

Telephone: 250 356-8609

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA):**  
Personal information provided on this form is collected, used and disclosed under the authority of the FOIPPA and the Society Act for the purposes of assessment. Questions regarding the collection, use and disclosure of personal information can be directed to the Executive Coordinator of the BC Registry Services at 250 356-1198, PO Box 9431 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9V3.

1. Name of Society

Association of the Chemical Profession of British Columbia.

2. Number of Members in good standing of the society

As of June 30, 2009: 90 professional members; 2 applications for registration in process.

3. State which of the purposes represent the interests of the occupation or profession.

Excerpt from the Purposes of the Society:

(a) To provide information on topics related to chemistry in society within all sectors of the public and promote a greater understanding of the role of chemistry in the economic, social and environmental well-being of the people of British Columbia; (b) To administer and regulate a professional designation for the Chemical profession in British Columbia; (c) To promote the recognition of members of the Society as qualified professionals in statute and regulation in British Columbia to ensure that opportunities accorded to other professions are available to members working within the province; (d) To promote and increase the knowledge, skill, and proficiency of its members in other activities relating to chemical sciences and ensure high standards of competence, integrity and ethics within the chemical profession in British Columbia; (e) To improve the standards of excellence in research, investigation, education, and public understanding as they pertain to the chemistry profession and encourage students to pursue their interest in chemistry as a career; continues... see Attachment 2: Constitution and Bylaws.

4. How do the bylaws provide for:

(a) qualification for admission to membership or a class of membership?

The bylaws establish a Membership and Registration committee that is tasked to review applications for membership (section 3.05). The classes of professional membership (Professional Chemist, Chemist-in-Training) are described in the bylaws in sections 13.01-13.03 and the criteria to be applied by the Membership and Registration committee in assessing the application for registration as a professional member are outlined in section 13.04. The Association also recognizes additional classes of membership which do not confer professional status: Honorary Member, Associate Member, and Student Member.

A copy of the bylaws is enclosed with the application. See Attachment 2: Constitution and Bylaws.

(b) courses of study and examinations for members or applicants for membership?

The bylaw section 13.04 reads in part:

Such criteria [for professional membership] shall include as a minimum a four-year undergraduate chemistry degree (B.Sc. level), normally consisting of at least eight courses of two-term duration each (lectures plus associated laboratory work), and a minimum of two years post graduate work in a chemically-related field, for a company, academic institution (including post-graduate study beyond the B.Sc), non-governmental organization, government body, or other organization. Applicants are required to submit documents establishing their academic and employment qualifications. Each application is affirmed by a signed statement of a professional chemist or other registered professional. Chemistry undergraduate programs of the Universities in BC are accredited nationally by the Chemical Institute of Canada. The requirements for membership in the ACPBC are directly comparable with other provinces that have right to title, in particular with the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta.

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4. How do the bylaws provide for: (Continued)

(c) conduct of members and ethics and standards of practice?

Every professional member is required, by signature, to agree to be bound by a Code of Ethics before being granted registration. See Attachment 3: Code of Ethics. The bylaws establish a Discipline Committee that adjudicates "...allegations of unskilled practice or unprofessional conduct against professional members of ACPBC, and thereby maintain levels of competence and ethics in the practice of the chemical profession." (Section 3.04 of the bylaws.) A complaints process and the Discipline procedures, including provisions for oral and written hearings are described in the Discipline Policy, a copy of which is enclosed with the application. See Attachment 4. The complaints process is publicly available via the website. The text is included in Attachment 4.

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(d) suspension, expulsion or other penalties for misconduct, incapacity or incompetence of members?

The range of penalties that includes suspension or expulsion from the Association is specified in the Discipline Policy. See Attachment 4. Any decision resulting in expulsion or suspension is recommended to the Board by the Discipline Committee and approved by the Board. Such decisions are made public in the interests of safeguarding the public. A list of professional members in good standing is available to the public via the website. Disciplinary decisions will be similarly posted.

