



2015: Year in Review

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Welcome to the 2015 AGM issue of **College Matters**!

In this issue the College provides a full update of our activities for the past year with reports from all of our Committees. We have also included some relevant articles on the College's **Strategic Plan** for 2016 – 2018, changes to professional insurance currently offered through College membership, guidance for members employed in formal decision-making roles, information for members regarding the use of our new online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) tracking tool, and much more.

Consistent with years past, this year the College continued to make significant progress in meeting the objectives of the *2013 – 2015 Strategic Plan*; we are now embarking on a new *Strategic Plan* for 2016 - 2018. I provide highlights of the College's success below; please refer to committee and staff reports for further information.

I am pleased to report that membership in the College continues to grow, with membership up 3.3% from 2014. In 2015, we saw the enactment of our new Applied Biology Technician (ABT) category, which ensures inclusion in the College of an important category of applied biology professionals. We look forward to welcoming our first Technicians in 2016.

A focus of the Council for 2015 was to enhance our government relations and promote professional reliance. I, along with staff and other Councillors, held meetings with all levels of the provincial government, which led to the timely implementation of our ABT category, as well as an increase in awareness and consideration of the role of College members in the respective ministries. The Council will continue to prioritize building the College's relationships with government and the private sector in 2016.

Other notable progress made in 2015 included: an expansion of the **Audit Program**, resulting in a cumulative sum of 11.4% of our membership

being audited; development of an online ethics course and exam, which will be available this spring upon completion of beta testing; and further development of our practice review program, which will be finalized upon receipt of legal advice regarding its structure and the role of the Discipline Committee in this process.

Driven by a lack of support for the dues increase referendum in 2015, the Council reevaluated activities with a focus on maintaining fiscal balance. We continue to prioritize our core mandate activities of ensuring our members are qualified, competent, and accountable. The Council made the difficult decision to implement the most significant cutbacks to the College's outreach: the bi-annual roadshow for members was cancelled, our annual conference was scaled back, and the provision of CPD events offered directly by the College was significantly reduced. More details are provided in the financial report.

For nine years the College has benefitted from the services of two Lay members, David Hughes and Maureen McDermid. Lay members are appointed by the provincial government to ensure the College operates in the public interest. As of this AGM, their term with the College has ended. I thank both lay members for their significant contributions to the College. I welcome our new lay member, Cairine Green, and look forward to additional appointments in 2016. I would also like to recognize Councillors Derek Marcoux and Steve Gordon who have also completed their terms and will be replaced by newly elected members. Finally, thank you to the College's staff, our volunteer Councillors and committee members: they keep the College running smoothly behind the scenes and are instrumental to the College's success.

I am always happy to hear from you —please contact me via the College office. I look forward to another exciting and productive year! **CM&E**

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Vanessa Craig, RPBio