



# Association of Canadian Mountain Guides

*Protecting the public interest in mountain travel*

## Keeping Members Current:

### Professional Practice and Continuing Professional Development

In order to provide competent service throughout a professional career, training and learning beyond initial qualification is essential. New knowledge is continually being created both in the field and through research, and this is happening at an increasing rate. This, together with ever-changing client expectations, is continually stretching the boundaries of practice. The ACMG not only requires a minimum amount of professional practice and development from its members, it offers a structured framework for continual learning that provides opportunities for professionals to reflect on that learning and apply it appropriately to guiding and instructional activities.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD), is the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skill, and the development of personal qualities necessary for the execution of professional and technical duties throughout a practitioner's working life.

CPD programs are an important part of a professional body's role in maintaining public trust, the confidence of government agencies and in protecting the status of the profession. Because societal expectations of service performance are high, a failure to meet those expectations renders the profession vulnerable to criticism.

#### Member Responsibilities

Responsibility for assessing and maintaining an appropriate level of competence rests with the individual member. The level of competence to be applied in a specific application of professional practice will depend on the nature and complexity of the work undertaken. It is also the responsibility of each member to decide whether the demands of a specific project are within his/her training and experience. Guides and instructors should be prepared to demonstrate to their clients and/or supervisors, as well as to the ACMG, their individual commitment to this ethical principle.

Members have a responsibility to keep informed of developments within their areas of practice. They should support and provide opportunities for continuing education, professional development, and advancement of their peers. Guides and instructors should extend the effectiveness of their profession through the exchange of guiding and instructing information and experience.

#### Association Responsibilities

In order to effectively protect the public interest, the ACMG applies due diligence in determining member currency in a variety of ways:

- Before a member may pay annual dues, that person must attest to the fact that he/she has completed the required number of hours of professional development.
- Before a member is allowed to purchase permits to operate on public land, that person must produce a copy of a valid first aid certificate.
- Audits are carried out twice per year by the Professional Practices Committee of the ACMG. These audits verify all aspects of member currency.