arising from revoking a Certificate would protect the Board of Examiners from litigation. A legal opinion is needed to address the question of Board of Examiners liability in the case of a conflict.

Elaine Woo: All BCIT students in a 2 year Chemical Sciences diploma course are required to take an ethics course.

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Alice Pang: Laboratory workers are also required to sign off on legal issues.

5. BC Assayer Program Funding (Ray Lett)

The Board of Examiners Chair has raised a concern that there has been no past remuneration for Chairperson services other than expenses paid by the BC Assayers Foundation and that the present voluntary nature of the Chairperson position would discourage future qualified and experienced Chairperson candidates.

Mac Chaudhry: Remuneration for Chairperson services is estimated at \$35 000 per year. A detailed description of the services required of the Chairperson position has been written and submitted to MEMPR. The present expenses do not include costs for office space. The BC Assayers program is a regulatory function and must therefore be maintained.

John Gravel: Will take the lead in writing to MEMPR on behalf of the assaying industry urging that the Chair of the Examiners Board be remunerated for services.

Action: John Gravel to write to MEMPR on behalf of the assaying industry encouraging remuneration for Chairperson services.

6. Portability of assayer's credentials under the Canadian Agreement on International trade (Mac Chaudrey):

Completion of an agreement on Canadian inter-provincial trades portability (Article 7) is scheduled for April 1, 2009. Assayers have not been recognised among the trades that are portable, but, a formal request for a trade to be "Red Sealed" to allow portability.

Ray Lett: MEMPR staff examined the BC Assayers Certification program in relation to Chapter 7 of the Canadian Agreement on inter-provincial trades and determined that there are no barriers to assayers working in other jurisdictions

7. Secretary – Treasures Report – Ray Lett

Since an Advisory Council Meeting on April 4th, 2008 the Secretary - Treasurer has:

- Assisted Scott Daniels with update information for the BC Assayers www.bcassayer.com site including copies of the 2006 Assayer Foundation AGM and October 19th Advisory Council Minutes.
- Expedited the issue of Assayer Competency certificates signed by the Minister, MEMPR to Xuming Xing, Long Shen, Kui Chan, Wei Chen Gonglai Yan and Elgaz M. Altybayeva.
Recorded and distributed draft minutes of April 4th, 2008, Foundation AGM and April 4th, 2008 Advisors Council meeting to members.
- Registered Foundation with BC Society Registry, Ministry of Finance.

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- Updated the Foundation's membership list. There are presently 21 Foundation members including the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, the British Columbia Institute of Technology, the Chair and members of the BC Assayers Certification Program Board of examiners, commercial assay laboratories, the Canadian Mineral Analysts, equipment suppliers and mining companies.
- Arranged for a BC Assayers Foundation BCIT graduate achievement scholarship was awarded to Patty Lin in June 2008.
- Mailed renewal letters for 2008 to Foundation members.
- The Assayers Foundation presently has one year RBC cashable GIC of \$14,387 at 2.5% per annum maturing on April 10, 2009. The balance in a RBC chequing account on November 15th 2008 was \$9260.43.

Moved by Alice Pang and seconded by Elaine Woo that the Secretary-Treasurers Report be accepted. Unanimous acceptance.

8. BCIT Training Program – Elaine Woo

The BCIT assayers training program is progressing well. There are 36 students registered in the program of which ten have completed module 4 and are eligible to write the Assayers Theory exam in January. The remaining students are at different stages of the Program.

Jim McLeod: The program should continue to be successful in 2009 based on the number of students presently enrolled.

9. Other Business –Board of Examiners Succession – Mac Chaudhry

No qualified candidates have been found who could replace the Board of Examiners chair because the position needs an individual with vision, knowledge of the program, no conflict and interest and integrity. The Board Resources might be able to identify a suitable candidate.

10. Next Meeting: The Assayers Foundation Annual general meeting will be held at BCIT on April 24th, 2009 at 11.30 a.m. and an Advisory Council Meeting will be held at BCIT on April 24th 2009 at 12.30 p.m.

11. Appreciation – Ray Lett: The Assayers Advisory Council thanks Jim McLeod and Global staff for providing hospitality during the meeting.

12. Adjournment: *Moved by Mac Chaudhry and seconded by Alice Pang that the Advisory Council Meeting be adjourned at 2.58 p.m. November 21st 2008. Accepted Unanimously.*

Chair, Jim McLeod_____

Secretary, Ray Lett_____

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Summary of Action Items

Action:

Action: Ray Lett to obtain approval from MEMPR to contact APEGBC about an association with BC Certified Assayers.

Action: John Gravel to write to MEMPR on behalf of the assaying industry encouraging remuneration for Chairperson services.

Action: Council members review the letter to commercial laboratories urging more internal training for assayers and comment to Jim McLeod.

Action: Ray Lett to send biographical information about those receiving trainee assayer awards to Scott Daniels for posting on the www.bcassayer.com web site.