Request to the
Minister of Agriculture
Government of Saskatchewan

SIA Proposed Amendments to
The Agrologists Act, 1994

Presented by:
Act & Bylaws Committee and the Provincial Council
Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists
Professionals in Agriculture, Bioresources, Food & the Environment
TABLE OF CONTENTS
Preface .................................................................................................................................................2
History of Agrology in Saskatchewan and Canada .........................................................................3
  Development of the Institute and the Profession of Agrology ......................................................3
  History of the Name “Agrologist” ..................................................................................................3
  Employers of Agrologists ............................................................................................................3
  Today’s Agrologists – 70 Years Later ............................................................................................3
Amending the Agrologists act – history and consultations .............................................................4
  History: 1946 to 1994 ..................................................................................................................4
  Changes to the Profession ............................................................................................................4
  Amending the Act: Member Consultations ..................................................................................4
Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendments ....................................................................................6
Appendix A: Amendments to the Act that Recognize Current Practices Within the Profession ......7
Appendix B: Minor Amendments that More Closely Align the Act with the Model Professions Act ...11
Appendix C: Amendments that Provide for Modern Forms of Communication .........................14
Appendix D: Letters of Support (2013) .........................................................................................15

PREFACE

The profession of agrology was established in Saskatchewan in 1946 with the expectation that agrologists would be held to the same high standards of practice and ethics that apply to other established professions such as medicine, engineering and law.

It is important that The Agrologists Act, 1994 continue to uphold those high standards of practice and ethics that have been in place since then. With appropriate amendments to reflect the current practice of agrology, the Act will continue to maintain those standards and ethics to not only protect the public but also further the development of the profession in Saskatchewan.
1 HISTORY OF AGROLOGY IN SASKATCHEWAN AND CANADA

The idea of a profession of agrology started in 1920 to recognize agriculture science as a profession and as a means of protecting farmers. This was increasingly important as new immigrant farmers relied on appropriate science-based knowledge to succeed. The need for a regulated profession was raised by professors and scientists at the University of Saskatchewan and the Federal Government Research Stations, and both were concerned about the quality of science-based information being provided to farmers. Similar situations were occurring in Quebec resulting in the first legislation defining agrology as a regulated profession by forming the Ordre des Agronomes du Québec in 1937.

During the 1940’s, agriculture productivity became even more important in order to feed war torn Europe, which gained momentum in the post-war years. The need and demand for professionals with appropriate science-based knowledge to provide extension services to farmers increased. It became imperative that the agri-food sector be protected from those who were not trained or qualified to provide knowledge and sound advice about agricultural production.

Development of the Institute and the Profession of Agrology

Through the coordination of the Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturalists, the forerunner of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, national discussions continued from 1920 to the 1940’s. However, it was the leadership of Dr. L.B. Thomson, Head of the Swift Current Research Station, and key leaders at the University of Saskatchewan, College of Agriculture, including Dr. J.B Harrington, John Mitchell, and J.G Rayner that led the initiative culminating in 1946 when the Government of Saskatchewan passed legislation for the second Institute of Agrologists in Canada following the Quebec model. This enshrined agrology as a regulated profession in the same manner as accounting, engineering, law and medicine. This was closely followed by Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba passing similar provincial legislation by 1950.

History of the Name “Agrologist”

Dr. L.B. Harrington of the University of Saskatchewan, College of Agriculture coined the term “agrologist” as the name for this new profession. It came from the Greek words “agros” for field or tilled land, and “logist” for scientist. The name quickly gained acceptance and was widely adopted across Canada to encompass a diversity of scopes of practice including animal and food science, environment and agri-business/economics.

Employers of Agrologists

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture was one of the first institutions to embrace the profession. In order to protect the agri-food industry and the public, the Ministry required those “practicing agrology” as defined by the Act be registered with the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists (the “SIA”). Today, the Ministry of Agriculture is the largest employer of agrologists in Saskatchewan, followed by the University of Saskatchewan, accounting for about 20% of registered members. The other 80% are employed across the agri-food industry and within the natural resource and environmental protection sectors.

