



Changes to the 2016 OPFA Fee Schedule

On September 13th, 2016 Council approved the 2016 Fee Schedule shown below. The Fee Schedule takes effect on December 1st, 2016. Here is a summary of the changes from the previous 2014 Fee Schedule:

1) The **Membership Fee for Provisional members:**

(a) Will stay at \$25 for the first fiscal year of membership, or part thereof. For example, for the part of a fiscal year when a person is first approved for Provisional membership, he/she will pay only \$25. This recognizes that new Provisional members may have limited financial resources as they start their journey to become professional foresters.

(b) In the second and subsequent years of Provisional membership, the membership fee will be \$100 per year. Council reviewed the fees charged for similar membership categories by other professional forestry associations, and found the OPFA's Provisional member fees of \$25 to be the lowest in Canada. The fee increase was kept low in recognition that Provisional members may also have other registration costs during this period (e.g. costs of assessment or training to meet competency requirements for Full or Associate membership).

2) **Associate Membership Fees** will increase to \$620 as previously approved by Council in the Fee Schedule effective May, 1, 2014.

3) The **Monthly Payment Option** has been revoked and is replaced by a new 4 payment plan (Dec. 1, Feb. 1, April 1, June 1). The reason for this change is to streamline collection of membership fees that are due Dec. 1st of each fiscal year according to the by-laws. This provides members with the option to pay fees over 6 months (\$40 admin. fee applies). The Split Payment (2) Option (Dec. 1, April 1) continues to be offered.

4) The **Late Payment Fee** has been reduced from \$70 to \$50, the same amount as the Late Reporting Fee. Our goal is not to fine members through financial penalties, but to recover a small portion of the subsequent administrative costs when members fail to meet their payment or competency reporting obligations on time.

5) The **Re-admission Fee** for past members wishing to reapply for membership has been reduced from \$620 to \$500.

6) Cheques written from accounts that do **Not have Sufficient Funds** will be charged \$10 plus the bank charges the OPFA has to pay. The \$10 is to cover the Association's administrative costs.

