

The effective management of vegetation on transmission and distribution corridors is essential to the reliable supply of electricity and for ensured public and worker safety. Vegetation programs must comply with new and emerging regulations while meeting public and landowner expectations and taking environmental impacts into consideration. The program involves responding to requests and concerns of the public, First Nations, Government, and landowners, while nonetheless achieving control that complies with NERC & other requirements in a cost effective manner. Managing vegetation can range from pruning and/or removing individual trees, to encouraging the establishment of low growing compatible plant communities on a right-of-way. These examples name only a few of the many issues that must be addressed in the development of a comprehensive and effective vegetation management program.

CEATI's Vegetation Management Program will focus on issues of interest to the electrical utility personnel managing vegetation programs. The group emphasizes program development and management, which includes justifying budgets, work planning, addressing regulatory issues, managing contractors, and setting standards and guidelines for the work.

The group also provides vegetation managers with a cost-effective vehicle for sharing experiences and addressing issues pertinent to their day-to-day operations, maintenance, and planning. The primary benefit of program participation lies in the opportunity to tap into the wealth of experience and knowledge of other transmission & distribution electrical utility participants, allowing members to learn from the mistakes and successes of others.

## Topics & Issues

1. Environmental Issues
2. Regulatory Requirements & Compliance Frameworks
3. Public & Social Issues
4. Vegetation Management Program Optimization
5. Responsible Vegetation Management Practices
6. New Materials & Techniques

## Technical Advisor



**Rob Young** graduated with a Bachelor of Science in forestry from the University of New Brunswick, and later acquired certificates in leadership development (St. Mary's University and York University), strategic management (St. Mary's University), project management essentials (Dalhousie University), and loss control leadership (Dalhousie University). He believes in participating in and leading industry training and events to achieve state-of-the-art learning and common peer-to-peer understanding. In 2016, he received the Utility Arborists Association Education Award. Mr. Young is currently the President of EcoScapes Ecological Consulting in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Before this position, he spent over 25 years developing and leading integrated vegetation management programs on the transmission (5,500km) and distribution (27,000km) lines at Nova Scotia Power.

## Core Themes

- Adapting and Implementing Technology Solutions to Vegetation Programs
- New Materials and Techniques
- Environmental Issues, Requirements, and Compliance
- Vegetation Management Program Optimization
- Responsible Vegetation Management Practices
- Strategies for Public Notification and Consultation

## Recent Training Webinars

- Tree Pruning vs. Removal
- Thematic Conference Call Selected Topic: Smart Grid and Vegetation Management
- Human-Based Spread of Invasive Plants from Powerline Corridors in New York State
- Pollinators, Monarch Butterflies, and What We Know About Herbicide Impacts
- UVM Regulatory Requirements - What the State and Provincial Regulators Think of UVM Oversight
- Debris Management to Reduce Fire Risk on Power Line Corridors
- Work Management Systems in Vegetation Management



## Collaborative Projects

- Vegetation Management Cost Benefit of Herbicide Use
- Control of Weeds in Electrical Facilities such as Substations, Switchyards, Capacitor Stations, and Cable Termination Sites
- Powerline Vegetation Management Best Practices within Boreal Forest Caribou
- Using Vegetation Indices to Predict Fall-In Hazard Trees

## Annual Activities

- 2-Day Industry Conference
- General Meeting
- Regular Conference Calls
- 4-6 Training Webinars
- On-Demand Information Exchange

\*Participation is open to all Transmission & Distribution Electrical Utilities and Government Agencies.

For a complete project listing, please visit [www.ceati.com/VMP](http://www.ceati.com/VMP)

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