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## Code of Ethics in the Practice of Agrology

As outlined in the **Framework for Fitness to Practice – Professional Standards**, the Profession of Agrology demands:

- **integrity,**
- **competence,** and
- **objectivity.**

These three essential qualifications are demanded in the conduct of OIA Registrants while fulfilling their professional responsibilities to:

- **the Public,**
- **the Employer or Client,**
- **the Profession,** and
- **other Agrologists.**

### **Code of Practice in Achieving Ethical Responsibilities**

The purpose of the following is to clarify the intent of the Code of Ethics and enhance the understanding of the nature of professional obligations. It is recognized that a professional Agrologist designation is a privilege and is not a right. As such, the privilege to practice as a designated Agrologist is provided only to those who practice Agrology in such a way that the public interest is served. It is also clear that, just as the designated Agrologist has an obligation to conduct business in an ethical and competent manner, colleagues and the Institute share the moral responsibility of protecting other practicing Agrologists against any unfounded or unjust criticisms.

### ***Designated Agrologists' Professional Obligations to the Public***

Professional obligations to the Public include the following responsibilities:

- a) To practice only in those fields where an Agrologists' training, ability and experience make them professionally qualified.
- b) To express a professional opinion only when it is founded on adequate knowledge and experience, and where Agrologists' have an understanding of the situation and context against which this opinion is being offered.
- c) To advocate and practice good stewardship of agricultural resources based on sound scientific principles.
- d) To extend public knowledge of agriculture, agri-food and life sciences and to promote truthful and accurate statements on sustainable systems within scope of practice parameters and environmental matters.
- e) To have proper regard for the safety of others and practice respect of others in all work.



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### ***Designated Agrologists' Professional Obligations to the Employer or Client***

Professional obligations to the Employer or client include the following responsibilities:

- a) To act conscientiously and diligently in providing professional services.
- b) Except as required by law, to maintain the confidentiality of client and employer information unless given the explicit consent of the client or employer.
- c) Abide by Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
- d) To obtain a clear understanding of the client's or employer's objectives
- e) To inform the client or employer of any action planned or undertaken by the client or employer that you believe is detrimental to good stewardship or in breach of known laws or regulations.
- f) To refuse any assignment that creates or has the perception of a conflict of interest.
- g) To not accept compensation from more than one employer or client for the same work, without the consent of all.

### ***Designated Agrologists' Professional Obligations to the Profession***

Professional responsibility to the Profession of Agrology includes:

- a) To inspire confidence in the practice of Agrology by maintaining high standards in conduct and work.
- b) To support activities for the advancement of the profession.
- c) Where a designated professional Agrologist believes another individual may be guilty of infamous or unprofessional conduct, negligence or breach of the Agrologist Act or bylaws:
  - i. To raise the matter with that individual, and
  - ii. If not resolved or if otherwise deemed necessary, to inform the Registrar of the Institute in writing.
- d) To state clearly on whose behalf professional statements or opinions are made.
- e) To sign and seal/stamp or make official or approve only those plans, reports and other documents for which designated professional Agrologists are professionally responsible and which were prepared by or under their direction.

### ***Designated Agrologists' Professional Obligations to Other Designated Agrologists***

The professional responsibility to other Agrologists is:

- a) To abstain from undignified or misrepresentative public communication with others about designated Agrologists.
- b) To give credit for professional work to whom credit is due.
- c) To share knowledge and experience with other designated Agrologists.