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THE VEGETATION MANAGER magazine 2021

EXPERTISE FOR CHANGING TIMES

FIRST AID FOR PESTICIDE EXPOSURE

LEGISLATION CHANGES AND THE IMPACT TO THE INDUSTRIAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY

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CONTRIBUTORS:

Codie Anderson Lisa Rybchuk Val Eichelt Samantha MacKay Theo Charette Vivianne Servant Bob Gordon

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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GENERAL INQUIRIES:

P.O. Box 5468, Leduc, Alberta T9E 6L7, Canada Phone: +1.877.249.1508 Fax: +1.877.248.3093 Email: val@pvma.ca Website: www.pvma.ca

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



CODIE ANDERSON, PRESIDENT PVMA



As much as I would have preferred to have given this report in person, sitting down to write it has provided an excellent opportunity for reflection.

The world has changed in the past year, as has our association and many aspects of the industry itself. The online world has drawn many of us closer despite the distance, and forced separation has given us new challenges to foster inclusion and strength in unity.

As with many segments of our nation (and the world), the pandemic has had a mixed impact on our membership and the Association.

Revenues for the Association have been impacted negatively, but have been somewhat offset by some reduced expenses.

The delay to our next Casino schedule has deferred a revenue opportunity, but has given us the time and the plans to put the existing finds to good use. It is a welcome change to say that the bulk of the casino funds are earmarked, with just enough of a remnant to allow us to support a few worthwhile initiatives if they arise in the meantime.

Cancellation of some of our UTT/UTW training provided the impetus to move some training online, and to explore new avenues of training that may not have come to the forefront without the pressing need.

This virtual overhaul comes on the heels of proposed changes to the industry in Ontario with the initiative to require Professional Foresters to oversee all Veg work, and across the country with a renewed rallying cry for a harmonized Red Seal certification system across the nation.

It feels very much like our Association and our individual members will have an opportunity to help put our unique stamp on the face of professionalism in the industry as a whole in the coming years.

Lastly, the conference committee's initiative to move this year's conference to an online platform, as painful as the decision was, appears to have been the right one.

The conference offering looks strong, the cost per credit is as low as we have seen it in years, and the initial interest in sponsorship and attendance bodes well for the Association.

It has been a privilege to watch and to be a part of the continuation of the rich legacy of this Association, and it has been my pleasure to serve as your President.

I genuinely look forward to what the future has in store, and to seeing you all again in person very soon.

With a sincere hope of good health for all, and that best of your yesterdays will be the worst of your tomorrows. Be well.

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- Lisa is also a licensed St. John Ambulance First Aid instructor -

According to Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Code (Part 4, 21(1)) "If a worker may be exposed to a harmful substance at a work site, an employer must identify the health hazard associated with the exposure and assess the worker's exposure." This includes exposure to pesticides and other harmful substances that an applicator may encounter during their spraying activities.

The risk of a worker experiencing harmful affects from a pesticide is a factor of the pesticide's toxicity and the degree of exposure. The toxicity of pesticides varies greatly, along with the differences physical and chemical properties, mode of action, and formulations. We cannot change the toxicity of the product; however, we can change the degree of exposure.

Some examples of exposure factors include; the frequency and duration of pesticide use, application technology and safeguards, personal protective equipment and, perhaps most importantly, the applicator's attitude. The majority of hazards associated with using pesticides can be addressed with engineering and administrative controls and the use of appropriate personal protective equipment. The importance of the worker's attitude in fully understanding the hazards and implementing the necessary controls should not be underestimated.

Best practices to reduce the risk of exposure start at the selection of the pesticide. Where possible, choose the least toxic pesticide available, ideally in a formulation which limits exposure. For example, pesticides in dry powder formulations are more subject to exposure by particles in the air than granular formulations, and ester-based solutions are more volatile than amine-based solutions, resulting in greater risk of inhalation and ocular exposure. Whichever pesticide is chosen, it is critical to always read and follow label directions.

Even with all of the safeguards and training in place, incidents still happen and it is important that everyone involved is prepared to administer First Aid, should an accidental exposure occur. There are four main routes of exposure; inhalation (breathing), ingestion (swallowing), ocular (eye), and most commonly, dermal (skin). The following provides a brief list of points for handling each type of exposure; however, this does not replace the need for proper Standard First Aid training through an authorized training provider.





