

Registrar's Report

Overall, membership increased by 3.3% in 2015. RPBio applications increased by 30% over the last three years and this is reflected in the increasing number of applications sent to the Credentials Committee for assessment. Student applications have nearly doubled compared to last year. This year we received three applications from the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) in the UK with whom we have a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA). The College entered into an MRA with the RSB in 2012 after a detailed assessment of entrance criteria determined that both organizations set high and comparable entrance standards. One College member has taken advantage of this agreement to become a Chartered Biologist (CBiol) with the RSB this year.

Membership growth is shown below in Figure 1.

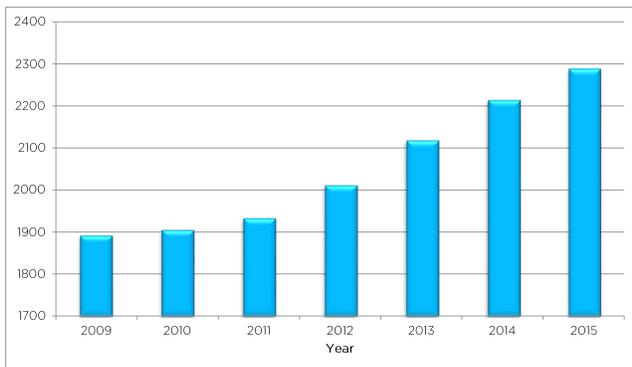


Figure 1: Membership in the College of Applied Biology since 2009.

Table 1: The distribution of members in various membership categories of the College in comparison to 2014.

Table 1: College Membership Distribution as of December 31, 2015 compared to 2014			
	2014	2015	Net Change
REGISTERED MEMBERS			
Professional Biologists	1674	1764	+5.4%
Biology Technologists	62	71	+14.5%
Retired	80	88	+10.0%
MEMBERS-IN-TRAINING			
Biologist In Training	284	254	-10.6%
Trainee Biology Technologists	20	29	+45.0%
Student	33	27	-18.9%
OTHER			
On Leave	61	55	-9.8%
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	2214	2288	+3.3%

The College's membership has always included some members who live and work outside of BC. In recent years, this segment of membership has represented just over 11% of the membership. The College now has members from all provinces and territories in Canada, with the exception of Prince Edward Island. Further, some College members have received their academic training outside of North America. This year we have new members who received their academic training from such places as Australia, Ireland, Great Britain, Bangladesh, France, and Greece. Applicants who receive their academic training in other countries are held to the same entrance standards as those who attend post-secondary institutions in North America.

Like other committees, members of the Credentials Committee are all volunteers. I would like to acknowledge Chris Johnson, RPBio (Chair, Credentials Committee), and Joyce Boon, RPBio (Ret) (Vice-Chair, Credentials Committee) who generously give their time to assess applications and respond to many questions from the Registrar. In addition, I would like to acknowledge all the Credentials Committee members for their time, dedication, and commitment to the application assessment process and for meeting short turnaround times, even during the holiday period. I would also like to acknowledge Administrative Assistant, Jillian Stewart, BIT, who responds to all application enquiries with enthusiasm and tirelessly ensures applications are organized and complete prior to forwarding to the Credentials Committee; to Assistant Registrar, Rebecca Mersereau, RPBio, for her valuable assistance with application enquiries and delivering presentations at post-secondary institutions; and to Kathy Gallegos, the College's Bookkeeper, who ensures that members' application fees and dues are dealt with efficiently and accurately. 

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Stordeur, RPBio, Registrar