



NEWS

The Newsletter of the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta

P. CHEM.

Finally!

Special Issue – January 2002

The following is an extract from the Order-In-Council
(The complete document can be seen on the ACPA web site at www.pchem.ca.)

O.C. 491/2001

A.R. 248/2001

December 19, 2001

The Lieutenant Governor in Council orders as follows:

that the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta be registered as a professional association with that name;

that the professional title and the abbreviations of the title that may be used exclusively by the Association and its members be “Professional Chemist”, “P. Chem.”, “PChem”, “Chemist in Training”, “C.I.T.” and “CIT”, respectively;

that the proposed regulation in the attached Appendix, being the Professional Chemists Regulation is approved.

For Information only

Recommended by: Minister of Human Resources and Employment

Authority: Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act (section 9)

Announcements

Membership conversion.

If you have not already done so, please ensure that you comply with the documentation requirement (outlined in the President's Letter) for the conversion from provisional member to member as soon as possible so that you may legitimately make use of the titles as provided by the Order in Council.

Laboratory Accreditation.

These days qualifying a laboratory, and as a laboratory remaining qualified, is extremely important. This Newsletter features an article by Don LaBerge, Executive Vice President for Enviro-Test Laboratories and long-time member of the Board of Directors for the Canadian Association of Environmental Analytical Laboratories.

Membership Drive.

Now that we have official designation it is time to increase our membership. Each of you know chemists who are not members and it is time for some arm twisting.

The following are some suggestions you can use as to why being an ACPA member is important. The Board is putting together a new brochure and these ideas and any others you can contribute may be part of it.

1. Provides members with leverage for increased salary based on typical corporate policy which has

usually been based on the Engineer's Association.

2. Provides support to members when taking a stand against an action based on ethics.
3. Provides opportunities for career related networking.
4. Provides opportunities for professional development.
5. P. Chem. adds an element of prestige to the list of degrees and honors.
6. Nice certificate to hang on wall (soon).
7. Official stamp for reports.
8. Provides a tool for differentiation on job applications.
9. Useful for personnel qualification on contract bids.
10. Is tax deductible as the ACPA is now recognized by statute.

Please e-mail your additional ideas to stan.backs@telusplanet.net

Web address:

The new ACPA web address is : www.pchem.ca. Newsletters will be archived at this location in PDF format for easy retrieval.

From the President

HOORAY!!!! YAHOO!!!
And all that other excited stuff.

As of December 19, 2001, chemists in Alberta received their Christmas present from the Province of Alberta. On that day the Professional Chemists Regulation was signed into effect by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, culminating our 10 year quest

for the Right to Title of Professional Chemist (P.Chem.). An unofficial copy of the Regulation has been downloaded on the pchem.ca website for your reference.

What does this mean for the membership of the ACPA? Firstly ACPA members now have the legal right under the Regulation to use the title Professional Chemist and the abbreviation P.Chem.. I would like to encourage you as members to use P.Chem. on your business cards and on your correspondence. This is one way that each of us can raise the awareness of the Association.

Those of you who have been accepted as Provisional members because you had not submitted a copy of your degree or transcript to the Registrar need to get the records up-dated and to fully comply with the Professional Chemists Regulation. There are two ways to do this. One is to send a copy of your university transcript to the Registrar. The other is to get a full member to sign a copy of your degree certificate after seeing the original. Then forward the signed copy to the Registrar.

Secondly, the membership fee increase as approved at the Annual General Meeting last June will be implemented for the 2002 membership year and will be reflected on the invoices that will be issued. It also means that we must start thinking about the activities that will enable each of us to continue our active membership in the ACPA – Professional Development Credits.

The Board is starting the work of creating new Bylaws for the ACPA under the umbrella of the Professional Chemists Regulation. This will be a major project for us to complete and bring to the membership for approval as soon as possible.

This is the time of year when we ask our members to consider volunteering some of their precious time to the Association by letting their names stand for election to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting later this year. I recognize that most of us find ourselves pushed to the limits by the demands of our careers, families, homes and other organizations to which we all belong. If you are interested in participating at the Board level, please contact us. Other opportunities to serve will also be available as there will be some standing committees established as outlined in the Regulation and from the new Bylaws when they are completed.

Personals

This space is reserved for member information. If you have a job change, address change or any other information of a personal nature you would wish other members to be aware of please e-mail Bob Swingle at roberts@internode.net so that it can be included in this section.

Employment Corner

This section is reserved for those members seeking employment or for those who wish to post job openings for members. The resume/job description should be short. Please send documentation in Microsoft word form to Robert Swingle e-mail roberts@internode.net

Bio Corner

Mary Mayes, B.Sc.

Mary is a Project Chemist with Matrix Solutions Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Calgary. Mary graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto in 1997 and worked as a lab analyst for 10 years, which included three years at the Kananaskis Center for Environmental Research and six years at Gulf Canada Resources.

