



Alberta Assessors' Association

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MC&PR COMMITTEE

Marcia Barker, AMAA
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Melissa Zayac-Smith, AMAA
Denise Ziegler-Handel, AMAA
Scott Powell, AMAA

2016-17 Committee Chairs

Executive Committee
John Lindsay, AMAA, President
Nominating Committee
Lawrence Buchart, AMAA, Past Pres.
Registration Committee
Nathalie Thibeault, AMAA
Practice Review Committee
Jeff McKinnon, AMAA
Examination Sub-Committee
Bonnie Lantz, AMAA
Legislative Policy Committee
Angel Svennes, AMAA
MC&PR Committee
Executive Administrator, AMAA
Discipline Committee
TBD, AMAA
2016 Conference Committee

Promoting *QUALITY*
through membership excellence

Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum



The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum is located in Wembley Alberta and opened its doors on September 3rd, 2015. The facility is named after the paleontologist who helped create Drumheller's Royal Tyrrell Museum. Photo courtesy <https://dinomuseum.ca/media/image-downloads/>

Executive Appoints New Committees ... and a New Committee

The 2016-17 Committee list can be found on the Members' Secure website under "Committees." New appointments include:

- ⇒ Cathy Brettnell, Maureen Cleary and Steve Nedoshytko to the Practice Review Committee
- ⇒ Jarrett Young to the Discipline Committee
- ⇒ Vanessa Lavalley and Collin Hindman to the Registration Committee
- ⇒ Tanya Woo to the Examination Sub-Committee (of the Registration Committee).

Volunteers do have the option to remain on committees which is both a win in terms of apparent rewards that arise from volunteering, and a challenge as we try each year to secure new volunteers for the few vacancies that we see (or conversely, positions for the volunteers who offer their support!).

All the Committees are having their first post-AGM meetings, so June has been a very busy month for everyone. Committees are expected to review their policies and establish their meeting dates. All of the legislated Committee have done that.

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(continued from Page 1)

2016-17 Committees...

One “big” change made by the Executive Committee was the disbanding of the Editorial and Marketing committees and the formation of a new “Marketing, Communications and Public Relations Committee.”

The new Marketing, Communications and Public Relations Committee (MC&PR) will be responsible for monitoring all print and digital material that creates awareness of the Association, its members and the assessment profession. The role of this committee is expanded from the two it replaces and includes:

- ⇒ Raising awareness of the Association, its members and related professions to the public, stakeholders and partners and to the membership itself;
- ⇒ Determining how that public awareness occurs (the messaging and the media/platform); and,
- ⇒ Once established, ensuring a positive “public” image that engenders public trust continues.

At the MC&PR’s inaugural meeting, the current membership (which includes members of the previous two committees) identified opportunities for some additional input by way of an expansion of the current membership. They also discussed some visual uniformity for (or cohesiveness to) our print material and the changes to the front page of this newsletter are a result.

E-Clipboard Articles

The MC&PR Committee has also established a template for future eClips, including articles by subject matter experts (SME) and a Q&A option. SME articles may be specific to assessment (valuation), tribunal/legal or more general, such as how/what to present to a Council to inform or to secure a contract. Likewise, we encourage the submission of questions and will find answers for you. Again, questions may be assessment-related, ethical, legal or on an Association (Executive) issue - or related an item of business or an action or recommendation for an action.

Members are invited and encouraged to submit articles or ‘questions for answer’ by email to lhodge@assessor.ab.ca

Committee News

Executive Committee (EC)

The 2016-17 Executive met for the first time in person on June 2 and 3 with President John Lindsay presiding. Subsequent meetings for the year are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month beginning in August. The next meeting is July 14 to allow time for a review of any draft submission on Bill 21. The agenda for June 2 and 3 included reports and policy reviews according to practice and a number of discussion items. Notably, Bill 21, Modernized Municipal Government Act was discussed, including a process for collecting information to present back to Municipal Affairs. Once such actions was the survey which by the time the eClip is released will be closed. In addition to a proposed submission to Municipal Affairs in conjunction with the Legislative Policy Committee on the proposed amendments to the Municipal Government Act, the Executive’s workplan for the year includes a review of the bylaws; a business planning session; consideration of moving the financial year end; and collaborating more openly and often with external stakeholders such as Municipal Affairs, AAMDC and AUMA.

