

Volume 1 Issue 2
October 2020

Agrologists Agronomes Canada Fall 2020 Newsletter



Canada's Agrology Professionals

Special points of interest:

- SIA and Agrologists Manitoba agree on TechAg compliance and mobility rights.
- SIA Bylaws Amendments
- Ontario Updates and Mental Health listings
- BCIA Professional Governance Act Updates and news

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Diagnosing Disease at PEI's Plant Diagnostic Lab

By Marleen Clark, P.Ag.

The PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries, PEI Analytical Laboratory, Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory serves all commodity farmers, Agricultural representatives and greenhouses producers.

Diagnostics of plant problems is the first step in an effective and economic management program. It is important to find out what your disease is and apply appropriate control measures to prevent or alleviate the disease from occurring again. Identification of the disease takes away the guess work and confirms what disease you are dealing with prior to treatment. Some types of crops the diagnostician deals with include; potatoes, cereals, fruit crops and Cole crops. Common potato diseases identified on a routine basis include late blight, Fusarium dry rot, leak, pink rot and bacterial blackleg. A diagnosis is determined using a variety of diagnostic techniques and clients will receive a personalized report with the results for their sample(s) as

well as supplemental information such as relevant Fact Sheets on the disease in question. The report will include information on the plant disease identified, as well as referrals to PEI Department of Agriculture specialists. There is no charge for this service.

Samples can be submitted directly to the plant disease diagnostic laboratory which is located at the PEI Analytical Laboratories at 23 Innovation Way, Charlottetown, PEI. A diagnostic request form can be found on the Government web site at www.princeedwardisland.ca/labservices.

When submitting a sample for diagnostic work, please attach the form to the sample. The sample should be a fresh, representative sample of the problem. For plant material, a plastic bag with a moist paper towel will help keep the integrity of the sample. For potato tuber samples, paper bags work best. For more information on the proper collection of a sample for testing, please review the

Looking for employment?

Check out the national job opportunities at the Agrologists Agronomes Canada job board!

<https://agrologistscanada.ca/employment-opportunities/>

information on our web site <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/agriculture-and-land/pei-analytical-laboratories-peial>

For more information, please contact Marleen Clark at 902-368-5261 or 902-620-3300 or by email at mmclark@gov.pe.ca.



Photo credit: [Theo Carzzolara](#)

Ordre des Agronomes du Québec (OAQ) Updates

2020 Annual Conference

For the first time, the annual conference of the Ordre des agronomes du Québec will take place completely virtually. You can therefore watch, live from your home, a multitude of conferences featuring the agrologist: a key player in sustainable development.

Discover the program, speakers, conferences and sponsors who will make this event a success by visiting the Order's website at www.oaq.qc.ca/congres2020. Do you want to register? Go to [our ASIO platform](#).

Agrologists Portraits: In order to explore the profession of agrology in detail, the Ordre des agronomes du Québec met agronomists from different

regions of Quebec. Agronomic knowledge is made up of a host of areas of expertise, each more interesting than the next. Discover the individuals behind this knowledge ... what drives them, what excites them and their ideas [here](#).

Intrusions into Livestock

Buildings: Ordre des agronomes du Québec and the [Les médecins vétérinaires du Québec](#) are teaming up to respond to intrusions into livestock buildings that have occurred over the past year.

The Ordre des agronomes du Québec thanks the [Association québécoise des agronomes en zootechnie \(AQAZ\)](#) for its contribution to its reflection. Read the text on the [Order's website](#).

The Committee on

Sustainable Agriculture: The Ordre des agronomes du Québec is pleased to announce the creation of a new ad hoc committee on sustainable agriculture.

As early as 1991, the Order adopted a definition of sustainable agriculture. "Environmentally friendly agriculture that safely produces healthy and nutritious food while maintaining the sector economically viable, competitive and in harmony with industries and related sectors".

On the other hand, the Order wonders whether this definition is still adapted to the reality of today. The creation of this committee will update the Order's vision for sustainable agriculture, which will take into account the concerns of the public, today's consumers. For the next 2 years, the sustainable agriculture committee will have the role to:

- Present to the Board of Directors orientations and recommendations in terms of sustainable agriculture;
- Assess whether all of the Order's guidelines and grids take into account the principles of sustainable agriculture and present the necessary recommendations, including a mandate to the ad hoc committees for review.

Continuing education at the Order, as presented in Agroexpress on June 3rd.

Raphaëlle Gendron, Professional Development Officer at the OAQ, provides a portrait of the continuing education offer currently available. Discover the different sectors covered and the multiple regions where certain training courses take place. [Learn more](#).