Today’s Agrologists – 70 Years Later

Today agrologists are found in every facet of the agriculture, food, and bioresource supply chain, and the SIA helps ensure the highest standards of modern science are applied ethically and according to an established set of professional standards. There are over 1,600 agrologists in Saskatchewan and over 10,000 agrologists practicing across Canada.
2 AMENDING THE AGROLOGISTS ACT – HISTORY AND CONSULTATIONS

History: 1946 to 1994
The legislation enabling the SIA was passed in 1946, with amendments in 1954. This legislation served as a means of protecting the public and successfully guided the development of the profession for over 50 years. However, in the late 1980’s, it became obvious that the agricultural industry had fundamentally changed since the end of World War II, and that the agrology profession, too, had changed and evolved.

An Act & Bylaws Committee, appointed in 1989, did an extensive review of other provincial legislation, consulted with the SIA membership, and proposed several amendments to the 1954 version. After several years’ work, the amendments to the legislation were approved, and in 1994 The Agrologists Act, 1994 (the “existing Act”) was proclaimed.

Changes to the Profession
Once again, the profession has continued to change and evolve to serve a rapidly expanding agriculture and food sector that has broadened into the bioresource and environmental sectors. The changes are most evident in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources (College of AgBio) at the University of Saskatchewan which trains today’s professional agrologists. Today, four degrees are offered by the College of AgBio:

- Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (the traditional degree)
- Bachelor of Science in Agri Business
- Bachelor of Science in Renewable Resource Management
- Bachelor of Science in Animal Biosciences

All College of AgBio graduates are qualified and eligible to become registered and licensed as agrologists in Saskatchewan.

Amending the Act: Member Consultations
Beginning in 2009, the SIA consulted with its membership at each of the six branches to determine the level of support for changes to the existing Act. The most common view from the general membership was the need to modernize or update the definition of “practise agrology” from production agriculture to encompassing those professionals working in bioresources, food, and the environment.

Early in 2012, the SIA Provincial Council appointed another Act & Bylaws Committee to prepare a working paper on proposed amendments to the existing Act. The Committee contracted legal counsel and organizational management and studied the other Institutes of Agrology across Canada to better understand the “best practice” of more recent legislation. This was supported by a member survey during September 2012, regarding amendments to the existing Act. Questions allowed for open comments by members. Members were asked if they agree with providing a restricted licence to diploma graduates, and how that would be defined. Members were also asked what areas need to be included in the definition of practise agrology. The survey results provided useful information and gave the committee a good basis from which to continue its work.

The key points and major findings from the September 2012 survey report include:

- 197 members replied, representing 16% of the registered membership;
- 80% of the respondents were 50 years of age or older (and concerned about the future of the profession);
- 100% of the respondents supported broadening the definition of “practise agrology;”
- 80% of the respondents supported the registration of diploma graduates with a corresponding title designation such as “Technologists in Agrology” or “Technical Agrologists.”

The Act and Bylaws Committee met regularly during 2012 and 2013 while consulting with the membership, the College of AgBio, other Institutes of Agrology, other peer professions, and employers. A submission was made in December 2013, but the legislative agenda was full that year.
During 2014 and 2015, Provincial Council continued to consult with members at Branch events and asked key questions in the February/March 2015 Member Opinion Survey, which was conducted in preparation of the next Three-Year Strategic Plan.

The key points and major findings from the February/March 2015 Member Opinion Survey include:

- 409 members replied, representing 27.7% of registered members;
- 68.2% of respondents were under the age of 50.
- 64.3% of respondents support an amendment to the Act that would provide diploma graduates with a technical designation and a licence to practice independently.
- 25% of respondents are practicing within the environment sector

Prior to approval of the Three-Year Strategic Plan, Provincial Council sought member input at dedicated Member Consultation meetings at each branch. In April 2016, membership approved the 2017-2019 Three-Year Strategic Plan with the first goal being to amend *The Agrologists Act, 1994*.

