



CODE OF ETHICS

SECTION 1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 No detailed Code of Ethics can prescribe the conduct appropriate under any and all circumstances. Often the choice lies between two or more evils rather than between an action which is patently right and one which is obviously wrong. It may be that, in certain situations, a member could not possibly comply with all articles of this Code simultaneously. He/she should then try to satisfy the basic aims of this Code as far as possible even if to do so involved a breach of the letter of the rules.
- 1.2 Therefore this Code shall be interpreted within the following guiding principles:
 - 1.2.1 The Golden Rule ("Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you") shall be used as the governing criterion conduct.
 - 1.2.2 Loyalty to basic professional ideals shall be paramount to technical breaches of this code. Conversely, actions which are within the letter of these articles but which violate commonly accepted standards of honourable conduct shall be considered breaches of professional ethics.
 - 1.2.3 No less weight shall be given to the motive for a course of action than is given to the action itself. Contrived evasions of these articles may be more culpable than overt acts of omission or commission. On the other hand, honourable errors of judgment are not in themselves unethical, and therefore their results should be judged with charity, understanding, and justice rather than by a strict observance of the written word alone.

SECTION 2 ARTICLES

- 2.1 This code defines the conduct of professional foresters in their relations with the public, employers, employees, clients and each other. It promotes just and honourable professional and human relationships, mutual confidence and respect and competent services to society.
- 2.2 Professional foresters regard stewardship of the forest environment as their primary responsibility. This entails managing the land and associated forest resources to meet the objectives of the owner without compromising the opportunity for present and future generations and the utility and value of the forest to society.

SECTION 3 THE COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS

- 3.1 Members are required to abide by the Code of Ethics in all activities related to the practice of forestry (By-Law 65 [2]).

3.2 A member has responsibilities to:

3.2.1 The public

3.2.2 The profession

3.2.3 His/her client or employer

3.2.4 Other members

3.3 The responsibility of a member to the public is:

3.3.1 To provide factual and accurate information to advance public knowledge and understanding of forest policies, the practice of forestry and its function in society.

3.3.2 To uphold professional principles and the just rights of others against the demands of employment.

3.3.3 To express opinions on forestry matters only on the basis of knowledge, skill, experience and honest conviction and to refute untrue, biased or exaggerated statements.

3.3.4 To have proper regard in all their work for the safety, health and welfare of the public.

3.3.5 To shun self-aggrandizement.

3.3.6 Not to use information given in confidence by another person for the primary purpose of damaging the interests of that person.

3.4 The responsibility of a member to the profession is:

3.4.1 To maintain high standards of conduct and daily work and strive to raise the standards of practice.

3.4.2 To acquire, keep current and use specialized knowledge and skills in the practice of forestry.

3.4.3 State clearly on whose behalf they are giving opinions or making statements.

3.4.4 Review with the colleague responsible any practice or behaviour they believe contrary to this code. If not resolved to report the matter in writing with the knowledge of the colleague concerned to the Association or other appropriate authority.

3.4.5 Sign or seal only those plans, reports, prescriptions, maps and specifications, prepared personally or produced under their direction, supervision or review.

3.4.6 Endeavor to improve the competence of the forestry profession.

3.4.7 Engage in no activity likely to result in unfavourable reflection on the profession.

3.4.8 A member should not support the admission to the profession of persons believed by him/her to be unworthy or inadequately qualified.

3.4.9 Questions of interpretation of this Code and complaints of unethical conduct shall be referred in writing to such authority as may be designated by this Association.

3.5 The responsibility of a member to the client or employer is:

- 3.5.1 To act in a conscientious, diligent and efficient manner.
 - 3.5.2 To work in a spirit of integrity, honour, fairness, good faith and courtesy.
 - 3.5.3 Undertake only such work as they are competent to perform by virtue of their training and experience except when under supervision.
 - 3.5.4 Consult and cooperate with other specialists on matters beyond their own competence.
 - 3.5.5 A member shall understand the nature of the problem of a prospective employer or client before offering or committing his/her services. A member shall avoid unjustified or exaggerated assurances of his/her competence, especially as a means of obtaining employment.
 - 3.5.6 Advise their employer or client of any course of action and its potential consequences that, in their professional opinion is not based on sound forestry practice.
 - 3.5.7 Respect the secrecy of all confidential information obtained in the practice of their profession, except as may be required by law.
 - 3.5.8 Undertake no assignment that may create a conflict of interest in their employer or client and to inform such employer or client of any business connections, interests or circumstances that may be deemed as influencing their judgment or the quality of their services.
 - 3.5.9 Accept no compensation in any form for a particular service from more than one source without the knowledge and consent of all interested parties.
 - 3.5.10 Establish with the client fair and reasonable fees which correspond to the services to be rendered,
 - 3.5.11 A member shall not distort or withhold explanatory contexts or statements for the purpose of supporting his/her own opinions.
 - 3.5.12 A member shall compete for a position or assignment only until the employer has made a definite selection. Thereafter the member shall not try to supplant the incumbent unless definite procedures for such action are laid down and followed.
- 3.6 The responsibility of a member to another member is:**
- 3.6.1 Refrain from maligning the work, reputation or business of another professional forester.
 - 3.6.2 Provide opportunity for the professional development of other members in their employ or under their supervision.
 - 3.6.3 Give credit for assistance, methods, facts or opinions provided by others.