

Dear APB Members,

Welcome to 2020! This is going to be an exciting year for the APB.

The APB is starting the year in a stronger financial position as our budget was balanced at year end. We have a financial buffer in the bank to help us advance our mission in 2020 and the board has managed to keep membership fees steady with tight budget management.

We are thrilled to host the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and conference in Whistler. The Annual Professional Biology Conference continues to be an important part of the APB's communication strategy. The conference is an opportunity for professional biologists to come together and learn about and discuss issues that are important in terms of resource management, legislation for natural resources and practice guidelines. Workshop CPD events and special topic forums (e.g., ecosystem mapping) will be posted for this year's conference.

The APB will continue developing and sponsor CPD events in 2020. The inaugural aerial ungulate survey and wildlife tracking course was a huge success in 2019 and we are already planning to offer this again in 2020. The APB is also looking into certification for wildlife tracking, so keep posted. We are hosting the endangered species critical habitat workshop in Prince George in February 2020, which has been a hugely popular course. A special thanks goes out to all the instructors and volunteers who have made these important CPD events possible.

Advocacy is at the root of the Association and is the most challenging work we do. The board of directors has been working collaboratively on a guide to advocacy. We are in the process of writing a letter to the superintendent for the professional governance office of BC and we like to prepare one or two letters annually while also spending efforts on engagement in matters that concern professional practice.

The mentorship program continues to thrive and draws interest. We are looking for more mentors and protégée's. If you are a student or a BIT – the mentorship program is for you! Join today to advance your career as a biologist. The mentorship program can help to give you a lead into a career.

The APB has been through a transition and adaptation process. The new provincial professional governance model and dues structure for professional practice in BC has required an adaptation of the APB's services. This has included new membership categories, restructuring of our budget, amendments to our bi-laws, re-scoping of our services and a shift in our operations approach to better serve our members. We have had to adjust to a new reality as the size of our membership has dropped to approximately half of where we were 10 years ago.

We would like to hear more from our members. So feel free to submit your opinions at any point in time or prepare resolutions for the AGM to lead us in a new direction and address issues that may be important to you.

The board hopes to see you at the 2020 conference. Let's keep engaged!

Sincerely,

Mark D. Thompson, RPBio, PBIOL, CPESC
APB President