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5. (a) How have consumers experienced difficulty in determining the qualifications or standard of qualifications of persons in the occupational group for which protection of title is being requested?

Questions of the safety of chemicals, their properties, and advice on chemical analysis arise frequently among BC consumers. Chemistry departments in colleges and universities field such questions on a daily basis, revealing that the public has no ready means of identifying chemical expertise. As consumers of human resources, BC Government ministries routinely identify engineering, biology, or forestry professionals in their recruitment without realizing the highly qualified chemistry professionals that are available. In consequence, significant chemical practice in the province is provided by other science professionals with limited chemical education simply because consumers have no other means of identifying professional chemists as the persons with the full qualifications.

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(b) How will issuance of a designated title help to solve the difficulties being experienced?

Designated title is an essential component of consumer confidence. Under the current situation, a consumer has no method to determine the standing and qualification of any chemist employed or practicing in BC. The resulting confusion has been outlined in the previous section. Recognition of right to title for professional chemists will bring the same ready access to identifiable chemical expertise as is currently available in other provinces. By making available consumer choices of chemical services that are of a high standard of competence, all sectors – industry, government, and the public - will enjoy enhanced public safety and confidence in the work performed.

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(c) Is registration under Part 10 the only reasonable and practical means of solving the difficulties experienced by consumers described above? If so, why?

Yes. Consumers have a right to full and transparent accountability by the professionals they engage. This accountability requires external peer-evaluation of professional competency. Any other system will fall far short of the legitimate expectations of consumers. The "buyer beware" dictum might have relevance in some sectors, but professional services must work to the higher standard of registration and continual professional development. It must be recognized that the work of chemists often addresses critical questions of human health and safety, and of imminent danger to the environment, so it is in the public interest to establish right to title as a means of ensuring that competent chemical services are provided.

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6. (a) What word or combination of words and what initials does the society wish designated for the exclusive use of its members?

We request the designation "Professional Chemist" and the initials "PChem" to designate registered professional members of the Association. Further we request the title "Chemist in Training" and "CIT". See Attachment 1 iii.

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(b) Does this closely resemble the name or initials of another similar organization so that confusion might arise?

YES  NO

If YES, name the other organization

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If NO, state what steps the society has taken to determine that no other similar organization exists:

A multi search engine search of "PChem", "professional chemist", "registered chemist", "chartered chemist" (a British term) and related terms in conjunction with "Canada", "BC" and "British Columbia" revealed no other similar organization in BC. No other organizations within BC use "Professional Chemist" or "PChem" as a designation. See Attachment 1 iii.

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7. What percentage of the persons engaged in the occupation you wish to represent are currently members of the society?

11 %

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8. What is the geographical distribution of your members?

Cariboo and Northern BC, 6%; Okanogan and Kootenay, 14%; Lower Mainland (excl. Vancouver) 18%; Greater Vancouver 34%; Vancouver Island and coastal BC 28%. See Attachment 1 i.

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9. Briefly describe the activities carried on by the society to further the purposes given in its constitution.

The ACPBC builds on a long tradition of research and higher education in Chemistry in the province. As a result, the activities of the ACPBC have included speaking to student symposia and award presentations, chemistry symposia in BC and nationally, and at articulation meetings in island and interior locations as well as the lower mainland. Other members are in the analytical and consulting industry in the province and have been active in raising the profile of the profession and the ACPBC in their sectors. It is noteworthy that the Board has membership from Prince George, Kamloops and Nanaimo, as well as Victoria and Vancouver, in a strategy to ensure that promotion of the profession of chemistry is extended throughout British Columbia.

Continues... See Attachment 1 ii.

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10. Give any other information you consider pertinent to this application.