Photos by En Creative

Risk of Exposure	First Aid Measures
 Inhalation Breathing in droplets, vapours, and gases allows pesticides to enter the bloodstream, which cannot be reversed Risk is high when using high pressure sprayers, foggers, and in enclosed spaces Reduce risk by wearing a respirator (where required), follow re-entry intervals, and wash hands before smoking 	 Move casualty to fresh air Loosen tight clothing Begin CPR, if not breathing Protect from hot/cold temperatures Monitor for shock Get medical help as soon as possible
 Ocular Eyes absorb pesticides quickly May also be corrosive and cause burning Risk is high when splashed or sprayed into eyes or when rubbing eyes with contaminated hands Reduce risk by wearing goggles, avoid rubbing eyes, and measure concentrates below eye level 	 Rinse affected eye(s) for 15 minutes with clean water or eye wash solution Get medical help as soon as possible
 Dermal Pesticides can enter the bloodstream through the skin Exposure is most common on hands, forearms, and forehead Exposure may be directly through spray or by contaminated clothing and equipment Risk is high when mixing/loading pesticides and handling pesticides and equipment without proper PPE Reduce risk by wearing chemical resistant gloves, boots, and coveralls. Wash contaminated clothing daily and follow re-entry intervals 	 Remove contaminated clothing, including footwear Drench skin with cool water Wash skin and hair with soap and water If pesticide is a powder, brush it off first before rinsing with water If skin is burned, cover loosely with a cool, wet cloth after rinsing
 Ingestion Pesticides may enter the bloodstream through the stomach after swallowing May also be corrosive and cause burning Risk is high when accidently sprayed or splashed in the mouth, consumed accidently, or by contaminated food and drink Reduce risk by storing pesticides in original containers, keep away from unauthorized personnel and children, and wash hands before eating or drinking 	 Contact Poison Control (1-800-332-1414) Provide first aid according to label and SDS sheet Do not induce vomiting unless told to do so by Poison Control or a doctor Take copy of label and SDS sheet with the casualty to the doctor or hospital

Symptoms of Pesticide Poisoning

Mild symptoms of pesticide poisoning may include; headache, dizziness, loss of appetite, weakness, sweating, diarrhea, thirst, moodiness, irritation to the eyes, nose, and throat. Moderate symptoms may see loss of co-ordination, blurred vision, confusion, coughing, and laboured breathing. More severe symptoms may include; vomiting, loss of reflexes, muscle twitching, fever, convulsions, trouble breathing, and loss of consciousness.

ALWAYS SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IF SYMPTOMS APPEAR FOLLOWING A PESTICIDE EXPOSURE, REGARDLESS OF THE ROUTE OF ENTRY.

2020 FALL WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

- VAL EICHELT, PVMA

Changing times called for changes in how we hold meetings. With provincial restrictions in place the PVMA 2020 Fall Workshop & GM had to adapt and move to an online Zoom platform. As a way of giving back to this Industry the PVMA Casino Committee sponsored the event by covering the entire cost of the workshop, making attendance free.

Holly Moffet, our new director in charge and conference chair, did an awesome job of lining up fantastic speakers and hosting the event. Thank you to Lisa Rybchuk for taking care of the credits. For a fall workshop it was a recordbreaking number of attendees. Thank you for the great response.

Adjusting to the unique and sometimes technical challenges that come with virtual presentations is not always easy. We want to thank all our speakers: David Pinzon (Corteva Agriscience) for his excellent presentation on Discovery and Regulation of Pesticides; Andrea Sawatzky (Health Canada) who spoke about Environmental Fate of Pesticides; and Christine Fulkerth (Olds College) who gave us great information on Weedy Look-Alikes. CEC's & CEU's were approved for all 3 sessions. In addition, we welcomed Gerard Fournier (Tree Canada) who hosted a discussion on Arborist/Tree Worker Certification. We wrapped up the day with our General Meeting, with updates from the PVMA President and Directors.

As provincial restrictions have continued, we are hosting our PVMA 2021 Spring Conference & AGM online as well, taking place March 2 & 3.

We have switched to a new platform through InEvent which will provide a greater attendee experience. Our new conference site can accommodate registrations, breakout rooms, and sponsor booths for a more interactive and informative experience.

SOME SESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ON-DEMAND VIEWING UNTIL THE END OF MARCH; HOWEVER, YOU MUST REGISTER BY NOON OF MARCH 3RD TO GET ACCESS.





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MIGRATORY BIRDS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- BY SAMANTHA MACKAY, M.SC., P.BIOL., BIOLOGIST, CPP ENVIRONMENTAL (MAIN AUTHOR)

- THÉO CHARETTE, M.SC., P.BIOL., DIRECTOR, CPP ENVIRONMENTAL (SUB AUTHOR)

The *Migratory Bird Convention Act (MBCA) (1994) has* been in effect in Canada since 1917, and yet very few Canadians know about the Act. The MBCA is a transboundary Act (meaning we share it with our neighbours to the south) and is designed to protect birds that migrate. Originally put in place to protect the carrier pigeon during war times, the MBCA has been around for over a century, with the most recent update taking place in 1994 that ensured that all parts of the bird (including nests and eggs) are protected.

Regardless of whether you are a bird biologist or not, you have probably been aware of birds for the better part of your life. Whether you hunt game, or simply notice birds in the morning when they call out to their mate, birds are part of our everyday lives and when they stop making sounds, we notice. It is also hard to miss the majestic nature of a bald eagle flying overhead, or the mysterious glowing eyes of an owl as it hoots in the night. Walk outside in a quiet forest and if you hear nothing... it is almost eerie. Humans notice when birds are missing, and we come to rely on them as part of our ecosystem, whether that is in our cities or out in the wild.

So how do we protect birds and why do we care about this as vegetation management specialists?

According to the MBCA, it is prohibited (against the law) to kill, harm, destroy or disturb migratory birds, their nests, eggs and/or feathers – even without intent. This is an important part of the Act, as "incidental take" has been a huge concern for dealing with birds in vegetation management practices. While many fines have been issued over the years (\$1.775 M on January 3rd, 2020, for the death of 31 great blue herons on an oil sands tailing ponds facility, for instance), many bird deaths are not intentional.

