



The BC Institute of Agrologists (“BCIA”) and its Members, through the application of education, life long learning, and professional competency protect the public interest in the responsible use of the environment and natural resources for the health of the citizens, environment and economy of British Columbia.

BCIA is a regulatory body established by the *Agrologists Act* that upholds a strict Code of Ethics among professional agrologists. Utilizing strict accreditation, mandatory professional development, and professional conduct standards, including rigorous complaint and discipline procedures BCIA ensures that its Members provide the utmost of professional service to the people of British Columbia.

WHAT IS AGROLOGY?

Behind every vibrant woodland habitat, successful farm, healthy meal, sustainable ecosystem and reclaimed bionetwork, is the mindful practice of agrology. Agrology is a multidisciplinary field that encompasses the natural, economic, and social sciences as those disciplines relate to environmental protection, aquaculture, viniculture, forestry, agriculture and natural resource management.

The *BC Agrologists Act* (2003) defines Agrology as *using agricultural and natural sciences and agricultural and resource economics, including collecting or analyzing data or carrying out research or assessments, to design, evaluate, advise on, direct or otherwise provide professional support to:*

- *the cultivation, production, improvement, processing or marketing of aquatic or terrestrial plants or animals, or*
- *the classification, management, use, conservation, protection, restoration, reclamation or enhancement of aquatic or terrestrial ecosystems that are affected by, sustain, or have the potential to sustain the cultivation or production of aquatic or terrestrial plants or animals.*

Interested in learning more about what Professional Agrologists do?

View the BCIA video [“Why Choose Agrology?”](#)

HOW DOES BCIA PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST?

Accreditation of members

Members of BCIA must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree and have sufficient courses in the areas of natural sciences and/or agricultural and resource economics to meet membership criteria. New members must undergo a two year Articling Agrologist program under the guidance of a mentor and fulfill specific benchmarks before achieving the Professional Agrologist designation.

Ethical behaviour of members

All members of BCIA are required to attend the Ethics for Professionals workshop and sign an Ethics declaration confirming that they will adhere to The Code of Ethics at all times. The Code states *"All members must exercise integrity, competence and objectivity in their professional conduct at all times, while fulfilling their professional responsibilities as set out within the Code of Ethics"*. More information about the BCIA Code of Ethics is available on the [BCIA website](#).

Ongoing professional development of members

BCIA is committed to professional standards to assist Members in maintaining current professional knowledge, competency, abilities, and skills. Through lifelong learning, Members remain knowledgeable in their specialized areas of practice, and are informed about the contemporary issues involving the profession of agrology. Continuing competence is demonstrated through recorded professional development under the categories of:

- Professional Practice
- Continuing Education
- Professional Contributions
- Professional Service

Governing members through its Bylaws

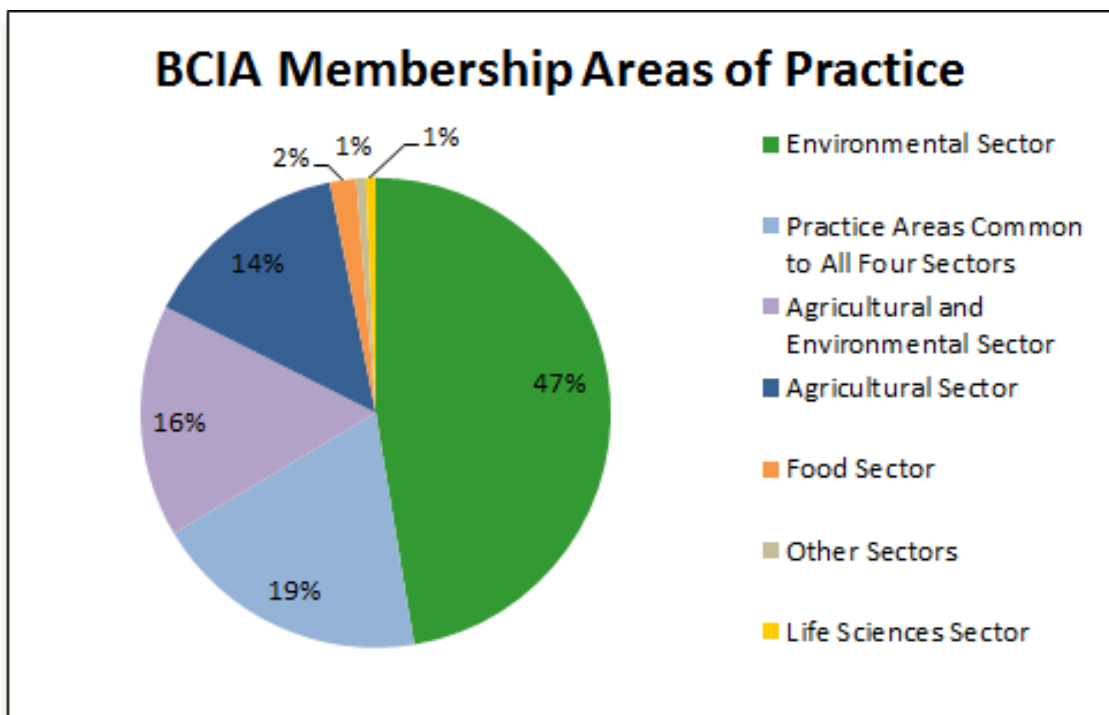
BCIA is governed by an elected Council and operates within a model that distinguishes between strategic leadership and operations/management. Council and the Executive Director/Registrar (ED/R) have distinct and complementary responsibilities in advancing the mission of BCIA. Council provides overall strategic direction for the organization and delegates authority to the ED/R in a manner that provides a broad degree of freedom to exercise creativity and judgment to achieve the goals of the organization. Council ensures that BCIA's goals are clear, the parameters and approval points are established, and the evaluation criteria are mutually understood.

