

## Professionalism, Competence and Regulatory Change



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### **Abstract**

The Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA) has shifted governance and operations emphasis and has emerged as a leading, competent profession in Alberta. The Institute used to be both an association and a regulatory body. Two existing pieces of legislation have refocused the profession. The current *Agrology Profession Act* (APA) eliminated all former “association” type activities (branches, networks, presidents, vice presidents, specific member support). The APA put in place very rigorous competence requirements related to practice standards and continuing competence. The “*Fair Registration Practices Act*”, recently passed, requires professions to have fair and transparent registration requirements and to report annually on all registration activities. The new proposed Bill 23, the *Professional Governance Act*, takes professions to a new level of accountability, governance, and professional competence. The institute’s key focus is to ‘protect and serve the public interest’ through the effective regulation of all professional members. Section 3 of the APA requires specific action to enable this effective service. The rest of the APA directs how this requirement is to occur.

### **Biography**

David joined the Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA) in January 2009 as the CEO/Registrar. David has a B.Sc. in biology and chemistry from the University of Alberta, a BSF in Forest Management and Hydrology and a master’s degree in soils; the last two from the University of British Columbia.

David spent 28 years with the Alberta government focusing on industrial land use and land reclamation throughout Alberta and finished as a regional director with Alberta Environment. Following his time with the Alberta government, David spent five years in environmental consulting. David is a past president of the Alberta and Canadian Land Reclamation Association. He is the past chair of Alberta’s Joint Environmental Professional Practice Board. David served six years on the AIA Council (three as Council Chair). David has a passion to drive the Institute toward a stronger and more influential body of competent professionals, well recognized in Alberta and Canada, for all matters relating to Agrology.