It is hard to see the nests sometimes, when we are mowing, spraying, slashing, or trimming, as many species like to live and nest in on the ground and in the tall, weedy grass (Figure 1) or in other areas that we work. Sometimes the only thing you will see is a bird carrying nesting materials or food, as it travels to its hidden nest (Figure 2). If you are working around substations, you may encounter the infamous Killdeer exhibiting its broken wing dance, which unfortunately means there is likely a nest or baby nearby (and good luck finding those nests as they blend completely into the gravel!) (Figure 3). Birds are not typically on our mind when we are worried about a line strike or potential house fire when clearing utility lines, or during slashing and mulching when our focus is getting the tall trees out of the way. Obviously, these concerns are very important, and it is difficult to add this one additional task to the list - unfortunately, everywhere we need to work, is also where the birds like to hang out; and if we inadvertently kill a migratory bird, then we run the risk of being fined (up to \$1M or 3 years in prison, per offence), as per the MBCA.

The Weed Act clearly states that we must manage our prohibited noxious and noxious weeds; the Occupational Health and Safety Code and Electrical and Communication Utility Code tells us that we must maintain certain distances from equipment, premises, residents, vegetation, etc., and of course, many of these activities occur in the spring and summer – which is typically when birds nest and breed. It would be very difficult to effectively do weed management in the winter, and many areas that require tree trimming must be accessed during the summer months - So what can we really do? How can we balance this?

The reality of the situation is that we must do our due diligence when it comes to ensuring we are compliant with the federal Acts while also being able to do our work, which is the delicate balance between reality and legislation. To achieve this balance, Environment and Climate Change Canada has proposed a series of Best Management Practices and timing windows which provide guidelines to help us mitigate through some of these difficult processes and strike that balance between what we have to do for our work and for our environment. Bird nest sweeps are one of the most widely accepted industry practices when it comes to making decisions on managing birds. These sweeps are simple enough to let anyone with some proper training and awareness, go out and "look for birds" that may be nesting IF proper procedures for conducting the sweep are followed. It is a matter of taking the time and knowing the limits of a sweep. If you are not a wildlife biologist, and it is not the ideal time of day, then the chances ands risks are always higher; but it is still a step and one that should always be done as part of your daily practice. Watching for bird activity while you are working and stopping to investigate or take time to ensure the work is not impacting a bird, is another important step in the process. Most important, however, is you must WRITE IT DOWN. If it is not on paper, it did not happen, and that is an important part of ensuring that you can show the government that you are doing your due diligence. It is advisable that every company include a Bird Nest Sweep form that must be included by each crew prior to beginning work, so that the company can ensure the steps are being taken to maintain compliance to the extent feasible.

General setback rules can then be applied if you know the three main types of birds: songbird, raptors, and waterfowl (Table 1). When it makes sense (i.e., there is no significant risk to human health and safety), the best practice is to set up a buffer based on the "most sensitive species" (i.e., the one with the greatest setback) and avoiding work in that area. While it may not always appear to be the most cost-effective way to handle the situation, it will provide the due diligence that may protect you from receiving the fines associated with the MBCA and could ultimately keep you operating for more years to come. It is important that companies start factoring this step into their time estimates when bidding on work, and that tenders express their understanding that these sweeps must be completed and either requiring the contractor complete them or having in-house people to assist with execution. Birds also do not nest and hang out in their nest all summer - and it's a matter of having some awareness to their own life cycle and behaviour that will allow you to better plan when you can go back into an area to complete the work... but this skill comes with time, practice and training.

In some situations, you may find calling in a wildlife biologist, or having one on staff, is the better approach. Typically, whenever you have a federal or provincial species at risk listed (burrowing owls, ferruginous hawk, baird swallow, etc.), you will have associated setbacks that are much greater than the standard general setbacks. For instance, a Ferruginous hawk will have a 1,000 m setback – which is significantly different than the standard 100 m that we would accommodate for a red-tailed hawk. Osprey, a common species that nests on large towers, have a 750 m recommended setback, and the nests of these raptors are protected 365 days a year without a permit. It is not just summer where we have to think about the birds, but in some cases, year-round. In addition to that, not all birds are easy to identify, so some species can look similar but be two different species. This isn't an issue if we are talking general species, but often those minor differences can be the difference between a species at risk, and a non-threatened species... and you do not want to be on the receiving end of the fine for the first one.

Once you get some experience working with birds and bird nest sweeps, you may find they are not so bad to do and can actually be a nice way to start off each project. Birds are very cool and have their own ways of handling life that we could all learn from. Of course, if you need or want more information, it is always a good idea to ask your local Wildlife Biologist or try to get some training lined up for your company to better equip yourself with bird awareness, as it could be your business hanging out "on the line."

Bird Type	Recommended Setback	Example species
Songbirds	30 m	Sparrow, robin
Raptors	100 m	Owl, hawk, eagle
Waterfowl	100 m	Kill deer, mallard duck, Loon

Table 1: Bird Categories and Recommended Setbacks



Figure 3: Kill deer protecting its nest in a substation gravel padded area. If you look closely, you will see the speckled egg below the parent to the bottom right!