Below is the relevant excerpt from the Three-Year Strategic Plan (2017-2019):

**First Key Area of Focus: STEWARDING THE PROFESSION (Licensing)**

**Goal #1: To amend *The Agrologists Act, 1994***.

**Objective #1:** Expand the Definition of “practice agrology” and change the designation for diploma graduates.

**Action Item #1:** Communicate regularly with the Minister’s Office.
**Timeline:** Ongoing
**Resources:** Executive Director (ED) & Council

**Action Item #2:** Consultation with stakeholders, resulting in letters of support from employers.
**Timeline:** Ongoing
**Resources:** ED and Act & Bylaws Committee, Council Members

In summary, there has been broad consultation with members since 2012 and wide support for the proposed amendments.
3 BRIEF EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The SIA proposes a number of amendments to the existing Act, which are explained in the side-by-side comparisons. The proposed amendments are divided into three categories based upon the necessity of the amendments requested.

Appendix A: These amendments are necessary as they recognize current practices within the profession, and enhance efficiencies within the discipline process.

- Subsection 2(h) - Modernize the definition of “practise agrology.” The current definition relates mostly to primary agriculture production. It does not include the many other areas of practice in which agrologists across Canada are currently engaged. The proposed definition includes practice areas now common in Saskatchewan, as well as practice areas generally recognized in other Institutes of Agrology.

- Subsections 8(2) and 9(1) – Increases the number of public representatives on council to two. The disciplinary process requires that a public representative(s) sit on the discipline committee. Having a second public representative will help make the disciplinary process work more efficiently.

- Subsections 21(1) and (2) – More broadly define the educational and academic requirements. The proposed academic requirements no longer refer to the University of Saskatchewan. The proposed academic requirements include both degree and diploma qualifications. Under their governing legislation, other provincial Institutes of Agrology, such as Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario, admit agrology-type diploma graduates and provide them with “Technical Agrologist” designations with an accompanying “restricted licence” to practice agrology. The reasons for the proposed amendments to subsections 21(1) and (2) are:
  
  o To protect the public - A large number of agrology-type diploma graduates are actively practising and, to protect the public, these individuals must be registered with the SIA and regulated.

  o To recognize diploma-trained individuals - It is a common practice in other professions, including the medical, engineering, and forestry professions, to register and license diploma-trained individuals. The same should be done in agrology.

  o To enable labour mobility - Three other provincial institutes of agrology already register and license qualified diploma graduates from agrology-type institutions. To enable agrologists, licensed with other provincial institutes, to become licensed as agrologists here in Saskatchewan, the SIA is proposing to more broadly define the educational and academic requirements to become eligible to be licensed as agrologists in Saskatchewan.

Appendix B: These changes more closely align the existing Act with the Government of Saskatchewan’s Model Professions Act. In addition there is an additional amendment that is part of a reciprocal exclusion for other groups of professionals.

- Subsection 22(4) - Extend exemptions to two other groups of professionals. The proposed new exemptions are required to recognize the fact that the practice areas of these professions often overlap with the practice of agrology. The proposed new exemptions are:

  o a person engaged in practice and licensed as a professional engineer or professional geoscientist as defined in The Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act; and,

  o a person practising as a professional forester, a professional forest technologist, or a restricted member, or any member-in-practising under the supervision of a registered member, as defined in The Forestry Professions Act.

