

# **Assayers Foundation of British Columbia**



## **MINUTES of the Advisory Council Meeting of the British Columbia Certified Assayers Program Held by conference call**

**Date:** 25-Feb-2011

**Participant:**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Address</b>
Alice Pang	Member, Advisory Council	ALS	N. Vancouver, BC.
Scott Daniels	Chair-Advisory Council	Teck Metals	Trail, BC.
Mac Chaudhry	Examiners Board Chair	BC Gov. (Ret.)	Victoria, BC.
John Gravel	Member, Advisory Council	Acme Analytical	Vancouver, BC.
Keith Rogers	Member, Advisory Council	ALS	N. Vancouver, BC.
Bill Clifford	Member, Advisory Council	Anachemia	Richmond BC.

Meeting was called to order by Scott Daniels at 11:03 a.m. The Agenda items for this conference call are:

- 1) Approval of the minutes from the January 27, 2011 conference call.
- 2) Confirmation of the spring meeting date of April 29, 2011.
- 3) Feedback on vision shared with members.
- 4) Proposal of the next conference call on March 25, 2011.

Moved by Scott Daniels, first by John Gravel and seconded by Mac Chaudhry that the minutes for the January 27, 2011 conference call be accepted with minor correction of a comment by Mac changed from “partnership of equal” to “partnership of equal spirit”.

*Scott Daniels:* Confirmed the spring Advisory Council meeting to be set on April 29, 2011.

*John Gravel:* Unable to attend due to attending meeting out of town but would send a representative from ACME.

*Scott Daniels:* Proposed to have another conference call on March 25, 2011 before the spring meeting; invitation would be sent out later. Asked for feedback for the one-page vision sent out earlier (a copy of the vision document from Scott is appended –page 4).

*Mac Chaudhry:* On the amendment to the legislation, it seemed to be a condition for employment. The government is probably not in a position legally to do that. As

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discussed previously, employers probably would have to pay for the individual membership as well; they would probably have problem with (paying for) existing employees as the employer could argue that when these people joined the company it was not the condition of the employment.

*Scott Daniels:* There were two ways the proposed change of legislation could have occurred. One was to make it as an offence for individuals (to practice if they were not registered as assayers). The other option was to make it an offence for companies to have an individual working who was not assayer in good standing. It was estimated that about 500 people currently working in assaying. If we have professional membership with ASTTBC, they will have to charge more than \$50 per person (probably about \$150 per person).

*Mac Chaudhry:* The other issue was that companies may need to pick up the cost for individual membership as well in addition to the money they paid as corporate support. Companies may not want to “double subscribe”.

*John Gravel:* It sounded like a “double taxation” for the laboratories and it would be vague on who could be identified as a technician. (e.g., does it include people crushing rocks?).

*Scott Daniels:* For individual membership, ASTTBC would probably charge about \$150 per person in order to give us \$25,000. An alternative would be to look into whether industries would like to contribute more than one-third of the expense.

*John Gravel:* Certainly, industry contribution would be worked out to more than \$25,000 (based on current numbers).

*Scott Daniels:* We are drifting back to the direction of the industry funding model. How are we going to get around the issue of sustainability of funding when we are going to be vulnerable with the economic swings of the industries?

*John Gravel:* It would come down to invoicing; we would need to invoice the industry as well as the government.

*Keith Rogers:* One of the key points for for industries to continue their participation is to show them that Assayer Certification is necessary to do business and this would mean change in legislation.

*Scott Daniels:* We need a clear vision of how we are going to achieve under reliable sustained basis to get \$50,000 from industry.

*Bill Clifford:* The key word is sustainability. Are industries (mainly the commercial labs) committed to contribute \$8,000 to \$10,000 on a yearly basis for an infinite time? However, the alternative (pay for individual membership as well) could have cost them more.

*Scott Daniels:* Would it be possible to implement a system to invoice the industry base on the number of people involve in mineral analysis work so that the sum collected would total to \$50,000.

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It was agreed by all that prep is part of the quality assaying process therefore the definition of “people involved in the mineral analysis work” would include prep workers.

*Bill Clifford:* Would a payment for sponsorship or a head count on a yearly basis be easier to control for companies?

*Mac Chaudhry:* For financial planning, it may be easier for the companies to have a sponsorship payment.

*Alice Pang:* Number of people doing analytical work in companies could change from month to month.

*Scott Daniels:* **Would re-write the vision taking into account on what had been discussed.** Volunteer needed to prepare a list of companies (e.g., labs and mines) in the province and an estimation of number of people (working as mineral analysts).

*John Gravel:* **Willing to gather information for the commercial laboratories.**

*Bill Clifford:* **Willing to gather information for mine laboratories.**

*Scott Daniels:* We will schedule another conference call meeting on March 25, 2011 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.

Action Items:

*Scott Daniels:* **Re-write vision taking into account on what had been discussed.**

*John Gravel:* **Gather information and prepare a list of commercial laboratories with estimated number of analysts.**

*Bill Clifford:* **Gather information and prepare a list of mine laboratories with estimated number of analysts.**

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### **VISION FOR FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY, BC CERTIFIED ASSAYERS PROGRAM –A HYBRIDIZED MODEL APPROACH**

Submitted by: Scott Daniels, Teck Metals Ltd., Analytical Services, Trail, BC  
Date: 27-Jan-2011

In July of 2009, a strategic planning session was held to address the crisis situation regarding the need for long-term sustainable funding to maintain a Board of Examiners for the BC Assayer Certification Program. This meeting identified three funding alternatives: 1) Industry, 2) Individual-member, a.k.a. Professional membership, and 3) Government. In this order, each alternative was explored and each was determined to be inadequate. On a voluntary basis, Industry funding alone would not survive during periods of economic downturn. There is an insufficient critical mass of Certified Assayers to sustain the costs of a professional membership. And, the government of BC has been abundantly clear with this group that they alone cannot fund this program.

So, a meeting on 26-Nov-2010 resulted in a decision that the greatest likelihood of success would be achieved by pursuing a funding model that brought together all elements of the previously considered alternatives. The goal is to achieve a model of equal funding among partners: Industry, Government and Individual-Members. This model proposes to achieve annual funding in the amount of \$75,000.

#### **Industry, \$25k/y**

Assaying laboratories in BC and similar industries will receive annual invoices based on the approximate number of technicians/technologists working in those laboratories. The invoicing rate would be at \$50/technician or technologist.

*See proposed changes to legislation below.*

#### **Individual Members, \$25k/y total from ASTTBC to Certified Assayers Foundation from collected dues**

Membership is proposed within ASTTBC under a new “technology specialist” category, “Assayer,” with different sub-classes: Certified Assayer, Assayer, Assayer Trainee.

#### **ASTTBC Functions/Roles**

1. **Maintain a membership list** of members-in-good-standing. Good-standing shall be determined by payment of annual membership dues and completion of a code-of-ethics declaration.
2. **Invoice for dues and provide receipts.**
3. **Administrate a code-of-ethics declaration** for all members.

*See proposed changes to legislation below.*

#### **Government, \$25k/y**

No different than other partners in this program, the Government will receive an invoice to support this program that had previously been fully funded by the Government (1895-1997)

#### **Proposed amendment to THE ACT.**

[http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/00\\_96298\\_01#section14](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_96298_01#section14)

Additions under section 19, “Offence”

(4) Laboratories in the province of BC may not employ mineral analysis assayers, technicians, technologists or analysts who are not registered as Assayers with the ASTTBC.