Figure 1: Savannah Sparrow collecting nesting material for its nearby grasslands nest.

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VIVIANNE SERVANT: INDUSTRY SERVICE PROFILE

Vivianne grew up in Beaumont and St. Albert and attended the University of Alberta, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree. During her undergraduate, she worked at a tree farm north of St. Albert for Genstar Land Development. It was at that time that her supervisor encouraged her to switch from getting a Genetics degree to a Plant Science Degree. Doing that opened doors for her. After completing her degree Vivianne worked fulltime with Genstar Land Development, supervising the tree farm activities. She also supervised their residential developments in St. Albert and Edmonton (Castle Downs primarily but also Riverbend and Clairview) managing the development of landscapes in parks, boulevard, and residential installations.

From there, she took a Landscape Gardener position with the Alberta Government, supervising the landscape maintenance and winter snow removal at the School for the Deaf, the J.G. O'Donoghue, Public Works, Medical Examiner and O.S. Longman buildings and maintenance at numerous other government buildings in south Edmonton. Working with a limited crew and equipment and with each Building Superintendent thinking their landscape maintenance and winter snow removal had priority was a demanding and difficult position. While there, she became a certified pesticide applicator and she also became one of the first Journeyman Landscape Horticulturist).

After 4 years, she saw a job advertisement for a Regional Biologist with Alberta Environment in Grande Prairie. Vivianne applied and was successful and so she moved to Grande Prairie. There she worked as a Pesticide Inspector and later a Pesticide Investigator covering northern Alberta. Even though she was a certified applicator, the job involved learning pesticide legislation in a much greater depth and breadth. The Pesticide Management Program that she was a part of had several dedicated staff based in Edmonton, including Jock McIntosh, Neil Wandler, Janet McLean, Wayne Boyd, Jim McInley, and Gary Byrtus. They all mentored and greatly helped Vivianne to become proficient in these positions.



In 1993, Janet McLean, Pesticide Certification Specialist decided to take a 6-month secondment to another position and Vivianne stepped into what she thought was a temporary position of Certification Specialist. Janet never returned to her position, and eventually Vivianne permanently assumed the Pesticide Certification Specialist position. This position involved teaching and training adults and it was something she had no specific education to do, so she undertook training at the University of Alberta and graduated with a Teaching Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education.

While in this position, Vivianne became a member and later Provincial Co-chair of the Federal, Provincial, Territorial (FPT) Standing Committee on Pesticide Education, Training and Certification in Canada (PETC). This committee was comprised of certification specialists from all provinces and Health Canada and together they developed the National Standard for Pesticide Education, Training and Certification in Canada (1995). This Standard was used to update all pesticide education and training materials in Alberta (delivered through Lakeland College). The Standard continues to be updated by the PETC and continues to be the basis for updating pesticide training across Canada.

The Standard also included criteria for pesticide applicator recertification. Starting in 2004, Vivianne worked with industry partners such as the Professional Vegetation Managers Association (PVMA) and the Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen Association (AAAF) to develop applicator recertification in Alberta. It was a huge endeavor that had so many benefits. It helped ensure applicators continually updated their pesticide application knowledge, resulting in significant reductions in pesticide related incidents involving

applicators. It has also helped to strengthen industry associations as they became the lead organizations to offer training through conferences, workshops, and seminars.

Based on industry concerns with the lack of sufficient applicators to undertake pesticide applications, Vivianne collaborated with industry associations including the PVMA and AAAF to develop the Pesticide Trainer and Authorized Assistant programs that are still in place today and they ensure consistent training of assistants that help meet the need for pesticide applications throughout Alberta.

In 2016, it was apparent that Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) inspectors and investigators were not well trained to undertake pesticide related inspections and investigations, so Vivianne along with other AEP staff (e.g. Devon Smiegielski who has assumed the Pesticide Certification Specialist position) undertook significant internal training and mentoring of staff. This has resulted in better investigations and significant prosecutions where individuals and companies have blatantly disregarded the legislative requirements.

Vivianne worked for Alberta Environment and Parks for 37 years and retired in 2019. Since then, she has continued to provide applicator training and recertification presentations. She has also been contracted by Lakeland College (on behalf of PETC) to first develop a Canadian Pesticide Fumigation Training Manual that was endorsed by the Canada Pest Management Association. She is now developing a Canadian Pesticide Structural Training Manual. These manuals will become the basis for fumigation and structural applicator training across Canada.

THE PVMA WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE VIVIANNE'S LONG TIME INVOLVEMENT WITHIN, AND HER VAST CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY BY PRESENTING HER WITH A PVMA

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD.

Honorary memberships are awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to a science or practice related to industrial vegetation management, or to the association. A formal recognition of this award will be made at the PVMA AGM taking place during their 2021 Virtual Spring Conference on March 2nd.