Appendix C: These amendments provide for modern communications that were not widely used in 1994.
The existing Act provides the basic framework for a highly accountable and responsible profession. In turn, this framework and the SIA’s administration of its role as defined in the Act result in an appropriate level of public protection. The SIA believes that the proposed amendments will enhance Saskatchewan agrologists’ accountability and responsibility and will therefore increase public confidence in the profession as a whole.
APPENDIX A: AMENDMENTS TO THE ACT THAT RECOGNIZE CURRENT PRACTICES WITHIN THE PROFESSION AND ENHANCE EFFICIENCY IN THE DISCIPLINE PROCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Act Wording</th>
<th>Proposed Amendment Wording</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subsection 2(h)</strong> “practise agrology” means engage for hire, gain or the hope of reward in investigating, experimenting with, teaching or advising on the application of scientific principles and practices with respect to:</td>
<td><strong>Subsection 2(h)</strong> “practise agrology” means being engaged for hire, gain, or the hope of reward in developing, applying, teaching, or advising on scientific principles and practices relating to cultivating, producing, improving, using, protecting or inspecting plants, animals, soils, or microorganisms, the environment of those plants, animals, soils, or microorganisms, or managing the associated resources of air, soil, land, or water systems, where that work requires knowledge, training, and experience equivalent to that required to become a member pursuant to this Act.</td>
<td>The wording in the proposed definition is broader than the wording in the existing Act’s definition, which is traditional and largely defines farming. The proposed amendment reflects the profession’s expansion across the food and bioresource supply chains and the environment of these supply chains. The amended definition is modernized to: 1. recognize the current scopes of practice that have already expanded from the 1994 definition; 2. be consistent with the definitions of agrology in other jurisdictions; and, 3. allow agrologists transferring from other provinces to practise in Saskatchewan, as required by the inter-provincial labour mobility agreements. This wording is also consistent with the four degrees now available through the College of Agriculture &amp; Bioresources: 1. Agriculture, 2. Renewable Resource Management, 3. Agri-business, and 4. Animal Bioscience. Graduates from the College of AgBio are looking for a professional designation. The modernized definition would allow all to be registered with the Institute.</td>
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<td>(i) cultivating, producing, improving, using, and protecting agricultural plants;</td>
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<td>(ii) farm forestry;</td>
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<td>(iii) raising, feeding, improving, protecting or using farm animals, poultry or bees;</td>
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<td>(iv) producing and protecting milk;</td>
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<td>(v) classifying, cultivating, using, fertilizing, conserving and improving for agricultural purposes arable, forest and range lands;</td>
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<td>(vi) the making of economic surveys of any aspect of the agricultural industry;</td>
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<td>(vii) managing farms;</td>
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<td>(viii) the agricultural use of machinery and equipment;</td>
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<td>(ix) identifying and controlling the pests of agricultural plants and animals; or</td>
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<td>(x) evaluating agricultural land for tax base purposes;</td>
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### 8(2) The council consists of:

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<td>(a)</td>
<td>the number of members prescribed in the bylaws, which shall not be less than eight, elected by the members in accordance with this Act and the bylaws;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td>a person appointed pursuant to section 9;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food as an ex officio member; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d)</td>
<td>the Dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan as an ex officio member.</td>
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This amendment is to add a second public representative to council. Having a second public representative will help make the disciplinary process work more efficiently. This wording is taken from the Model Professions Act.

### 9(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may appoint a person who resides in Saskatchewan as a member of the council.

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<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
<td>the number of members prescribed in the bylaws, which shall not be less than eight, elected by the members in accordance with this Act and the bylaws;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td>two persons (2) appointed pursuant to section 9;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food as an ex officio member; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d)</td>
<td>the Dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan as an ex officio member.</td>
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</table>

Same comment as above relating to subsection 8(2). This wording is taken from the Model Professions Act.
**Subsection 21(1)** The council may register a person as a member and annually **certify** the person to practise agrology where the person produces evidence establishing to the satisfaction of the council that the person:

(a) either:

(i) is a graduate with a degree in agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan or an equivalent degree from a university or college approved in the bylaws; or

(ii) is eligible according to the bylaws to be a member of the institute;

(b) meets the membership criteria prescribed in the bylaws;

(c) has complied with the bylaws with respect to registration as a member; and

(d) has paid prescribed fees

**Subsection 21(2)** The council may register a person as a member who is an articling agrologist where the person produces evidence establishing to the satisfaction of the council that the person:

(a) either:

(iii) is a graduate with a degree in agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan or an equivalent degree from a university or college approved in the bylaws; or

(iv) is eligible according to the bylaws to be a member of the institute;

**Subsection Deleted**

The proposed wording is broader than the wording in the existing Act. It gives the council the power to decide what education and training programs will be recognized.