WHO ARE PROFESSIONAL AGROLOGISTS?



Professional Agrologists are leaders in environmental protection providing business information and services based on their knowledge of resource economics. Involved in the safeguarding of food production and ecosystem sustainability Professional Agrologists work across a spectrum of industries. Agrologists are scientists, teachers, inspectors, technicians, consultants, administrators and managers all working to ensure the responsible sustainable use of the food production and natural resources of British Columbia.

Currently our members work in the following areas:



Agrologists contribute to policy formulation and implementation through participation in issue analysis, research and discussion.

Agrologists are required to sustain the science within agrology while considering economic, environmental values, and community values.



WHAT DO PROFESSIONAL AGROLOGISTS ACTUALLY DO?

Working in the areas of food production, environmental protection, and responsible natural resource development examples of our members' daily work include the following:

Karen is a Vegetation Specialist, specializing in Ethnobotany. Her areas of expertise are vegetation impact assessments and monitoring, landscape ecology and ethnobotany. She works with communities who endeavour to sustain healthy native ecosystems for medicines, food and wildlife.

Daryl is an Environmental Technician. His duties include collecting and analyzing groundwater, surface water and leachate samples, monitoring and sampling landfill gas well heads for gas quality and assisting in the operation of the landfill gas collection and flare system.



Dan is a Range Agrologist. He ensures effective range use planning of our crown land. His past research looked at innovative grazing practices in the BC Interior and how they can help ranchers both mitigate, and adapt to climate change.

Marjorie is an Organic Production Consultant and Verification Officer. She works with farmers to provide quality foods high in bioactive nutrients. She verifies processors and mineral suppliers and conducts biomass, soil and residue sampling.

Zachary is an Environmental Consultant. He investigates contaminated sites in BC's North to determine if soil and/or water contamination is a result of spills, drilling waste, fertilizers, etc. He monitors well installation and determines best practices to contain accidental spills.

Joyce a Licensed Authorization Specialist (Land Officer) working in Crown Land Administration. Facilitating consultation with relevant stakeholders in deference to environmental and archaeological considerations she provides recommendations on whether applications for the use or sale of Crown land should be granted.



HISTORY OF THE BC INSTITUTE OF AGROLOGISTS

In April 1947, the BC legislature passed the *Agrologists Act*, creating BCIA.. As it is today, BCIA's role was to protect the public interest through the governing of the professional conduct of its members. Agrology in the 1947 *Act* was very narrowly defined, applying almost exclusively to those working in the agri-food industry. In 2003, as part of a general policy of government to place greater reliance on the self-regulating professions for policing professional behaviour the new *Agrologists Act* was brought into force.



The current *Act* confirms (Section 3) that the purpose of the BCIA is to uphold and protect the public interest by:

