



Call for Nominations for Elected AIA Council Positions:

The AIA Council Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for the 2011 AIA Council elections. Interested, qualified individuals are invited to put their names forward as described below.

Council Positions Open For Election in 2011:

The transition schedule for AIA Council calls for the election of three (3) Council Members for 2011:

Central Region: One Professional Agrologist from Central Alberta, being that part of Alberta lying between the 53rd parallel and the 51st parallel but excluding the Edmonton area.

Edmonton: One Professional Agrologist from the Edmonton area.

Calgary: One Professional Agrologist from the Calgary area.

The Nominating Committee requests that ALL INTERESTED candidates contact them OR, IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEBODY who would make a good Council Member, forward names to the Nominating Committee for immediate follow-up.

NOTE: Candidates MUST live in the areas specified (It is NOT the place of work). All candidates must fill out the questionnaire shown below and must provide signed consent.

Timing For Candidate Submission:

The Nominating Committee asks that ALL interested candidates submit names as soon as possible. To the extent possible, the committee will make initial contact with potential nominees before the end of June. The bylaws state that all nominations must be submitted to the CEO no later than October 1 of the year prior to the election.

Council Member Criteria:

As a self-governed body of professionals, AIA has a duty to act in the best interests of the public of Alberta. When considering standing for the position of Council Member, individuals should consider the duties and expectations of Council:

The purpose of the Council, on behalf of Albertans, is to see to it that the Alberta Institute of Agrologists achieves appropriate results for the appropriate people at an appropriate cost, and avoids unacceptable actions and situations.¹

To meet its responsibilities, Council uses the system of Policy Governance^{®2} to direct the affairs of the Institute. The Council has a comprehensive set of policies that speak to how Council governs, and the relationship to the management of the Institute. Those policies are published and may be viewed online in the Council section of the AIA website at: <http://www.albertaagrologists.ca/default.aspx?page=17>.

Within those policies, Council has stated its criteria for Council succession in the following policy³:

In keeping with the Council's commitment to excellence in governance, the Council shall strive to solicit for positions on the Council candidates who have characteristics that will enable them to govern, not to manage, the organization. These characteristics include:

- 1. A strong belief in the virtue of the Profession of Agrology, and the Code of Ethics and Code of Practice.*
- 2. Commitment to linking with the ownership. Understanding that they stand in for an ownership of diverse people; willing to actively seek to access and understand that diversity.*
- 3. Ability to think in terms of systems and context — to see the big picture.*
- 4. Interest in and capability to discuss the values underlying the actions taken in the organization, and to govern through the broader formulations of these values.*
- 5. Willingness to delegate the operational detail to others.*
- 6. Ability and willingness to deal with vision and the long term, rather than day-to-day details.*
- 7. Ability and willingness to participate assertively in deliberation, while respecting the opinions of others.*

¹ AIA Council Policy: GP-Global Governance Process, approved November 19, 2002

² Policy Governance is the registered service mark of Dr .John Carver. The authoritative website for Policy Governance is: <http://www.carvergovernance.com/index.html>

³ Policy GP-12: *Governance Succession*, revised January 27, 2006.

8. *Willingness and commitment to honour Council decisions.*
9. *Commitment not to make judgments in the absence of previously stated criteria.*
10. *Learn how Council works, and give the time and care required for Council. Typically the time required of Council in a year includes five one-day meetings, an orientation session, the annual provincial meeting and conference, and associated preparation and travel time. (Most Council members find that preparation and time outside of meetings is 10 hours per meeting).*
11. *Uphold the Council's Code of Conduct (as published in their GP-7 Policy).*
12. *A willingness to serve for a minimum of three years.*
13. *Computer literacy and regular access to email and Internet.*

Based upon these criteria, Council has created a set of candidate questions (Appendix A) designed to explore a candidate's suitability for the job of governing AIA. Candidates responses to the questions are published during the election to enable voters to make their selection based upon the criteria.

Nominations Process:

There are two avenues to submit a nomination:

- A. Interested individuals may submit their names, contact information, and written responses to the candidate questions to any member of the AIA Nominations Committee by August 31, 2009:

Sonja Raven (Chair)	D'Arcy White	Dan Kearney
780-927-3712	780.853.3396	403-638-5094
Email: sonja.raven@gov.ab.ca	Email: d_white@strataenv.ca	Email: kearneyd@telusplanet.net

Any group of five regulated Institute members may submit a nomination for a candidate to the AIA CEO and Registrar by October 1, 2009. The written consent of nominees and their written responses to the candidate questions must be included in the submission.

The CEO will publish the list of nominees by the 2nd week of October, 2009

Submit nominations to:

Attention: CEO and Registrar

Info@aia.ab.ca

Ph: 780-464-9797

Fax: 780-464-1171

#249, 2055 Premier Way

Sherwood Park, AB

T8H 0G2

Appendix A: AIA Council Candidate's Questions

To help AIA members in their ballot choices for the January 2010 Council elections, each candidate is asked to respond to the following questions. Responses will be posted to the AIA website and sent to members in the election package.

1. Governing the profession of Agrology requires that Council members believe in the value of and need for the profession. In your opinion, what is the value of and need for the profession of Agrology?
2. AIA Council recognizes that it is entrusted to act in the public interest. In doing so, Council considers not only the views of members but also the views of the public that AIA serves. Council as a whole must seek to understand and bring those views into their decisions at the Council table.
 - a. What do you see as the challenges of understanding the broad and diverse public perspective?
 - b. What do you see as the challenges of understanding the diverse views of the membership of AIA?
 - c. What are your thoughts and/or experiences with regard to understanding public perceptions?
3. Council's job is to govern. As such it has chosen to use a system of governance that clearly delegates achievement of outcomes (Ends) to the CEO and authorizes him, within pre-stated limitations, to choose the means of achievement. This frees Council to be *proactive* rather than reactive; primarily *focused on the future*, rather than the past or present; and *emphasizing strategic leadership*, rather than administrative detail.
 - a. What has been your experience in determining what future based outcomes should be for an organization?
 - b. What are the strengths you would bring to that process?

4. As noted above, Council's governance system does not prescribe means to the Ends. Consequently, assuring that AIA achieves what it should and avoids what is unacceptable, is neither about Council approving programs and activities nor about checking to see that such activities were done. Instead, Council applies a high level of rigour in monitoring achievement of Ends and ensuring that the CEO has complied with Council stated limitations. Monitoring in this system compares the Council's written policies with the CEO's compliance.

a. Have you had any comparable experience?

b. What would you bring to the process?

5. Council speaks with one voice. Translated this means that Council makes decisions as a whole. In practice, this means that Council members are expected to deliberate openly and candidly, seeking to understand diverse viewpoints. Yet when a decision is made by majority rule, all Council members respect the decision when speaking externally.

a. What has been your experience in deliberating in a diverse group?

b. If others were to describe how you operate in groups, what would they say?