



Association of the Chemical Profession of Saskatchewan (ACPS)

Newsletter: July 2013

Letter from the President Stephen Urquhart, P. Chem.

The association's first year has been momentous! We have taken our first steps toward the professional recognition of Saskatchewan chemists by founding the Association of the Chemical Profession of Saskatchewan (ACPS). The association, now formally incorporated as a not for profit corporation, is intended as a stepping-stone



for a formal self-regulatory body for Chemists in the Province of Saskatchewan.

The fundamental purpose of the ACPS is protection of the public. With legal recognition as a self-regulating professional association, the ACPS will certify the credentials and training of professional chemists, provide ethics and other professional training, and regulate the professional behavior of association members. We are following in the footsteps of peer associations from five other provinces who have already established the exclusive "right to title" for professional chemists (*P.Chem.*; *C. Chem.* in Ontario). The *P. Chem.* title provides association members with professional recognition, a means for Saskatchewan industry and government to recognize, employ and promote qualified professional chemists, and ultimately a means to identify chemists as Qualified Persons under the Saskatchewan Environmental Code, now under development in the province.

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President's letter, continued.

Saskatchewan Chemists are professionals, but lack title, legal recognition and a defined scope of work.

Saskatchewan chemists work alongside professionals from other disciplines who benefit from formal recognition. The association intends to remedy this professional asymmetry, and elevate the role of professional chemistry in the province.

The association requires legal authority granted by provincial legislation to exclusively issue the *P.Chem.* title to qualified members. Our approach to provincial legislation is in its early days, but will follow the experience and advice of our peer associations across Canada: **The first step is to build our**

membership as a provisional association. Vibrant membership justifies our claim to represent the chemistry profession. With legislative recognition, the association will then shift from its current provisional mode to that of a self-regulating professional association, offering formalized credential recognition, ethics training and discipline.

As we work towards self-regulation and legislative recognition, we are pursuing interim steps to adopt the mantle of professionalism. ACPS members are encouraged to take the Chemistry professional ethics training offered by the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta. To date, two

ACPS board members, Colin Campbell, and myself have completed this course.

In the next months, the association will work to:

- Build its membership
- Make connections with relevant Saskatchewan government ministries (economy and environment), and MLAs
- Establish a strategy for working towards legislative recognition and establishment of a professional self-regulating organization.

If you're a chemist working professionally in the province, this is your association! Please consider helping in the work of building the association!

- Please join, and please encourage your colleagues to sign up!
- Please volunteer for the ACPS! (Membership, credential recognition, ethics committees, etc.)

This is an exciting time for the profession, and for Chemistry in the province of Saskatchewan. I look forward to an exciting year ahead, and the building of this association.

Sincerely,

Stephen Urquhart, *P.Chem.*
President, Association of the Chemical Profession of Saskatchewan
Professor of Chemistry, University of Saskatchewan



The ACPS is a recognized member of Canada's Professional Chemists / Chimistes Professionnels du Canada

How you can get involved:

- **Please consider joining the ACPS as a provisional member and help establish the association.** Our provision membership rate is nominal (\$25 per year for qualified Chemists; \$10 per year for Chemists in training). There are also many ways to help the association – recruitment, legislative affairs, fundraising, etc. **Your support is essential to bring this organization to fruition!**
- **Please consider volunteering for the ACPS!** Members are needed for membership, credential recognition, ethics committees, etc. Email info@saskchem.ca to get involved!

Recent ACPS activities:

- “Meet and Greet” at the Canadian Society for Chemistry meeting, Calgary Alberta (May 2012), jointly organized with the Association for the Chemical Profession of Alberta (ACPA)
- APCS executive members Colin Campbell and Stephen Urquhart participated in ethics training organized by the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta, Calgary, AB (May 2012)
- First ACPS general membership meeting (December 8, 2012)
- ACPS signs an MOU on mutual recognition with peer provincial Professional Chemistry Societies (December 2012)
- ACPS represented at Canada's Professional Chemistry Meeting, Quebec City, QC (May 2013)
- Introduction of E&O insurance for ACPS Members (June 2013)

ACPS Board of Directors

President: Stephen Urquhart, University of Saskatchewan

Vice-President: Colin Campbell, SaskPower

Secretary: Ian Ireland, Erin Consulting

Treasurer: Scott Murphy, University of Regina

Member at large: Jeff Cutler, Canadian Light Source Inc.