Subsection a (ii) was removed for clarity and to omit a redundancy.

The term “license” is used in the proposed wording instead of “certify” because “license” is the term the SIA uses to certify members. It is also the term used in the government’s model profession act and by other professions.

Since registration requirements are already stated in 21(1), this subsection is redundant and is not consistent with the Model Professions Act.
**Subsection 21(6)** [There is no clause 21(6) in the existing Act.]

**NEW**
Subsection 21(6) The council may register as a member, and issue a restricted licence to practise to, a person who:

(a) does not fully meet the requirements of clause (1)(a);

(b) agrees to practise in accordance with the conditions or restrictions specified on the restricted licence;

(c) has paid the prescribed fees; and

(d) has complied with the bylaws with respect to registration as a member with a restricted licence.

This wording is taken from the Model Professions Act.

The suggested wording ensures diploma courses and graduates may be recognized. This is important to comply with labour mobility as diploma grads in agriculture and the environment are able to practice agrology, with a restricted licence, in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.

**Subsection 22(3)** Clauses (1)(a) to (c) do not apply to:

(a) a person carrying on the business of farming;

(b) an undergraduate student working under the supervision of a practising member;

(c) a person, or his or her agent, who gives advice based on information provided to him or her by a practising member, regarding the quality or use of a product or service that he or she offers for sale.

(d) an agricultural technician or technologist who works under the supervision of a practising member.

**Subsection 22(3)** Clauses (1)(a) to (c) do not apply to:

(a) a person carrying on the business of farming or working on his or her own property, premises, or project if that work is done solely for the benefit of that person;

(b) an undergraduate student working under the supervision of a practising member;

(c) a person, or his or her agent, who gives advice based on information provided to him or her by a practising member, regarding the quality or use of a product or service that he or she offers for sale.

Adding this exemption wording to 22(3)(a) would expand the existing exemption for farming to allow a person to perform agrology work on his or her own non-farming affairs without being subject to the provisions of this Act.

Remove 22(3)(d). It is no longer necessary to say that the prohibition against practising as an agrologist applies to agricultural technicians and agricultural technicians as the proposed amendments to subsection 21(1), relating to diploma programs, will include agricultural technologists and agricultural technicians those who will be regulated under this Act and licensed to practice by the SIA.
APPENDIX B: AMENDMENTS THAT MORE CLOSELY ALIGN THE ACT WITH THE MODEL PROFESSIONS ACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subsection 2(i)</th>
<th>Existing Act Wording</th>
<th>Proposed Amendment Wording</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“practising member”</td>
<td>“practising member” means a member to whom an annual membership certification is issued pursuant to section 21;</td>
<td>“practising member” means a member to whom an annual licence is issued pursuant to section 21;</td>
<td>“Licence” is the word the SIA commonly uses to certify members. It’s also the word used in the government’s model profession act and the term used by other professions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsection 16(1)</td>
<td>Subject to this Act, administrative bylaws may be made pursuant to section 15 for the following purposes: (m) prescribing the amounts of registration, membership certification and other fees payable to the institute, the times of payment and the penalties for late payment;</td>
<td>Subsection 16(1)</td>
<td>Subject to this Act, administrative bylaws may be made pursuant to section 15 for the following purposes: (m) prescribing the amounts of registration, licensing and other fees payable to the institute, the times of payment and the penalties for late payment;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(s) [There is no clause 16(1)(s) in the existing Act.]</td>
<td>NEW</td>
<td>16(1)(s) providing for any other matters necessary for the effective administration of the institute;</td>
<td>This NEW clause will allow the SIA to enact administrative bylaws on matters not specifically listed elsewhere in subsection 16(1). This wording is in the government's model profession act.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Subsection 16(2)</td>
<td>Subject to this Act, regulatory bylaws may be made pursuant to section 15 for the following purposes: (a) prescribing the qualifications, standards and tests of competency for: (i) registering persons or any category of persons as members; and (ii) issuing membership certifications; (b) prescribing: (i) procedures governing the registration of persons or any category of persons as members; (ii) procedures governing the issuing of membership certifications; and (iii) terms and conditions of membership certifications;</td>
<td>Subsection 16(2)</td>
<td>Subject to this Act, regulatory bylaws may be made pursuant to section 15 for the following purposes: (a) prescribing the qualifications, standards and tests of competency for: (i) registering persons or any category of persons as members; and (ii) issuing licences; (b) prescribing: (i) procedures governing the registration of persons or any category of persons as members; (ii) procedures governing the issuing of licences; and (iii) terms and conditions of licences;</td>
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### Subsection 18(2)
The council may issue membership certifications to members.

