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Association of Professional Biology Responds to independent review of British Columbia's Review of Professional Reliance in Natural Resource Decision-Making.

- **The Association of Professional Biology (APB) represents an independent voice for Biology Professionals in British Columbia.**
- **The APB is a voice for science in policy concerning natural resource decision-making.**
- **The APB is deeply concerned that the role of science in professional reliance is not mentioned in the review.**

VICTORIA (July 3 2018) - The BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change released an independent final report on June 28th, 2018 that is said to provide a "Review of Professional Reliance in Natural Resource Decision-Making". The review process was initiated last fall and it was a hot topic for discussion at the April 2018 APB and College of Applied (CAB) conference and annual general meeting in Richmond BC.

The APB recently released a briefing to its members about the review and notes several promising highlights in the recommendations included in the final report. The APB also notes that the purpose and distinction of advocacy services that they provide to biology professionals is recognized in the review. Advocacy can be problematic for regulatory organizations such as the CAB as it "...creates conflicts of mandate that hinder effective performance of both roles" (p. 48 of the Professional Reliance report).

The APB welcomes the purpose of the review that puts the professional reliance model under scrutiny due to a purported loss in public confidence in the current approach. In particular, the APB briefing points to the noticeable absence of the role of science-based decision-making in the professional reliance review. However, the APB feels that many of the overarching concerns expressed by their members are not being adequately addressed by regulating bodies, such as CAB. There is an implied use or marketing of science by government and industry under the current model. So why is the topic of science and its role in professional-reliance missing from the review?

The government has suggested that the issue is outside the intended scope, but the APB does not accept this expressed limitation and thinks that the role of science should be a main topic in the review process given that science is framed into codes of ethics for regulated professionals and it is implied by the objectives under current legislation that is aimed to protect and sustain the provinces natural resources.

Read the full APB Briefing at: professionalbiology.com/

The APB represents biology professionals who specialize in the study, management and conservation of living organisms and their habitats. APB advocates on behalf of its members and promotes high professional standards and sound science in management of natural resources, as well as professional development and networking.

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