In 1986, Mary left the work force to complete the requirements of a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Waterloo which she received in 1987. She then returned to Calgary to work as the laboratory manager of the inorganics laboratory of the Environmental Services Division at Chemex Labs (now Maxxam).

In 1995, Mary began working in the environmental consulting field as a chemist at Groundwater Solutions Ltd. (now Matrix) where she is

primarily responsible for the data management group. This includes data validation, data interpretation, development of analytical programs, and development of Matrix Solutions' QA/QC program, including sample collection procedures. Other responsibilities include the management of groundwater monitoring programs and writing reports and proposals for clients and government regulators.

During her career, Mary sat on the executive of WEALA . She is a member of the Chemical Institute of Canada, and is currently serving as Secretary on the Board for the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta.

From the Editors

All contributions from members to the newsletter will be welcome. Please send them to Robert Swingle at Maxxam Analytics 2021-41 Avenue N. E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 6P2 or fax them to 403-2919468. If you prefer electronic mail address them to the internet at roberts@internode.net. It would be nice if you could send any lengthy material on disk in PC format using Microsoft Word.

Laboratory Accreditation: A Commitment to Quality or a License to do Business?

Don LaBerge

Accreditation of environmental analytical laboratories by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) in collaboration with the Canadian Association of Environmental Analytical Laboratories (CAEAL) has grown significantly over the past ten years.

In 1989, a small group of chemists from a variety of public and private sector laboratories met to discuss the need and requirement for more frequent, broader based and scientifically defensible proficiency testing programs. This was the beginnings of the Canadian Association of Environmental Analytical Laboratories . In 1994, when CAEAL had 60 certified laboratories in its program, it signed a partnership agreement with the SCC, whereby CAEAL conducts the laboratory audits and manages the proficiency testing program leading to accreditation by SCC for environmental analytical laboratories across Canada. As of today, 125 private and public sector laboratories are accredited for specific parameters by the SCC..

Granting of accreditation is based on two separate and distinctive elements.

1. The laboratory audit

The laboratory audit consists of a team of trained auditors who visit the laboratory every two years for between 1 and 4 days and assess it against the ISO/IEC 17025 standard. This international standard is recognized as the pre-eminent standard for laboratory accreditation in much of the world. It is important to recognize that many of the components of ISO 9001 are imbedded in ISO 17025, and that ISO 17025 was specifically developed for laboratories. Beyond, evaluating the laboratory on it's management, organization, quality system, document control, sub-contracting, purchasing, service to clients, complaints etc, it is audited on a test specific basis. For this component, the auditors assess the laboratories technical staff against a test specific Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure that they are following the procedure exactly as stated in the SOP. The audit concludes with a list of required and recommended actions. If required actions are cited, the laboratory must provide evidence of rectification of such actions before accreditation is granted.

2. The Proficiency Testing Program

The second element of granting accreditation is participation in and acceptable performance in the analysis of performance evaluation samples. Laboratories seeking SCC accreditation must participate in the CAEAL proficiency testing (PT) program for all tests where PT is available. This normally consists of four samples containing one or more analytes in a range of concentrations distributed semi-annually. The CAEAL PT program encompasses a wide range of tests and continues to expand in scope based on membership and regulatory demand. Granting of accreditation is on a test specific basis and is contingent on the laboratory receiving a satisfactory "score" on each parameter in the CAEAL PT program. Accreditation is revoked on a test specific basis, if a laboratory fails to achieve a satisfactory score on two successive PT rounds.

The processes described above, along with the fact that CAEAL itself conforms to ISO/IEC Guide 58 and it's contract PT providers to CAN-P-1593 or equivalent, has not only established the SCC/CAEAL as the accreditation program of choice in Canada, but recognition and praise on the international front.

It is important to note that SCC/CAEAL accreditation is now a requirement to qualify to provide analytical data to many regulators in Canada. As examples, Alberta Environment and Alberta Sustainable Development released a "Laboratory Data Quality Policy" on October 15/2001, stating that all data required by these organizations must be analyzed by laboratories that are accredited by the SCC. The Ontario Ministry of Environment made it mandatory in October of 2000, that laboratories providing drinking water testing be accredited by SCC/CAEAL on a parameter specific basis. British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Newfoundland all have regulatory directives requiring SCC/CAEAL accreditation. Laboratories in Canada should be thankful that regulators in this country support one accreditation program, as opposed to the United States where a laboratory requires a multitude of accreditations to do business across the U.S.

It is clear that the requirement for laboratory accreditation will continue to expand and laboratories that are not accredited will see their business opportunities diminish.

Does this mean that laboratory accreditation has simply turned into a license to do business?

Let's hope that such a narrow minded approach is not the impetuous for a laboratory to become accredited. Accreditation should be viewed by both the laboratory and its clients as a pre-requisite for providing analytical services. Laboratories who wait till the last minute, or seek accreditation merely to be able to state they are accredited, are doing themselves and their clients an injustice. Implementing and maintaining the elements of 17025 and achieving satisfactory scores on an ongoing basis requires a proactive commitment from everyone involved in the generation of the data.