### Subsection 21(1.1)
Notwithstanding subsection (1), the council may register a person as a member and annually certify the person to practise agrology if the person produces evidence establishing to the satisfaction of the council that the person:
   a) meets the membership criteria prescribed in the bylaws;
   b) has complied with the bylaws with respect to registration as a member;
   c) has paid the prescribed fees; and
   d) is registered as the equivalent of an agrologist in good standing pursuant to the legislation of another jurisdiction in Canada.

### Subsection 22(4)
Clause (1)(a) does not apply to:
   (a) a member as defined in *The Assessment Appraisers Act* who evaluates agricultural land for tax base purposes; or
   (b) a person certified pursuant to section 24.1 of *The Assessment Management Agency Act* who evaluates agricultural land for tax base purposes.

### NEW Subsection 22(4)
Clause (1)(a) does not apply to:
   (a) a member as defined in *The Assessment Appraisers Act* who evaluates agricultural land for tax base purposes;
   (b) a person certified pursuant to section 24.1 of *The Assessment Management Agency Act* who evaluates agricultural land for tax base purposes;
   (c) a person engaged in practice and licensed as a professional engineer or a professional geoscientist as defined in *The Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act*;
   (d) a person practising as a professional forester, a professional forest technologist, or a restricted member, or any member-in-training practising under the supervision of a registered member, as defined in *The Forestry Professions Act*.

### Same comment as above relating to subsections 16(1) and 16(2).

“License” is the term commonly used in the SIA. “License” is also the term used in the government’s model profession act and by other professions.

The exceptions listed in proposed clauses 22(4)(c) and (d) are new, based on discussions held with these peer professional groups.

There are some areas of practice that overlap with the areas of practice of engineers and geoscientists as well as forestry professionals. As a result, it is necessary to exempt them from the application of the existing Act.

The Acts referred to in proposed (c) and (d) contain corresponding wording to exempt agrologists from the application of those Acts.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Subsections 47 (3) and (4)</th>
<th><strong>NEW</strong> Subsections 47(3) and (4)</th>
<th>These subsections should be added to give the SIA the ability to serve documents by substitutional service if necessary. These provisions are based on the government's model profession act.</th>
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<tr>
<td>[There are no subsections 47(3) and (4) in the existing Act.]</td>
<td>(3) If it is for any reason impractical to effect service of any documents in the manner provided for in subsection (1), the court may, on application that may be made <em>ex parte</em>, make an order for substituted service.</td>
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<td>(4) A document served in accordance with the terms of an order mentioned in subsection (3) is deemed to have been properly served.</td>
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## APPENDIX C: AMENDMENTS THAT PROVIDE FOR MODERN FORMS OF COMMUNICATION