Additional details on the information referred to in the application, on Board membership, and other procedures are available on the website at [www.pchembc.ca](http://www.pchembc.ca)

Attachments to this application are cited throughout. The following are appended:

- 1: Additional information on the chemical profession in BC and Canada
2. Constitution and By-Laws of the ACPBC
3. Code of Ethics of the ACPBC
4. Discipline Policy of the ACPBC
5. Professional Development form of the ACPBC

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**Certification**

We hereby certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of our knowledge, information and belief.

*Paul R West*

*Signature of Director of the Society*

PAUL WEST, PRESIDENT

*Kevin Taylor*

*Signature of Director of the Society*

Kevin Taylor  
Vice President

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**NOTE:**

- A Director's resolution authorizing this application is attached.
- If there is not sufficient space for your answers to any question, please attach your answer on a separate piece of paper.
- The deliberate giving of false or misleading information on this application may be considered grounds for cancellation of registration under Part 10 by the registrar.
- The registrar of Companies requires that the society publish notice of its application in three issues of a newspaper in daily circulation throughout the Province and in three issues of a newspaper located in the city shown in the address of the society.

**Sample Notice**

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

RE: APPLICATION FOR

OCCUPATIONAL TITLE PROTECTION

The Association of the Chemical Profession of British Columbia

has

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of society*

applied to the registrar for Occupational Title Protection, under Part 10 of the  
*Society Act.*

The words (or words) and initials that the society wishes designated for exclusive use  
of its members are:

Professional Chemist (PChem)

Chemist-in-Training (CIT)

Any interested party may make written submissions to the Registrar of Companies,  
PO Box 9431 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9V3, within 30 days of the publication  
of this notice.



**SOCIETY ACT**

**COPY OF RESOLUTION**

The following is a copy of

- a special resolution\* passed
- an ordinary resolution
- a directors' resolution

in accordance with the by-laws of the Society on the 26th day of March, 2009 :  
(Day) (Month) (Year)

"RESOLVED

That Application for Occupational Title be made to the Registrar of Societies under Section 10 of the Society Act of British Columbia by the Association of the Chemical Profession of British Columbia

Dated this 26th day of June, 2009."  
(Day) (Month) (Year)

Association of the Chemical Profession of British Columbia

(Name of Society)

by Paul R West  
(Signature)

President

(Relationship to Society)

**\* Strike out words which do not apply.**

- [Note — (a) No special resolution has effect until accepted by the Registrar of Companies.  
(b) Send, in duplicate, to the Registrar of Companies.  
Mailing Address: PO Box 9431 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9V3.  
Location Address: 2nd Floor – 940 Blanshard Street, Victoria BC together with applicable fee.  
Telephone number: 250 356-8609.]

Additional information and forms are available on the Internet at: [www.fin.gov.bc.ca/registries](http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/registries)

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**Application for Occupational Title**  
**Association of the Chemical Profession of British Columbia**  
**Attachments to the Application**

**Contents:**

*Attachment 1: Additional information on the chemical profession in BC and Canada* (pages 2- 4)

*Attachment 2. Constitution and By-Laws of the ACPBC* ([link](#))

*Attachment 3. Code of Ethics of the ACPBC* ([link](#))

*Attachment 4. Discipline Policy of the ACPBC* ([link](#))

*Attachment 5. Professional Development* ([link](#))

## ***Attachment 1: Additional Information on the Chemical Profession in BC and Canada***

### **Definitions of the practice of chemistry:**

As outlined in the application and below, the Association of the Chemical Profession of British Columbia is working with other professional chemistry associations across the country to establish national standards for the registration of chemists and the practice of chemistry in Canada. The following definitions have general applicability:

“chemical sciences” means the analytical, biochemical, organic, inorganic, physical, theoretical and applied chemistry disciplines;

"chemist" means a person who, through specialized education, training and experience, is skilled in the principles and practice of chemistry;

"chemistry" means the performing of any activity that requires the application of the principles of the chemical sciences, including, but not limited to,