Don't get me wrong, accreditation is not an iron clad guarantee of quality, in fact far from it. It does however indicate a laboratories conformance to an international standard, the opportunity to compare its performance against others in the industry, and evidence of capability to provide the services it has been accredited for.

The difference between capability and ability is first and foremost the expertise and experience of the analytical team within a particular laboratory, the thoroughness and effectiveness of the labs quality system and a corporate mandate to provide analytical results that are accurate and defensible.

2001 ACPA Board of Directors

Name	Position	Affiliation
Don White	President	Technical Manager Safety-Kleen Environmental Services
Mary Mayes	Secretary	Project Chemist Matrix Solutions Inc
Trent Parks	Treasurer	URS Corporation
Kevin Dunn	Past-President	Management Systems Consultant
Jim Hyne	Director	Professor Emeritus, U. of Calgary, Consultant
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David Wong	Director	Quality Assurance Officer Epcor
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Ken Schmidt	Director	DK3 Scientific
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Tim Blackmore	Director	Enbridge Pipelines Inc.

ACPA

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ASSOCIATION OF THE CHEMICAL PROFESSION OF ALBERTA

P.O. Box 22320 Banker's Hall Calgary, Alberta T2P 4J1

Dr./Mr./Ms.	SURNAME	GIVEN NAME/INITIALS	ACPA Number
Residence Address		Employment Address	
City/Province	Postal Code	City/Province	Postal Code
Home Phone	Work Phone	FAX	E-Mail Address

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION: Attach extra sheet if necessary.

Note: The minimum qualification for membership in ACPA is a B.Sc. in Chemistry that is equivalent to that offered by Alberta Universities.

Dates From - To	Institution	Location	Nature of Course	Degree Obtained

CHEMISTRY CAREER EXPERIENCE: Attach extra sheet if needed.

Dates From - To	Employer	Position	Major Responsibility

DECLARATION OF APPLICANT:

I hereby certify that the foregoing statements are correct. I will provide verification for my education and career experience if and as required.	
Date	Signature

DECLARATION OF REFERENCE:

I hereby certify that the applicant is known to me, and recommend acceptance of this application.	
Name (Please print)	Signature

APPLICATION FEE:

Submit \$150.00, payable to the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta. Please enclose the non-refundable processing fee along with this application. Send to: **The Registrar, ACPA, P.O. Box 22320 Banker's Hall, Calgary, AB, T2P 4J1.**

ASSOCIATION OF THE CHEMICAL PROFESSION OF ALBERTA (ACPA)

Historical

The necessity and desirability of establishing a legal status for chemical professionals has become apparent to many Alberta Chemists over the past few years. A recent survey of those practicing chemistry in Alberta demonstrated overwhelming support for the formation of a Professional Association. Both Ontario and Quebec have Professional Associations for chemists in their provinces. Recently biologists in Alberta have been accorded legal status as professionals.

While the nature of federal legislation precludes a national organization operating under a Dominion Charter from possessing legal recognition in provincial matters, the Province can endow upon an organization such attributes. For this reason, the ACPA was established as an Incorporated Society under the Societies Act in the Province of Alberta. This was the first step toward Professional registration. On December 19, 2001 the ACPA was registered by Order-In-Council under the Professional and Occupational Associations Registrations Act (POARA).

Why Join the ACPA?

The ACPA, as it is currently structured, is the genesis for the true Professional Association for chemistry practitioners in the Province of Alberta. Members will receive a membership card, certificate and stamp (the latter two are still in the design stage).

As a member of the ACPA, you will be helping to formalize the professionalism of chemists in Alberta. The support of Alberta chemists is necessary to demonstrate to the Province that the Association speaks for chemists and chemistry in the province. As a group, we can inform the public about chemistry, contribute to legislative and other governmental regulatory activities that affect scientific development in a way that would be difficult through individual effort.

This brochure is intended to provide information about the goals and activities of the ACPA and to invite you to join the Association.

The Professional Association

Professional Registration under the Professional and Occupational Associations Registrations Act provides a legal definition of chemistry and those practicing chemistry in Alberta. The main objectives of the Association, currently and for the future, are to promote and increase the knowledge, skills and proficiency of the members in all things relating to chemistry.

The ACPA is a legal instrument to help protect the public from malpractice in chemistry and to protect the profession from encroachment on its rights and purposes by unqualified personnel. It is endowed with the power to act to coordinate its aims and purposes, and to act in provincial matters on behalf of those it represents. The Association members may use the designation P. Chem. (Professional Chemist), or its equivalent, to identify their affiliation and professionalism.

Who Can Join?

Under the Order-In-Council establishing the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta, any person acceptable to the membership can join the Association.. The requirements would normally be expected to be the minimum of a Bachelors degree in Chemistry with related work experience. Student memberships also exist.