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<tr>
<th>Existing Act Wording</th>
<th>Proposed Amendment Wording</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subsection 7(4)</strong> The registrar shall give notice of an annual or special meeting to each member by <strong>ordinary mail sent</strong> at least 14 days before the meeting.</td>
<td><strong>Subsection 7(4)</strong> The registrar shall give notice of an annual or special meeting to each member <strong>at least 14 days before the meeting</strong> in the <strong>manner prescribed in the bylaws.</strong></td>
<td>This proposed amendment will be more enabling. For example, it will allow notice to be given by electronic means if that is what the bylaws provide. This is also the phrase used in the government’s model profession act.</td>
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<td><strong>Subsection 15(2)</strong> The council shall notify each member, <strong>by ordinary mail</strong>, of each bylaw made pursuant to subsection (1) within 150 days after the bylaw is made.</td>
<td><strong>Subsection 15(2)</strong> The council shall notify each member, <strong>in the manner prescribed in the bylaws</strong>, of <strong>each bylaw made pursuant to subsection (1)</strong> within 150 days after the bylaw is made.</td>
<td>Same comment as above relating to subsection 7(4).</td>
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<td><strong>Subsection 15(7)</strong> The registrar shall forward copies of proposed bylaws to all members <strong>by ordinary mail</strong> sent at least 14 days before the date of the annual or special meeting at which they are to be presented.</td>
<td><strong>Subsection 15(7)</strong> The registrar shall forward copies of proposed bylaws to all members <strong>in the manner prescribed in the bylaws</strong> at least 14 days before the date of the annual or special meeting at which they are to be presented.</td>
<td>Same comment as above relating to subsection 7(4).</td>
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APPENDIX D: LETTERS OF SUPPORT (2013)

In 2013, the Act & Bylaws Committee consulted with a broad range of stakeholders that touch the profession of agrology and agrologists, first and foremost the members of the SIA and then the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. The SIA consulted with the College’s Department Heads and the Dean’s office resulting in a number of suggestions for and refinements to the proposed amendments.

In addition, the SIA consulted with the other Institutes of Agrology across Canada, peer professions that touch agrology, particularly the Association of Professional Engineers & Geo-Scientists, and the Association of Saskatchewan Professional Foresters, the Ministry of Environment, and key employers.

Support letters received in 2013 were from the following organizations and institutions:

- Agrology / Agronomes Canada
- Alberta Institute of Agrologists
- Manitoba Institute of Agrologists
- Ontario Institute of Agrologists
- Association of Professional Engineers and Geo-Scientists of Saskatchewan
- Association of Saskatchewan Professional Foresters
- Saskatchewan Assessment Appraisers Association
- Saskatchewan Association of Technicians and Technologists
- Meadow Lake Coop
- Rack Petroleum
- University of Saskatchewan
- Ministry of Environment (to be sent under separate cover)

More letters of support for the proposed amendments to the existing Act are expected. Although the SIA attempted to consult with the top 20 employers of agrologists in Saskatchewan, in some cases, it was difficult for those employers to determine who in their organizations had the authority to write the letters of support. In most instances, employers stated they employ agrologists because of the professionalism and ethical standards of practice just as they employ other professionals in the financial/accounting, engineering, and legal areas of their businesses.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency were also consulted. Although supportive, the officials declined to comment because of the possible perception that they would be commenting on or attempting to influence provincial legislation.

A briefing meeting with the Minister of Agriculture was held in Saskatoon during mid-November 2013 to introduce the need for modernizing the existing Act. The SIA delegation was made up of Dean Mary Buhr, PAg, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, Dr. Shankar Das, PAg, President of SIA (2013), Al Scholz, PAg, Executive Director & Registrar, and Kay Robertson, legal counsel to the Act & Bylaws Committee.

If the Ministry of Agriculture should approve these amendments during this call, another consultation process, under the direction of the Ministry, will be undertaken. This process will involve consulting agrology stakeholders to solicit updated letters of support.