The Executive Committee confirmed Karen Burnand and Brian Lutz’s appointments to the provincial Stakeholder Advisory Committee. From time to time, there will be updates on that groups activities. For the next while, however, there will be a concentrated effort to draft regulatory changes that are necessary with Bill 21 and serve the assessment community as much as any other party.

Practice Review Committee (PRC)

The 2016-17 Chair of PRC is Jeff McKinnon who took on an extraordinary task with Symposium looming. The PRC established the location and date of the event: **Festival Place** in Sherwood Park for Assessment sessions on **September 22 and 23**, Strathcona County Assessment hosting. Because it is not being held in a hotel, PRC is considering more than one option for lodging. PRC has identified Bill 21, Modernized MGA as a focus for discussion at Symposium this year. Also under consideration are professional development sessions - including a session especially for Municipal Property Tax Administrators. The Committee hopes to have the plan finalized at its July meeting. PRC will meet the third Tuesday of each month (excluding September and April).

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Registration Committee (RC) and Exam Sub-Committee

With the view that more heads make wiser choices, these two committees met jointly to discuss policy issues. The Registration Committee also considered some membership applications and changes. Nathalie Thibeault returns as RC Chair for 2016-17 and likewise Bonnie Lantz will again chair the Examination Sub-Committee.

Of interest to many of our Candidates, the Registration Committee will be working to develop a post-graduate certificate for Candidate assessors. Similar to the UBC PGCV for candidate Appraisers, the certificate will allow Candidates with specific degrees an accelerated option to meet the AAA's education requirements. RC will then request PRC's consideration for, hopefully, a joint recommendation to the Executive Committee for an additional education path.

Legislative Policy Committee (LPC)

With Angel Svennes as Chair, the LPC has not otherwise altered its membership, there being a commitment among members to see the legislative and regulatory changes through to the end. For the next few weeks, LPC will focus on assisting the Executive Committee draft comments and possible amendments to Bill 21. Deadline for comment on the Bill is the end of July.

Marketing, Communications and Public Relations Committee (MC&PR)

As previously mentioned, this new Committee has an ambitious agenda, beginning with visual and template changes to the eClipboard. As a regular feature on the cover page, we invite members to submit photos of unique properties, interesting or challenging sites or photos of something unusual caught while on an inspection. We've chosen the Currie Museum in Wembley, Alberta as our first cover.

Next, the website will be considered. You may have noted changes to the homepage, including the Login link at the top right, the quick links in the centre, that the video has been moved, etc. We've also changed up some of the photos - the homepage scroll actually has pictures of Alberta sites! And, we've added our partners and sponsors (Gold) to a scroll bar on the bottom of the page.

On our Cover...

The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum is "a world-class facility in the heart of the Peace Country" on a 10 acre complex. Designed by Toronto-based Teeple Architects, Arndt Tkalcic Bengert (ATB) and Structural Engineers Fast & Epp, it has been featured in several architectural/design publications including AZURE, NUVO and MUSE magazines." (<https://dinomuseum.ca/visit/about-the-museum/>)

Prairie Wood design Award 2015

PCL Construction
Fast and Epp
Teeple / ATB Architects
Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum

Alberta Construction Magazine Award, PCL Construction 2014

Top Ten Destinations 2014: The Globe and Mail

No. 2 Top 14 New Museums

Around the World: Air Canada *enroute* Magazine

Outstanding Achievement 2015

Approximate construction costs were \$ **34.4 million**



Sq footage is **42,033** on a 10 acre complex

*Photos reproduced from <http://dinomuseum.ca>
Information and links provided by County of Grande Prairie Economic Development with thanks.*



The Alberta Assessors' Association Mission is to supports its members by:

- Promoting professional development
- Providing leadership; and,
- Building public trust

Welcome New Candidates

Having submitted an application for membership as required by policy, including obtaining the support of an accredited member, the following individuals have been accepted as regulated Candidate members:

- ⇒ Stephen Visser, Lac Ste Anne County
- ⇒ Ryan Lodermeier, Town of Cochrane

Welcome Municipal Property Tax Administrators

A Municipal Property Tax Administrator provides professional services in property tax administration, property tax policy or related functions. This is an unregulated category and the following individual(s) have obtained the sponsorship of an accredited member in support of their application:

- ⇒ Caroline Siverson, Kneehill County
- ⇒ Lavinia Henderson, (Civic Solutions), Village of Delbourne

Why Belong to a Professional Association?