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29 octobre 2020




- Review the definition of sustainable agriculture and modernize it if necessary, based on the latest briefs on this subject produced by the Order in 2005 and 2007;
- Assess whether all of the Order's guidelines and grids take into account the principles of sustainable agriculture and present the necessary recommendations, including a mandate to the ad hoc committees for review;

Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists (SIA) Bylaw Amendments News

On April 2, 2020, the SIA held its first online annual general meeting (AGM). The original plan was to hold the event in Yorkton, SK as part of the Institute’s annual convention, however, due to COVID 19 restrictions the AGM was held virtually, which resulted in higher attendance.

Several amendments to the SIA Regulatory and Administrative Bylaws were approved. Of interest to other institutes of agrology may be the changes made to the retired agrologists bylaws and leave of absence bylaws.

To encourage retired agrologists to remain connected and contribute their knowledge and skills to the profession, SIA Administrative Bylaw 12.7 was amended to change the annual fee from \$35 to complimentary.

In addition, the following SIA Regulatory Bylaw was amended:

4.6 Retired Agrologists

A person who is a member at the time of their retirement from the practice of agrology, upon application to the registrar, may be designated a Retired Professional Agrologist or Retired Technical Agrologist. Upon such registration, that member shall be entitled to:

- attend annual general meetings and special meetings of the Institute and to vote at them;
- receive newsletters published by the Institute,
- receive information as the council may direct from time to time;
- to use the designation PAg (Ret) or TechAg (Ret); and
- serve on committees, branch executives or as a mentor.

SIA Regulatory Bylaw 8. Leave of Absence

was amended to provide clarity to the bylaw.

The SIA reports all registered agrologists to the SK Ministry of Justice annually and pays a fee for each registered agrologist to Agrologists Agronomes Canada. Those on leave are included in this list, so it is important the list is current to avoid payment of fees for those no longer practicing agrology.

The bylaw amendment ensures those on leave who do not return to practice are removed from the register.

The approved SIA Regulatory

Bylaw now reads:

8. Leave of Absence

8.1 An agrologist may upon application, request the Registrar to grant a leave of absence according to the leave types outlined in Table 1.1. It is the responsibility of the agrologist to make timely application for any extension to the leave period. Failure to do so may result in the agrologist’s name being removed from the annual register. (see table 1.1 at bottom of this page).

8.2 It is the responsibility of the agrologist to make timely applications for any extension to their leave of absence. Failure to do so may result in the removal of the individual’s name from the annual register and requiring them to pay additional fees upon reinstatement.

8.3 Articling agrologists that are on a leave of absence are eligible to complete the required milestones with the exception of work experience.

8.4 Agrologists on leave

are encouraged to report Continuing Professional Development hours, if any.

In addition, SIA Administrative Bylaw 12.7 was amended to allow the Institute to charge an annual fee of \$35 to agrologists on leave.

All SIA Regulatory Bylaw amendments have been reviewed and approved by the SK Ministry of Agriculture and published in the Saskatchewan Gazette. The SIA Administrative Bylaw amendments have been approved by the SK Ministry of Justice.

What is agrology? What is an agrologist?

When explaining the profession of agrology, quoting *The Agrologists Act* isn’t always practical and rewording the definition has been acceptable practice in order to provide clarity and understanding.

At their June 2020 meeting, SIA’s Provincial Council collaborated on updating the supplemental definition. This is what we use when talking about the profession to our registered agrologists and the public.

Leave Type	Duration & Frequency	Practice & Membership Rights
Family/ Parental/ Compassionate	Up to one year, extendable to a maximum of two years for each leave.	Full membership rights, no practice rights.
General Leave	Up to one year, extendable to a maximum of two years in a 10 year period.	No membership or practice rights.

Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists Bylaws Amendments

(continued from page 3)
public.

Agrology is defined as :

The application and improvement of science-based knowledge, including economics, to the production, management and use of plants, animals, soils, microorganisms, and the natural environment.

Additionally, an updated brief speech was developed to describe agrology to those not familiar with the profession:

Agrologists are licensed professionals with science education and training who work in agriculture, agribusiness and the related environmental sectors. Agrologists use a PAg or TechAg designation to inform the public they meet qualifications and use competent, safe and ethical practices.

Moving forward, these updates will be built into future communications to educate and improve understanding of what practicing agrology is and is not.