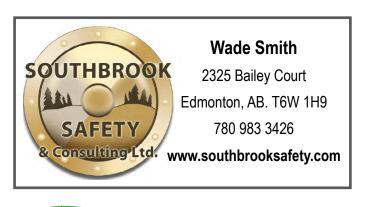




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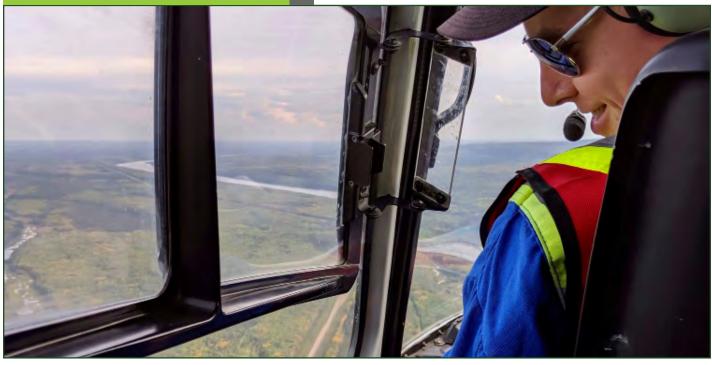
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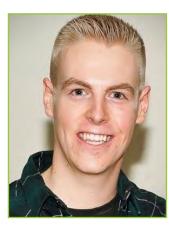








2020 PVMA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT: T. COLE CHRISTIE



Meet Cole Christie. Cole is a 2020 PVMA Scholarship Winner. He is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Conservations Sciences Program with a Land Reclamation Major at the University of Alberta. He has already completed a Diploma in Land & Water Resources at Olds College. In addition to his studies Cole has been busy

volunteering as an Undergraduate Student Representative at the U of A and a Board Director of the Olds College Alumni Association. The past 5 summers he has been working in various roles in the Vegetation Management Industry. Here is a brief overview from his Essay submission...

I am very fortunate that I found my way into industrial vegetation management, an area I wish more of my peers were aware of. I have always described it as the "Deadliest Catch" of summer work, where if you're bold enough to give up the typical 9-5, family, friends, and weekends and are willing to exert yourself you can create some real opportunities. Not only can this industry ease many of the hardships of trying to establish oneself I believe these jobs have been paramount in the character development of myself and others. Everyone should have the opportunity to discover their own personal limits and strive to do more than what they thought possible. In this case by being taken out of their comfort zone, plunked in the middle of nowhere with strangers and worked like a dog all hours of the day. The cooperative development, skill building and comradery forged in these settings should not be underestimated.

As a studying environmental scientist, I have been fortunate enough to travel and work everywhere between the fertile farms of the south of the province to the northern boreal forest just shy of the NWT border. To sit in lectures about all manner of outdoor disciplines and being able to constantly relate many of the concepts back to things that I have seen while out on a spray job was instrumental in my understanding of many topics.

After he graduates in April Cole plans to look for work in environmental consulting restoring abandoned oil and gas leases all over Alberta, BC and Saskatchewan to their natural, pre-disturbance state. Cole was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship cheque in December and invited to attend the PVMA 2021 Virtual Spring Conference as our guest. A formal recognition of this award will take place during the PVMA AGM taking place at the end of day 1 of the 2021 Virtual Spring Conference, where members will have a chance to meet Cole by video.



2020 PVMA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT: KIERA SUNDERLAND

Meet Kiera Sunderland. Kiera is also a 2020 PVMA Scholarship Winner. Kiera is an accomplished student achieving numerous academic awards. She is currently enrolled in her third year of a Bachelor of Arts Program-Kinesiology at Lakeland College. Kiera is also a volunteer firefighter and first responder with the Paradise Valley Volunteer Fire Department. Her volunteerism is vast including Assistant Jr. Girl's Basketball coach, delivering for Meals on Wheels Program, baby care with Infant Support Program, humanitarian mission's trips & volunteering in her church. Kiera has spent 2 summers working in the Vegetation Management Industry. Here is a brief overview from her Essay submission...

I have seen how important and integrated both the land and vegetation control are. My past couple of years of experience as a herbicide applicator, while mainly focused on vegetation control in the oil industry, has provided me with knowledge in vegetation control that I am now able to translate over into a farming framework and help to educate my community and family members. My experience with vegetation management has deepened my understanding of plants, their mechanisms and control.

In another sense, my role as a volunteer firefighter in my home community has allowed me to recognize the value in vegetation control in industries such as the oil sector, as fire hazards are reduced when sites are kept clean and vegetation free. This is also true for aiding in the prevention of bush and grass fires, as related to farming. Being proactive in removing potential dangers ensures the safety of everyone involved. I have come to appreciate upstream prevention measures such as vegetation management as I have experienced emergency situations that could have been avoided or more easily controlled had these measures been taken.

Kiera received a \$1,500 scholarship cheque and was also invited to attend the PVMA 2021 Virtual Spring Conference as our guest. Members will have a chance to meet Kiera by video during a formal recognition of this award taking place during the PVMA AGM on day 1 of the 2021 Virtual Spring Conference.



ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND THE IVM INDUSTRY

- BY VIVIANNE SERVANT

Pesticide applicator legislation was first enacted in 1970 through the Agricultural Chemicals Act (ACA) and was originally administered by Alberta Agriculture. In 1971, the Department of Alberta Environment (AE) was formed, and the ACA was transferred to AE. The ACA worked reasonably well to ensure safe and effective pesticide applications however, there were issues and "red tape" even at that time! One example was the applicator licencing process. First, individuals had to write an exam and wait 2 weeks to see if they have passed it. Then they had to apply for a licence and provide an insurance document that covered their pesticide application activities. This was difficult to do as most did not have employers yet and could not get insurance on their own. In addition, employers did not want to hire them until they could provide a copy of their licence. The process was cumbersome and usually took 5-6 weeks to be completed!

In addition to the ACA, the fledgling AE Department had to enforce 22 acts and regulations that were focussed on environmental protection. There were many similarities and significant inconsistencies between these regulations. In 1993, they were all repealed (except the Water Act) and replaced with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA), which is still in force today. The pesticide component of EPEA and the supporting pesticide regulations were created after extensive interactions with the pest management industry including the Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta (former name of the Professional Vegetation Manager's Association in Alberta (PVMA)) to ensure protection of the environment while allowing vegetation management to occur safely and effectively. EPEA eliminated many "red tape" regulations and replaced them with consistent requirements across all industry sectors affecting the environment. With input from industry, the applicator certification process identified above was streamlined to ensure individuals that passed a certification exam, were issued an applicator certificate within 2 weeks. In addition, the insurance requirement was transferred to the service registration company, where it more rightly belonged. A significant amendment to EPEA occurred in 2000 with the implementation of the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides (the Code). The Code was another "red tape' reduction initiative to help resolve challenging issues brought to AE by the pest management industry. The Code provided for a number of streamlining initiatives, including:

- applicators were authorized to supervise up to 6 assistants to conduct pesticide application on their behalf, reducing the burden on service registration companies struggling to hire enough applicators.
- applicators could apply specified herbicides within 30 metres near water (within guidelines), which in most cases, eliminated the need for them to obtain a Special Use Approval (a 6-8 week process).

Another amendment to EPEA included the need for applicators to undergo a recertification requirement every 5 years instead of just a renewal requirement. The purpose of recertification was to ensure applicators had ongoing updates to their applicator knowledge

regarding pests, pesticides, health and safety and how to better protect the environment. The applicator recertification requirement was made possible by extensive collaboration with the entire pest management industry, again including the PVMA. Their contribution and persistence in working towards viable and attainable recertification requirements was and continues to be very much appreciated by AE. AE has documented significant reductions of incidents involving inappropriate applications as a result of the recertification requirement for applicators. Unfortunately, at the same time, incidents involving noncertified applicators (e.g. farmers and homeowners) remain significant. Other less tangible benefits include more professional and up to date vegetation management approaches by service registration companies and applicators through the efforts of industry organizations such as the PVMA. It has also helped to strengthen industry associations so they can better represent their members and provide them with more information and knowledge through in-depth conferences, webinars and newsletters.

There have also been significant changes to federal Pest Control Products Act, including the need to re-evaluate all pesticides every 15 years, which precipitated the phase out of many older herbicides. Other changes included the addition of new restrictions on labels (e.g. addition of buffer zones to water, vegetative strips to water etc.) that have impacted applicators significantly. There is now a greater need to review labels and amend practices to ensure applications are consistent with the requirements.

Some label changes have been very beneficial, for example, they are much more specific about what personal protective equipment applicators need to wear to protect themselves from exposure. They are also more prescriptive about how to protect the environment. Everyone can take heart that while pesticide labels often require applicators and service registration holders to change their approaches to vegetation management, they help guarantee that they are doing their part to responsibly and effectively control problem vegetation while continuing to protect the environment. A third level of governance in the form of municipal pesticide restriction bylaws has also evolved, although this has been much more limited in Alberta as compared to other provinces in ... Canada. Conducting vegetation management in accordance with the PVMA Alberta Industrial Vegetation Management Handbook should help to address the needs and concerns of municipalities and prevent further bylaws.

The changes through the years have been managed successfully through a reliance on ongoing meaningful discussions between the application industries and AE. THE PVMA HAS PLAYED AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN HELPING TO ENSURE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT WHILE CONTINUING TO PROMOTE THE USE OF PESTICIDES THROUGH AN INTEGRATED PEST (VEGETATION) MANAGEMENT APPROACH.

A SAFETY TIP: COMPETENCY IN THE WORKPLACE

- BY BOB GORDON, PVMA SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED WAS TAKEN FROM AN ARTICLE FROM THE CCOHS WEBSITE AND HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE THAT WE ALL NEED TO PLACE ON ENSURING WE ARE ALL DOING OUR PART TO ENSURE OUR WORKERS ARE COMPETENT FOR THE TASKS WE HAVE ASSIGNED THEM.

WHAT MAKES A PERSON COMPETENT?

REMEMBER: The information below is a general summary only. For any information about legislation and the requirement(s) to be competent, always check directly with your jurisdiction for the exact legal interpretation.