- investigations, interpretations, evaluations, consultations, teaching or management aimed at the discovery or development or analysis of chemical substances, or
- investigations, interpretations, evaluations, consultations, teaching or management relating to chemical properties, conditions or processes that may affect the well-being of the general public, including those pertaining to the preservation of the natural environment and public health and safety;

### **i) Distribution and occupational activity of Chemists in British Columbia**

Chemical professionals are a recognized sector in forecasts of employment trends in BC and Canada. The “*Employment Outlook for British Columbia: COPS BC Unique Scenario for 2005 to 2015*” indicates there are about 1500 chemists working in BC. More than half these workers have only college or technical diploma level qualification and would not be eligible for professional registration in the ACPBC. In addition there are approximately 200 academics at colleges and universities in BC that would self-describe as “chemists” Our estimate of the proportion of chemists currently represented by the ACPBC is based on 800 potential eligible members including analytical-, atmospheric-, environmental-, geo-, inorganic-, medicinal-, polymer-, organic-, and physical- chemists working in not-for-profit, governmental, educational, and for-profit organizations in BC.

### **ii) Range of activity and role of the chemistry professional in British Columbia**

The ACPBC builds on a long tradition of research and higher education in Chemistry in the province. Members are employed in the analytical and consulting sectors throughout the province and have been active in raising the profile of the profession and the ACPBC in their sectors. It is noteworthy that the Board has membership from Prince George, Kamloops and

Nanaimo, as well as Victoria and Vancouver, in a strategy to ensure that promotion of the profession of chemistry is extended throughout British Columbia.

The activities of the ACPBC have included speaking to student award presentations, chemistry symposia and articulation meetings in island and interior locations as well as the lower mainland. The ACPBC Board and standing committees have also been actively engaged on establishing the mechanisms by which professional qualifications can be established and documented, establishing ethical standards appropriate to the profession in BC, establishing disciplinary and other committees of the Board as required by the By-Laws, and in establishing recognition of the profession within BC. As we have built our own structures, we have done so in a way that is compatible with the corresponding professional association in Alberta, and have negotiated a mechanism for transfer of professional registration between the provinces. This is an essential component for those of our members who work in Alberta as well as BC.

We are provincial members of the NACPCC (National Advisory Committee on the Profession of Chemistry in Canada) and engaged nationally to ensure national compatibility in educational qualification, and in ethical and disciplinary standards. NACPCC member organizations recently (May 26) signed a memorandum of understanding to work on joint efforts in professional education and professional development in Canada. The intent of this is to harmonize professional accreditation standards nationally. As part of our work in this area, we will institute the professional development courses required by our By-Laws in the coming year.

Our members are engaged in informing the public debate on issues as varied as Victoria sewage, the chlorine dioxide tank in McKenzie, and the quality of the Lower Mainland airshed. Notably several members are active in the Contaminated Sites area, including the Science Advisory Board for Contaminated Sites, a major focus of analytical and other chemistry practice in BC. More formal and collective public outreach is anticipated on such important issues to raise the profile of the professional chemist as the Purposes require.

Discussions with the Ministry of Environment on the recognition of Chemical Professionals as Qualified Environmental Professionals have been fruitful and discussions are underway with the Contaminated Sites Approved Professionals Society on formal membership for professional chemists.

### **iii) The PChem designation in British Columbia and Canada**

The Professional Chemist (PChem) designation is used in other jurisdictions across the country, and is specifically used by the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta. Under TILMA, chemists are recognized as one of the professions which are to be harmonized under that agreement, so our application is made to avoid confusion in the designation of professional chemists in the two provinces.

We note the descriptors PEng, PGeo, and PAg are also in common between the two provinces. As noted in the form, an extensive search established that there are no other similar designations in use within BC. As in the case of the PEng, the title is used in other provinces, but in practice



such usage does not cause confusion between provinces. On the contrary, it harmonizes usage to the benefit of the consumer.