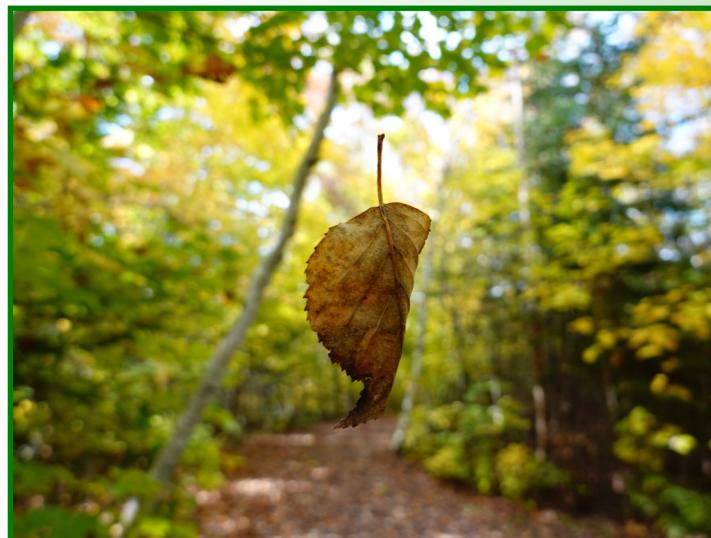


Photo credit: *Leaf*, by Stacy Bruce, PAg

Newfoundland and Labrador Institute of Agrologists (NLIA) News

The NLIA Annual General Meeting was held on May 4th using Zoom, with 16 members in attendance. This was the first virtual meeting the Institute and use of the technology is planned to host an online presentation for members later in September.

Nick Kelly, P.Ag. was elected

as NLIA President. Nick is a NLIA retired member who worked with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency during his professional career.

The NLIA Board continues to support the National Education Standard and recently accepted two new members under these qualifications. A third

application is currently under consideration.

NLIA also prepared a “Hot Topic” article for the July edition of the quarterly Atlantic Agrology Network Newsletter (AAN), which can be viewed at

<https://peiia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/AAN->



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British Columbia Institute of Agrologists News and Updates

BCIA has had a busy six months despite the COVID-19 situation!

Scholarships

2020 BCIA Scholarships are being accepted for students attending a BC post-secondary agrology-related program.

The deadline has been extended to October 30th.

Scholarship applicants must be:

- Currently enrolled in a degree program of study related to agrology in a recognized British Columbia post-secondary institute
- Undergraduate students have completed at least 2 years of an undergraduate degree program and are full-time
- Graduate students may be full or part-time students (no fewer than 2 courses)

A student member or Registrant of BCIA (Complete student member application at <https://www.bcia.com/members/student-membership>)

- Canadian or permanent resident of Canada
- B+ average academic achievement in previous 2 years (minimum of 15 courses) of post-secondary degree studies

All applicants must first be accepted as a registrant or student member of BCIA before submitting their application. Scholarship recipients may have their

photo and essay published in BCIA promotional materials and social media.

Application deadline is October 30, 2020. Please visit <https://www.bcia.com/news/2020-bcia-scholarships-applications-available> for additional information.

Call for Lay Committee Applicants

This notice of position is a general call for interested candidates in BC wishing to be considered for lay committee member positions by the BC Institute of Agrologists, and governed under the Professional Governance Act (PGA).

For more information, please go to the BCIA website job postings at <https://www.bcia.com/employment/lay-committee-positions>.



Apple, Stacey Bruce, PAg

Lay Councillors Appointed to Council

As registrants may be aware, the incoming Professional Governance Act requires lay councillors as part of Council. Accordingly, in July 2020, the provincial government appointed three lay councillors: Brock Endean,



Photo credit: Monitoring the South Chilcotin by Ried McTavish, PAg

Matthew Voell, and Aiden Wiechula. Please join us in welcoming them to BCIA.

PGA and Definitions of Regulated and Restricted Practice

BCIA's PGA Working Group has recently proposed to the provincial government a definition of "regulated practice" which includes proposed exemptions and reserved titles as a basis for the Schedules to the PGA that will replace the current Agrologists Act.

BCIA staff and the Working Group have started work on proposed definitions for "reserved practice". This definition will be the specification of activities which will be exclusively reserved for BCIA Registrants and thus can be viewed as the main part of our proposed practice rights for the profession. This process will also include clarification of those practices which the respective Regulators agree are joint jurisdiction between

two or more of the 5 Regulators. By necessity this work will include an intense review and probable restructuring of the current 38 areas of practice governed by BCIA.

2020 Provincial AGM and Branch AGMs

June 11, 2020 saw the first virtual annual general meeting in the history of BCIA. Although mandated by compliance to the current COVID-19 restrictions, Council has been discussing the use of online formats for the past few years. Although BCIA experienced some hardware challenges and software capacity issues, the attendance of 500+ registrants is indicative of the popularity and viability of the digital format.



Manitoba and Saskatchewan Confirm Tech Ag Mobility Rights

Recent alignment of standards between the two provinces eliminates red tape, promotes opportunities and places the focus on protecting the public.

Provincial regulators have worked to confirm Technical Agrologists (TechAg) mobility rights in Manitoba and Saskatchewan under the *Canadian Free Trade*

Agreement, the *New-West Partnership Trade Agreement* and regulatory bylaws. The change means TechAgs registered in one province can apply to practice agrology in the other province without additional training, experience, examinations or assessments.