In general, for people to be competent in the health and safety aspects of their work, they

will have a combination of the following requirements:

- be qualified because of knowledge, training, and experience to do the assigned work.
- have knowledge about the hazards and risks associated with the job or task to be performed (e.g., knows what hazards and risks are present)
- know how to recognize, evaluate, and control these hazards and risks (e.g., knows what precautions to take or controls to use/are in place for the different hazards or risks)
- have the ability to work so that their health and safety and the health and safety of others is not in danger.
- have knowledge of the laws and regulations that apply to the work being done.
- •
- These abilities can be learned or acquired though a combination of a person's knowledge, skills, experience, and training. Knowledge can be defined as knowing both what to do as well as how to do it. Skill can be defined as having the ability to perform the activity correctly. Skills often require technical know-how, expertise, practice, measurement, and feedback to develop into ability. Some abilities will be gained through experience and practice, other abilities may be learned through informal and formal education and training.

As an example, Alberta Labour provides a description of characteristics may be used to describe a worker as "competent":

1. adequately qualified — the worker has some type of qualification, usually earned through a formal education

program, training course, etc., or a combination of education and practical experience. With certain exceptions such as professional designations e.g., professional engineer, nurse, physician, etc. or other legal requirement involving qualifications, the employer is responsible for evaluating and deciding if a worker is adequately qualified.

2. suitably trained — the worker must have training that is appropriate to the tasks, equipment, etc., that will be performed or used and

3. with sufficient experience to safely perform work without supervision or with only a minimal degree of supervision — determining whether a worker has sufficient experience to safely perform work is the employer's responsibility. A worker's qualifications, training and experience are no guarantee that work will be performed safely.

REMEMBER

In all cases, Alberta Labour states that it is the employer who should be able to justify the basis on which a worker is considered to be "adequately qualified", "suitably trained" or "sufficient experience".

Is a competent supervisor the same as a competent person?

In many ways, yes. However, supervisors also act on behalf of the employer, and have authority over the work and/or workers. There are additional competencies that supervisors require, including:

- directing or organizing the work and how that work is performed.
- informing workers about actual or potential dangers, including explaining the laws that apply.
- showing workers how to work safely, which may include training or written instructions, or correcting their work performance.
- responding to workers concerns
- making sure workers use methods, procedures, and equipment required.
- making sure workers work in compliance with the Acts and regulations that apply.
- making sure workers use or wear the protective equipment or clothing that the employer requires.
- taking every precaution reasonable to protect workers.

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PROFESSIONAL VECETATION MANAGERS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

- EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Happy Spring! Soon the vegetation management season will be in full swing so now is a great time to read up on what's happening in your industry. You will find articles from our previous conference presenters from 2020, which provide a great refresher for those in attendance and some new information for those that missed it the first time. We are grateful for the contribution from those presenters and look forward to another great line up for the Spring 2021 Virtual Conference! As always, you will find many other great articles and news from our diverse group of industry supporters. Do you have news or information that you would like to share? Drop us a line and we will find just the right fit in the Vegetation Manager magazine.

Thanks!

Lisa Rybchuk, Director in Charge

- SEMINAR COMMITTEE

The PVMA Fall 2020 Workshop moved to an online format due to Provincial Covid-19 restrictions on in-person meetings. Together, our Director in Charge and Seminar Co-Chair, Holly Moffet and I, planned and hosted the workshop. The Workshop was paid for by the Casino Committee making attendance free to all those who attended. With restrictions continuing the decision was made to also move the 2021 Spring Conference & AGM to a virtual platform. With Holly and her husband welcoming the birth of their first child January 1st, I assumed the Chairperson duties for the Spring Conference. I would like to thank the committee members who have worked tirelessly, and will be working behind the scenes, to make our Virtual Spring Conference a success; Codie Anderson (Sponsorship), Brandon Tupper (Virtual Platform Tech), Sean Hilton (Virtual Platform Tech Assistant), Aaron Foster (Marketing), and Val Eichelt (Registration & admin support).

Lisa Rybchuk, Spring Seminar Chairman

- UTT/UTW BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Last November and December, the PVMA was able to offer the UTT/UTW Recertification course both as an in-class room and an online version. The online version will now be offered for the first six months of the year for anyone looking to take their recertification remotely. The dates for these courses are posted on Olds College website. We will continue to offer the in class along with the online version of the course. The current dates for the in class recert course are April 15 - April 16, 2021 (Intake 1) and April 22 - April 23, 2021 (Intake 2).

With the potential for the current pandemic to impact the UTT/ UTW course the board is looking at ways to adjust the current course so that it is more flexible and able to handle the current restrictions. We will keep you posted as things develop. The course is currently scheduled for 2 intakes on April 12-23, 2021 (Intake 1) and April 19-30, 2021 (Intake 2). Olds College is still able to offer in class session with all the need precautions for Covid in place. If you are looking to take the course this year, please contact the PVMA office or Olds to ensure that you have the needed perquisites to be able to register.

Jason McRobert, Director in Charge

- CASINO COMMITTEE

We continue to look for new opportunities to use the remaining gaming funds from our 2018 Casino. In the meantime, we have been granted an extension to disburse the proceeds until November 2022. We continue to utilize the special Covid SPS approval we received allowing us to exceed the 10% restriction on eligible administration expenses. Finally, we await to hear when our next Casino dates will be once provincial restrictions allow for them.

