

**Webber Atkins, Garth FLNR:EX**

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**From:** Gary Leach <gleach@explorersandproducers.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2015 2:53 PM  
**To:** Webber Atkins, Garth FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Qualified Persons Project

Thanks for sending this, Garth.

I really like the concept of creating opportunities to make better use of highly trained and certified professionals. We didn't have the capacity here at EPAC to get involved in your project but the final guide looks good, and I hope it influences greater reliance and use of 'qualified' experts within various resource related ministries.

Cheers,

Gary Leach  
President  
The Explorers and Producers Association of Canada  
"Canada's Oil and Gas Entrepreneurs"<sup>TM</sup>  
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**From:** Webber Atkins, Garth FLNR:EX [<mailto:Garth.WebberAtkins@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** March-06-15 3:18 PM  
**To:** Webber Atkins, Garth FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** Qualified Persons Project

Since we last communicated with you, the Qualified Persons Cross-Ministry Working Group has focused on finalizing the many reports and products that were prepared during 2012 and 2013, and in making the work accessible. We have also reflected on what further work is needed to achieve the objectives of the Qualified Persons project.

Three main objectives of the project were to:

- achieve a common understanding across Ministries of the potential, and limitations of, the use of qualified persons in the regulation of natural resource use.
- clarify the expectations and needs of government, industry proponents, and the various professional associations with regard to increasing use of qualified persons.
- establish a common framework to guide developmental work for the use of QPs across the natural resource ministries.

We have concluded that these objectives have been substantially met by the work already completed, and that further understanding or refinement of the framework is more likely to be achieved in the course of developing or improving specific uses of qualified persons, than by continuing with a broad cross-sectoral approach.

Given that, the Qualified Persons project is considered to be complete, and the working group has been disbanded. Final versions of the reports and products that were developed by the working group are now available on an updated web site: [Qualified Persons in the Natural Resource Sector](#).

In addition, the working group has produced a preliminary guide for government staff who seek to better utilize qualified persons in their business area. This guide consolidates key information from many of the products prepared by the working group, and incorporates many of the concerns and cautions that we heard from you over the course of the

project. It stresses a collaborative approach to developing or improving a regulatory model that relies on qualified persons (QP model), and encourages staff to involve resource users and qualified person governing bodies in the design and evaluation of QP models.

I have included the guide for your information, and welcome any feedback - now, or as observations arise through its use.

I believe that the Framework that we have developed with your input is a solid foundation for the effective use of qualified persons, whether they are registered professionals, or accredited practitioners. The more it is used as a reference to design or improve uses of qualified persons, including professional reliance, the more I expect we will see its value.

Contacts going forward:

- Comments, concerns and questions about the project or the guide can be directed to me.
- Questions and ideas about the use of qualified persons in specific resource business areas should be directed to your usual business area contacts.

I enjoyed working with you on this project, and have very much appreciated your time and interest in this topic.

**Garth Webber Atkins, MSc., RPF**

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LNG, Crown Land Opportunities and Restoration Branch

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*"It always seems impossible until it's done", Nelson Mandela*