The Agrologists Acts in Saskatchewan and

Manitoba require anyone practicing agrology to be a registered member of their provincial regulator.

Anyone working without a current registration permit may be subject to penalty or injunction provisions under legislation.

Agrologists working in both provinces must be registered in both provinces.

To exercise mobility rights

the TechAg must not be subject to practice limitations, restrictions or conditions where they are currently registered and must also meet all applicable competence and quality assurance requirements.

For more information please visit Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists at <https://sia.sk.ca/> and Agrologists Manitoba at <https://agrologistsmanitoba.ca/>

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*The Agrologists Acts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba requires anyone who is practicing agrology, including agronomists, to be registered with the provincial agrology regulator where they are providing advisory services.

SIA and Agrologists Manitoba are teaming up with an ad in Grow Pro magazine, a Glacier Media publication. The two regulators share similar goals and the ad compliments efforts to reduce unauthorized practice. A secondary purpose is to show registered members that they are valued and supported. The publication distribution is in early October.

Ontario Institute of Agrologists (OIA) News and Updates

Call for Mentors

One of the most important benefits to being an OIA member is the connection! We try to offer connections across various scopes of practice, levels of experience and parts of the province.

In 2020, we're linking Articling Agrologists with well-established Professional and Technical Agrologists, including

our retired members. This year is proving to be exceptionally difficult for our newer members to find opportunities for networking and professional development.

If you are interested in participating as a mentee or mentor, please email katie@oia.on.ca for more information.

Ontario's Agriculture Ministry re: Transporting Farm Animals

The Ontario Provincial Government has made it an offence to stop, obstruct, hinder or otherwise interfere with a motor vehicle transporting farm animals. For more information visit [https://blackburnnews.com/agrimedia/agrimedia-news/2020/09/01/provinces-](https://blackburnnews.com/agrimedia/agrimedia-news/2020/09/01/provinces-agriculture-minister-talks-bill-156/)

[agriculture-minister-talks-bill-156/](https://blackburnnews.com/agrimedia/agrimedia-news/2020/09/01/provinces-agriculture-minister-talks-bill-156/).



credit photo: The Ranch
By Grahame Gielens, PAG



Distress Centres

Distress Centres are available to offer confidential, private support for anyone who is feeling emotionally impacted, or in distress or crisis due to the challenges in Ontario's agricultural industry.

Whether you are directly impacted, or someone you care about - family, friends or work-associates - you can connect with Distress Centres 24/7 every day of the year.

- Cambridge: 519-658-5455
- Durham Region: 1-800-452-0688 or 905-430-2522
- Grey-Bruce: 1-877-470-5200
- Kingston: 613-544-1771
- Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Counties: 800-465-4442
- Niagara Falls, St. Catharines: 905-688-3711
- North Halton: 905-877-1211
- Northern Ontario: 1-855-554-4325
- Oakville: 905-849-4541
- Ottawa and Region: 613-238-3311
- Peel Region: 905-459-7777
- Ontario (French Speaking): 1-800-567-9699
- Toronto: 416-408-4357
- Wellington and Dufferin Counties: 1-888-821-3760
- Windsor and Essex Counties: 519-256-5000



uestions, comments and suggestions should be directed to office@bcia.com

We welcome your feedback on our second edition!

Find us on the web at

<https://agrologistscanada.ca/>

Agrologists Agronomes Canada is a national body comprised of nine provincial regulators. As members of the Agrologists Agronomes Canada team, the provincial regulators work together to:

- Meet obligations for national labour mobility (i.e. harmonizing licensing requirements so that agrology professionals can are able to become licensed with any regulator within Canada)
- Promote the role of agrology and professional agrologists within Canada

“As provincial regulators, we license agrology professionals and provide regulatory oversight to ensure public protection in each province via safe, competent and ethical practice.”

Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists News Updates

With the COVID-19 restrictions which have been in effect since early spring, NSIA has faced difficulty in the planning and administering of events.

The Annual General Meeting, which has always been held in April, was postponed, as well as the accompanying Honours and Awards dinner. NSIA plans to offer a member meeting this Fall, whether in-person or virtually.

The Spring and Fall tours were also not able to happen this year. The tours are typically of local farms and/or agriculture-like businesses. These will resume when restrictions are lifted.

NSIA was able to offer their

members a virtual presentation in August by a regional researcher, where she discussed her research within berry breeding and took questions immediately following. This was a way to offer members Professional Development hours during a time when it can be challenging to obtain these.

We are currently planning more of these virtual events, with the goal to have one monthly until in-person events are able to safely occur again.

Additional information on upcoming events can be found on our website <http://nsagrologists.ca/> as well as the quarterly Atlantic

Agrology Network Newsletter which will have its next edition out in October.



Photo credit: *Diversity on the Range*, by Stacy Bruce, PAg