Laura Hammer, Director in Charge

- GOV'T LIAISON COMMITTEE

A final reminder to all applicators - In response to the pandemic, Alberta Environment and Parks has extended all applicators certificates to March 31, 2021. You will still need to obtain the required credits to renew your Applicator Licenses as this deadline to recertify will NOT be re-extended. Be sure that if any of your licenses were due in 2020 that you submit your renewal as soon as possible. There could be delays if everyone waits until the deadline to apply for recertification.

If you were hoping to register to take or renew your Authorized Assistant – 'Train the Trainer' certification course, there will not be one offered in 2021. We were informed by Devon Smiegielski the Alberta Environment & Parks – Pesticide Certification Specialist. There were only 4 registrations for the course, 10 participants are required. Please notify both Lakeland College Pesticides branch and Alberta Environment if you wish to partake in a 2022 training date for the course. The list of current inquiries is the deciding factor if the numbers are in fact sufficient to run the course. This list of participants normally gets reviewed by early December. Do not wait until you are close to your certification expiry date to try and register, as it could be too late.

There will be no PAC (Pesticide Action Committee) meeting hosted by Alberta Environment & Parks. The program area is currently being audited by the Office of the Auditor General. The department will still provide an update to the various groups, including the Industrial and Landscape PAC to ensure everyone is kept up to speed regarding the content covered in these meetings.

The Alberta Agriculture Crop Protection 2021 (Blue Book) is now being produced by 4 of Alberta's crop commissions – Alberta Barley, Alberta Canola, Alberta Pulse Growers and the Alberta Wheat Commission. The 2021 Blue Book will be available in March 2021. The blue book is also available on the App -developed in association with the Alberta Ag. Fieldmen. The PVMA discussed the value and possibilities of having an Industrial Vegetation Products guide, whether it be in digital copy or app format. It would be a valued resource as not all industrial herbicides are listed in the Blue Book of Agricultural herbicides. Please notify the PVMA or myself, with any input for an Industrial Vegetation Products Guide.

Geoff Thompson, Director in Charge

- SAFETY COMMITTEE

Competency and how we ensure are employees are competent for the tasks we have assigned them continues to be a key topic for discussion of the PVMA Safety Committee. As mentioned in earlier reports we have worked to provide some generic competency evaluation forms on the PVMA website for members' use. In this issue of the Vegetation Manager, we have provided a resource that discusses what makes a person competent as well as is a competent supervisor the same as a competent person.

Bob Gordon, Committee Chairman

- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the members who have already renewed their 2021 memberships. We appreciate your support. Memberships were due January 2021. If you have not yet renewed your membership you can do so online through the pvma.ca website or by calling the PVMA office to request an invoice or to provide payment. Corporate, Group & Individual memberships are available. Member benefits include, but are not limited to, discounts on conferences, workshops, UTT/UTW certifications and recertifications. Also, dependants of members are eligible to apply for a PVMA Bursary worth \$500 each.

Laura Hammer, Director in Charge

- AWARDS COMMITTEE

The PVMA Awards committee reviewed several applications and chose to award T. Cole Christie and Kiera Sunderland each with a \$1,500.00 Scholarship for 2020. You can read about our 2 scholarship winners in this edition of the Vegetation Manager and meet them during our virtual AGM. The PVMA Bursary application deadline has now closed and those receiving a bursary for 2021 will be notified shortly.

Keith Sanftleben, Committee Chairman

THE VEGETATION MANAGER magazine

- ADVERTISING RATE SHEET

2021 RATE SHEET

AD SIZE SPECS:	SINGLE ISSUE RATE (MEMBER)	ANNUAL RATE (MEMBER) * THREE Issues - 2 printed, 1 electronic (printable)
FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENT	\$800	\$1680
HALF-PAGE ADVERTISEMENT	\$550	\$1155
QUARTER PAGE ADVERTISEMENT	\$400	\$840
BUSINESS CARD ADVERTISEMENT	\$100	\$210

Full Page Ad: 8.375"(w) x 10.875"(h)

(with 0.125 bleed)

1/2 Horizontal: 7.375"(w) x 4.875"(h)

1/4 : 4.125"(w) x 5.375"(h)

Business Card: 3.5" (w) x 2" (h)

- PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline for submission January 28, 2021 May 4, 2021

Sept 14, 2021

NOTE:

Keep live matter 1/4" from trim on each side. For ad spread units, please supply 1/16" duplicated image on both sides of the centerline.

Distribution Date March 2, 2021 June 2, 2021 October 20, 2021

UTT/UTW CERTIFICATION & RECERTIFICATION COURSES

UTT/UTW CERTIFICATION COURSES

Intake 1 – April 12-23, 2021 Intake 2 – April 19-30, 2021

Details: Pre-requisites required in order to register in this course. Contact PVMA to find out if you meet the requirements. Contact Olds College to register.

UTT/UTW RE-CERTIFICATION COURSES

Intake 1 - April 15-16, 2021

Intake 2 - April 22-23, 2021

Details: Contact Olds College to register.

NEW: ONLINE SELF-DIRECTED RECERTIFICATION COURSES:

MARCH 8 - MARCH 19, 2021

APRIL 12 - APRIL 23, 2021

MAY 10 - MAY 21, 2021

JUNE 7 - JUNE 18, 2021

Details: Contact Olds College to register.



https://www.oldscollege.ca/



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