The Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board (CFAB) is responsible for the assessment of Canadian university forestry degree programs for the purpose of meeting academic requirements for professional certification (registration/licensure). Its role is to implement a national accreditation process mandated under a detailed Policy Statement agreed to by its member agencies, the eight professional forester/forest engineer associations of Canada, and the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Board members are appointed by the member agencies.

The Board was established in 1989 and has been conducting site visitations since 1990. Assessment of academic program is undertaken in accordance with comprehensive academic standards but includes, also, consideration of facilities and services offered; faculty experience, qualifications and tenure; and the ability of the program to imbue professional qualifications and qualities in students. The regular accreditation cycle for a program is six years, although circumstances may dictate a shorter period for a given program or an interim review to confirm that a program continues to meet accreditation requirements. At present, eleven baccalaureate forestry programs in Canada enjoy accredited status. The Board does not accredit faculties or institutions, nor does it review programs outside Canada.

The Board’s fourth round of reviews concluded in 2012 with two site visits. Accreditation reviews of the Forest Resources Management and Forest Operations majors of the Forestry Program, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia were undertaken in April. The review team comprised Janet Schilf, R.P.F. (Lead), Bruce McLean, R.P.F., Reino Pulkki, R.P.F. and David Winston, R.P.F. The second site visit, to the Faculty of Natural Resources Management, Lakehead University for review of the school’s Honours Bachelor of Science in Forestry Program, was conducted in April as well. That review team comprised Bruce Dancik, R.P.F. (Lead), Bill Buggie, R.P.F., Gilles Couturier, ing.f., and Ralph Roberts, R.P.F., ing.f.

The Board met once during the year, on September 7 and 8 in Fall River, Nova Scotia. Following consideration of the review team reports and related documentation, the Board granted six-year accreditations to the aforementioned Forest Resources Management and Forest Operations majors at the University of British Columbia. The accreditation periods began with the 2012/13 academic year and extend to June 30, 2018. A status and update report has been requested of the school to confirm the adequacy, against the Accreditation Standards, of instruction in one area of the reviewed programs.
At the same meeting, the Board determined that the Honours Bachelor of Science in Forestry Program at Lakehead University would be accredited for the maximum period of six years. Accreditation of that program began with the 2012/2013 academic year and continue to June 30, 2018.

Accreditation determinations are subject to all relevant provisions of the Policy Statement which declares that, among others, "the term of the accreditation is subject to review for cause at any time". Accreditations under the current decisions apply only to the curricula referred to above and in place at the time of the accreditation reviews.

A number of follow-on determinations with respect to earlier Accreditation Decisions were made at the Fall River meeting as well.

In an Accreditation Decision rendered September 2011, the Board noted that the then awarded two-year accreditation of the Forest Ecosystem Management Program, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick, would be extendable to six years “upon the Faculty providing evidence satisfactory to the Board that necessary actions have been taken to address identified standards-related program gaps.” The Faculty has since complied with the Board’s requirements and the Program now meets fully all requirements for accreditation. In consequence, the Board has determined that accreditation of the Faculty’s Forest Ecosystem Management Program shall be in effect until June 30, 2017.

With further respect to programs at the University of New Brunswick, the Board had determined in a second Accreditation Decision rendered September 2011, that, for accreditation of the Forest Engineering Program (R.P.F. option) to be maintained to the expected termination of the option in 2013, the Faculty would be required to provide evidence that identified shortcomings were being addressed and that graduates will receive the instruction necessary to allow them to meet the competency requirements of the standards.

The Faculty has since complied with the Board’s requirements and the Program now meets fully all requirements for accreditation. In consequence, the Board has determined that accreditation of the Faculty’s Forest Engineering Program (R.P.F. option) shall remain in effect until June 30, 2013.