Provincial Context for the Association for the Chemical Profession of Saskatchewan:

The ACPS's development activities occur in the context of two other developments in the Province of Saskatchewan:

- The draft **Saskatchewan Environmental Code of Conduct**. This code will identify a class of "Qualified Persons" who are designated to do certain types of work under the environmental code (e.g. certify chemical analysis, etc.). The Ministry of the Environment can certify Qualified Persons who are not members of self-regulating professions. We envision that the *P.Chem.* title, granted through the ACPS, would provide QP status for certain types of work defined by the environmental code.
- Another organization, the **Saskatchewan Association of Science Professionals (SASP)**, is also working to develop professional recognition for scientists not covered by existing professional organizations. A primary driver for their efforts is the QP requirements of the Environment Code of Conduct. The ACPS is in communication with this group. We are willing to combine efforts within a practical organization model, consistent with our principles, the best interests of the public, and the interests of the profession.

As the ACPS board has discussed the development of the association, several principles have become clear. These principles are:

- **Our fundamental purpose is the protection of the public.** This task requires rigorous self-regulation of the profession, independent from conflicting interests and accountable to the citizens of the Province of Saskatchewan.
- **To represent chemists, we must represent chemists!** Building membership is key to moving forward as an association.
- **Relationships between Saskatchewan industry, government and academia are key:** optimized training helps industry, economy and province, offers better placement of university graduates and improves translation of university research to industry in the province.
- **Chemistry is a broad discipline:** The incipient Environmental Code of Conduct is an important driver to professionalization in Saskatchewan. However, work defined under the Environmental Code is a small part of what professional Chemists do. **The ACPS is committed to the comprehensive picture of professional chemistry practice.**
- **One step at a time:** Exclusive "right to practice" and a legally restricted "scope of work" for the chemical profession must be defined collegially and cooperatively with other professions. These discussions are proceeding cautiously in other provinces, and we have much to gain from contemporary approaches used elsewhere. The ACPS is a participant in these discussions at the national level, through Canada's Professional Chemists (CPC). For example, some provinces are exploring licensure within a framework that recognizes that the scope of practice of much chemistry work is shared with different disciplines.

Announcements

ACPS Membership Meeting

Saturday, August 31, 2013, 2 PM. University of

Regina. The agenda and location will be circulated by email to ACPS members in good standing before the meeting

Errors and Omissions Insurance now available for ACPS members

Accepting responsibility for one's work is a central tenet of being a professional — in practical application this means taking financial responsibility should there be an error or omission in the work product. The most cost effective way to manage this personal liability is with insurance. With this in mind, the member provincial professional organizations of Canada's Professional Chemists (CPC) have obtained cost effective Errors & Omissions insurance for individual professional chemists in Canada. While those professional chemists who regularly provide consulting services are eligible for preferred group rates, those who provide occasional 'over the fence' advice or academic chemists who undertake occasional consulting and are not indemnified by their institutions may also be interested. The insurance is provided by Encon, one of Canada's largest providers of professional liability insurance, and administered by the Moore-McLean Insurance Group. **For more information, see www.saskchem.ca**

Full-Day Course in Professional Ethics for Chemists offered by the ACPA.

The Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta (ACPA) is offering their excellent Chemistry professional ethics course in Edmonton (Sept. 16, 2013) and Calgary (October 19, 2013). This one-day course will provide an introduction to the ethical framework that guides professional chemists in the conduct of their duties. The objective of this course is two-fold: to ensure a working knowledge of the fundamental ethical concepts embedded in Professional Chemist accreditation and to learn how to analyze work-related ethical situations and make the best possible decisions.

For information, including costs and registration, see the ACPA website at www.pchem.ca

ACPS Membership Categories

Regular Membership (\$25 p.a.)

(i) Four year B.Sc. in Chemistry from University of Saskatchewan or Regina, or a CIC accredited undergraduate chemistry program

(ii) Two years work experience as a chemist

Alternative criteria: active registration as a Professional Chemist in another Canadian province.

Associate Membership (\$10 p.a.)

Associate membership is offered to individuals working towards the criteria for regular membership

Join today! Membership form available at www.saskchem.ca

Note: ACPS membership is provisional and do not confer the P.Chem title. All memberships will be reviewed when ACPS is granted legal status.

Association of the Chemical Profession of Saskatchewan

1831D MacRae Dr, Regina SK S4N 0S4, Canada

info@saskchem.ca www.saskchem.ca



