

February 2009

Resolution submitted to the BCIA AGM 2009

Whereas Dr Susan Ames P.Ag., PhD has been found guilty of a breach of the code of ethics by the Conduct and Discipline Committee and BCIA Council in relation to a letter she submitted to Delta Council providing professional opinion on an ALR exclusion application (the letter), and

Whereas Dr Ames has clearly established and declared expertise in the area of soils and land use, and

Whereas, upon review of the above noted letter by a group of concerned senior Agrologists, the letter has been found to be supportive of the Institute's purpose in the Agrologist's Act, (a) to uphold and protect the public interest by (ii) upholding the principles of stewardship that are the foundation of agrology, and

Whereas the Conduct and Discipline Committee made a finding against Dr Susan Ames that is inconsistent with the process laid out in the bylaws of the Institute and is not in accord with the principles of natural justice that protect all Canadians and

Whereas Council subsequently provided direction to Dr Susan Ames in the absence of due process, and

Whereas, as a result of the finding and the direction of Council, Dr Ames has not been duly accorded the basic principles of natural justice, and

Whereas the criteria for offering "professional opinion" as determined by the Conduct and Discipline Committee, endorsed by Council and published in the same article as the report of the breach of ethics in the BCIA Institute Newsletter of February 2008 has subsequently been retracted by Council, and

Whereas Council, cognizant of the complexity and challenges of the conduct and disciplinary process under the existing bylaws, has established an Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee to propose changes to the Institute Bylaws, and

Whereas, in spite of numerous entreaties, Council has been unwilling to review the conduct and disciplinary process related to Dr Susan Ames in a meaningful way,

Therefore be it resolved that Council, in conjunction with group known as the "Concerned Agrologists", be directed to select a mutually agreeable third party to conduct a full review of the process that found Dr Susan Ames guilty of a breach of the Code of Ethics, and

Further be it resolved, that if the third party selected finds that Dr Susan Ames has been wrongfully found guilty of a breach of the Code of Ethics, that Council request recommendations from the third party as identified above, to mitigate the damage done to Dr Susan Ames' reputation and that those recommendations be implemented without delay.

Moved by: Niels Holbek, P.Ag

Seconded by: Ron Bertrand, P.Ag.

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Whereas one of the purposes of the Institute as defined in the Agrologist's Act, is (a) to uphold and protect the public interest by (ii) upholding the principles of stewardship that are the foundation of agrology, and

Whereas there is little being done to achieve this purpose,

Therefore be it resolved that Council establish a committee of interested Agrologists to explore and propose the means by which BCIA and individual members can uphold and protect the public interest by upholding the principles of stewardship that are the foundation of agrology and report back to the 2010 AGM.

Moved by: Art Bomke

Seconded By: Niels Holbek

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