Lastly, in rendering its accreditation determination in 2011 for two programs at the University of Alberta, the Board noted that “the programs do have limited shortfall against the professionalism and ethics requirements of the standards” and that “the Faculty has been asked to submit a status report, by June 30, 2012, on actions being taken to address identified gaps”. The Faculty has since complied with the Board’s requirements and the Board is pleased to advise that the Forestry and Forest Business Management Programs of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences meet fully all requirements and that accreditation to June 30, 2017 is confirmed.
Although no further regularly scheduled reviews will be conducted until late 2014 or early 2015, an interim review will be conducted in March 2013 for the purpose of considering the extension to six years of the current three-year accreditation of the Forestry Sciences Program, Faculty of Forestry, University of Moncton. And, in its first accreditation review of a post-graduate program, the Board has responded to a request from the Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia to conduct a review of the school’s newly introduced Master of Sustainable Forest Management Program. To cover off differences in the offerings of a Master’s level program compared to those of a Bachelor’s level program, supplementary information requirements have been developed for inclusion in the Faculty’s Questionnaire submission. The review will take place in April 2013.


Following each site visit, the Board seeks comment on the process and on the experience of site team members and the schools for the purpose of ensuring that accreditation procedures remain appropriate and provide the information necessary for the making of accurate accreditation decisions. With the experience gained over the recently completed fourth round in the use of the competency-based accreditation standards introduced in 2008, the Board has initiated review of its Questionnaire for review and evaluation of degree programs in forestry and Manual of evaluation procedures for site visit teams documents. The two documents are integral to the conduct of all accreditation reviews.

As a member agency, the Board remained fully active in the meetings and activities of the CFPFA and a standing sub-committee, the Central Assessment Authority (CAA). The former serves as an umbrella organization for discussion of matters of national
relevance to Canadian forester and forest engineer regulatory bodies and functions under a member-agency agreed set of by-laws. The latter is a more recently formed sub-element to oversee and administer the CFPFA's newly implemented national program for the assessment of the credentials of foreign-trained individuals and graduates from non-accredited Canadian forestry programs who seek to enter professional forestry practice in Canada. Information for candidates seeking assessment procedure information is available on a CFAB sub-site at www.cfab.ca/cfpfa-fcafp. The CFPFA is in the process of developing a standalone website for this and other CFPFA activity.

The Board is an active member of the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC). The AAAC convenes two meetings annually at which the 34 member agencies, representing the majority of baccalaureate and higher program accrediting bodies in Canada, are able to consider items of mutual interest and to share accreditation experiences and procedures.

All CFAB formal documents are available in English and French, in hard- or electronic copy, and may be obtained upon request to the Executive Director. A list of those documents, along with other relevant CFAB information, including the full set of Accreditation Standards, may be found on the Board's website at www.cfab.ca

The CFAB Annual Report for 2011, including the then current record of accredited programs, was published in the March/April 2012 issue of The Forestry Chronicle.

Lorne F. Riley, R.P.F.
Executive Director

January 14, 2013
STATUS OF CFAB PROGRAM ACCREDITATIONS
AT CANADIAN SCHOOLS OF FORESTRY
DECEMBER 2012

September 2009
Laval University, Faculty of Forestry, Geography and Geomatics, Forest Management and Environment Program and Forest Operations Program
Accredited for six years to June 30, 2015

September 2009
University of Northern British Columbia, College of Science and Management, Ecosystem Science and Management Program, Forest Ecology and Management Major
Accredited for six years to June 30, 2015

September 2010
University of Moncton, Faculty of Forestry, Forestry Sciences Program
Accredited for three years to June 30, 2013

September 2011
University of New Brunswick, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, Forest Ecosystem Management Program
Accredited for six years to June 30, 2017

September 2011
University of New Brunswick, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, Forest Engineering Program (R.P.F. option)
Accreditation extended for two years to June 30, 2013

September 2011
University of Alberta, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Alberta School of Forest Science and Management, Forestry Program and Forest Business Management Program
Accredited for six years to June 30, 2017

September 2012
University of British Columbia, Faculty of Forestry, Forestry Program, Forest Resources Management and Forest Operations Majors
Accredited for six years to June 30, 2018

September 2012
Lakehead University, Faculty of Natural Resources Management, Forestry Program (H.B.Sc.F.)
Accredited for six years to June 30, 2018