Organization that choose to regulate a professional membership do so to engender public trust by requiring varying levels and lengths of education, training and experience. AAA regulated members (and, by association, non-regulated members), in good standing with the Association, are granted legitimacy by their membership. Assessors, accredited and Candidate, are conferred credibility by virtue of having reached a certain level of training and expertise in the profession that has been confirmed by the professional body. Membership demonstrates a seriousness about one's career and professional development; as well, in many cases like the AAA, professionals must adhere to a professional code of conduct further entrenching the concept of "public trust."

How do members feel about their membership?

"To me, belonging to a regulated professional association means that I am part of a distinguished club that has been empowered and entrusted by the province to undertake work for Albertans of the highest regard. Getting into this club, and staying in the club, and looking after the club, requires hard work and commitment by all of its members in order to succeed. I am very proud to be part of the Alberta Assessors' Association." Karac Hendriks-West, AMAA

"I'm proud to be a member of the AAA, I feel my membership in good standing reflects the effort and care I took to become a professional AMAA. It reflects in the diligence and integrity I apply to my daily duties for my employer and those of the AAA committee for which I have volunteered. I strive to demonstrate this pride and integrity at all times." Angel Svennes, AMAA

The Alberta Assessors' Association promotes QUALITY through membership excellence.

EQuality
AccoUntability
EthicAl behaviour
SeLf-governance
CommItment
Trust
ObjectivitY

Q&A-Education Requirements

This question has come up several times recently, so it is subject of our first Q&A

The website says that you can request a waiver if you have 443 and 444 courses completed. Can you give me more information on that and possibly the form (I can't find it) to look it over? Is there a minimum grade to use those courses?

Response: The waiver referred to on the website is for pre-requisites for BUSI 499, not BUSI 499 itself. Candidate members of the Alberta Assessors' Association may have 442 and 452 prerequisites waived for BUSI 499, assuming they have completed BUSI 121, 330, 331, and preferably 443 and 444 for their DULE.

The Association has long had a case study/demonstration report (self-guided, IAAO-guided, and more recently, BUSI 499) as a requirement of accreditation. In 2008, BUSI 499 was established as the method of meeting that requirement. The Executive Committee and the Practice Review Committee's confirmation of this requirement has not diminished over the years.

Employment Opportunities

New postings since the last eClipboard:

- There are no current new opportunities at this time, or since the last e-Clip

Check the [Current Job Postings](#) for these and other competitions.

Random Thoughts

The following is an excerpt of a Q&A with Dr. Max Bazerman, Harvard Business School in an article, Evaluating your Business Ethics, published June 12, 2008 in the Gallup Business Journal.

“...much of what goes wrong isn't caused by bad people doing bad things; it's caused by good people doing bad things without knowing that they're doing something bad. We have many optimistic illusions about ourselves, and we tend to behave unethically in ambiguous contexts.

So when ethical lapses occur, they rarely happen in situations when what is right versus what is wrong is clear. They more typically occur when what is morally right is less clear, such as "doing what is right versus loyalty to the organization," or "doing what is right versus doing what I was told to do," or some other context that causes confusion...”

<http://www.gallup.com/businessjournal/107527/evaluating-your-business-ethics.aspx>

Really Random Thoughts

Two Assessors are talking. One says to the other, "I can make the boss give me the day off." The other replies, "And how would you do that?" The first Assessor says, "Just wait and see." She then hangs upside down from the ceiling. The boss comes in and says, "What are you doing?" The woman replies, "I'm a light bulb." The boss then says, "You've been working so much that you've gone crazy. I think you need to take the day off." The other Assessor starts to follow her and the boss says, "Where are you going?" He says, "I'm going home, too. I can't work in the dark."