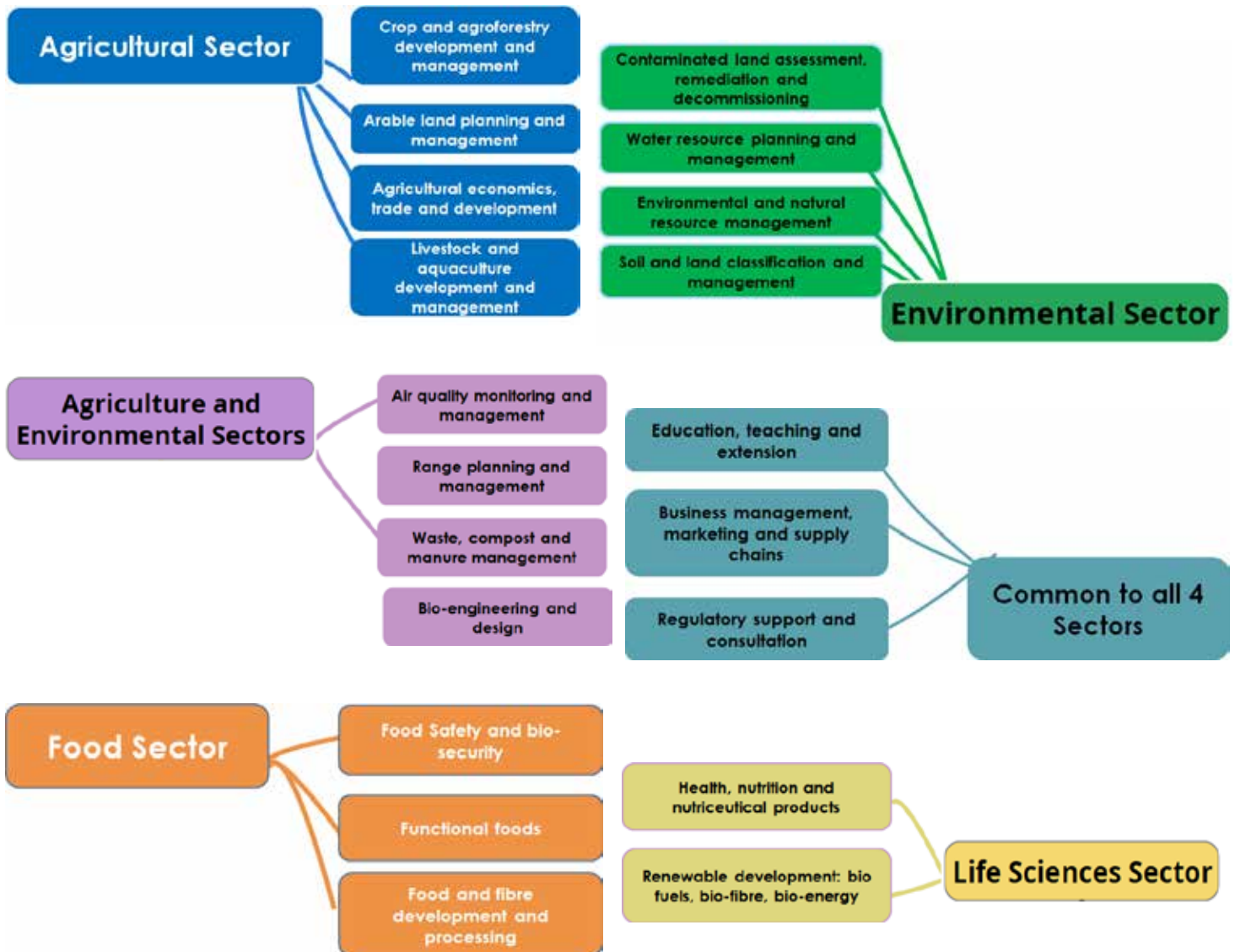
- preserving and protecting the scientific methods and principles that are the foundation of the agricultural and natural sciences,
- upholding the principles of stewardship that are the foundation of agrology,
- ensuring the integrity, objectivity and expertise of its members, and
- governing its members in accordance with the Act and the bylaws.

The *Act* provides a legislative framework regulating the qualifications, conduct and procedures for those practicing agrology in the province. The *Act* provides BCIA authority to make administrative bylaws outlining policies and procedures directing the practice of agrology within the province. In addition, BCIA works in conjunction with similar institutes across Canada to maintain national standards facilitating the flow of information, best practices and labour mobility. The [BCIA Bylaws](#) and the *Act* can be found on the [BC Laws website](#).



MEMBERSHIP AREAS OF PRACTICE

BCIA recognizes 38 Areas of Practice and requires members to annually self declare up to 3 of those areas based on the education and experience of the Member.



REFERENCES

Agrologists Act - revised 2003 - BC Law website

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/03013_01

BCIA Bylaws - revised 2017

<https://www.bcia.com/about-bcia/agrologists-act-bylaws-governance>

BCIA Code of Ethics

<https://www.bcia.com/about-bcia/code-ethics>

BCIA Membership Criteria

<https://www.bcia.com/members/membership-criteria>

BCIA Articling Agrologist Program

<https://www.bcia.com/members/articling-agrologist-program>