

REGISTRAR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Prepared by John Shortreid, AScT, CLS – Registrar

May 21, 2009

1. GENERAL

The membership statistical data from January 1 to April 30, 2009 is provided on attached spreadsheets. The good news is that the total membership numbers are continuing to grow, even in these tough economic times. The overall net rate of growth is 1.9% for Technologist/Technician categories, slightly down from last year's rate at this time. Applications are also down slightly and I believe there is no reason for concern, as it should have been expected given the current economic factors. New approved member files are also down due to the resource strain on Registrations from the impact of numbers of applications for certification/registration as House Inspectors, under the new Government licensing regime. I expect that we will get back on track with the processing of application files now that the main push in House Inspection has primarily passed.

Technical Specialists numbers are down slightly (38) due to the transfer of the Timber Cruisers Program to the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals. This accounted for a loss of 149 members; however, the net difference has been made up by almost 40 new Property Inspection members and growth within all other Technical Specialist Groups.

AIT & TILMA

Effective April 1, 2009, and consistent with the terms of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) and the BC/AB Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA), the Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC) must certify and register applicants who are currently certified/registered/licensed in another jurisdiction in Canada, in accordance with the provisions of these Agreements. However, to practice in British Columbia, registration in ASTTBC is required. Note: in most circumstances TILMA and AIT supersedes the CM/CCTT Transferability Agreement.

TILMA and Chapter 7 of AIT sets out rules by which all Canadian jurisdictions are to treat individuals, who are in a regulated occupation, that may wish to transfer to another province. Unless the standards are so different as to present a risk to the public interest (for which 'legitimate objectives' are allowed) the transfers are to happen in a timely manor with little effort and **without a reassessment of credentials**. The only requirement may be a non-material jurisprudence examination to demonstrate knowledge as to the jurisdiction's legislation and Association ethics. Other than that, individuals are only required to be certified/registered/licensed in good standing within the jurisdiction they are transferring from. Note: the provincially regulated occupations that affect ASTTBC are certification/registration/licensing for AScT, CTech, ROWP, CHI(P) and CHI.

Government has indicated to ASTTBC that formal approval by Certification Boards for handling Transfers under AIT/TILMA is unacceptable and non-compliant with AIT/TILMA rules, due to potential extensive time delays (Boards typically only meet once every 2 to 3 months). They require that the Registrar be the approving officer for such transfers, since no reassessment of the applicant's credentials under AIT/TILMA is permitted in any event. Therefore, in separate reports to Council, approvals are being recommended in the Board of Examiners Policy and Onsite Wastewater Registration Policy to empower the Registrar for this purpose.

As a result of AIT/TILMA, the ASTTBC Website required updating of information related to these trade agreements to indicate ASTTBC's compliance and development of new informational pages concerning provincial transfers. At the time of writing this report, changes have been completed to the ASTTBC Website and changes were being designed for the OWRB Website.

Under TILMA, ASTTBC may be required to deal with the 'PTech' certification, for those members transferring from Alberta, with this designation wishing to work in BC. Since this is a statutory title in Alberta, it will require a change to the ASTT Act to put into sync a similar scope of practice competency. It has to be noted that just adding the PTech title into the ASTT Regulations will not deem it to be a regulated occupation within BC and until it is a regulated title under the Act, it will not be governed by the TILMA agreement. Currently we would have to register Alberta PTech members as ASCT members in BC.

Early in March the BC Government passed BILL 9, the Labour Mobility Act. This Bill allows certified workers from other jurisdictions to practice their occupations in British Columbia in accordance with Chapter Seven of the Agreement on Internal Trade, and, in particular, provides that British Columbia regulators must consider and apply Chapter Seven when workers who are certified for an occupation in a signatory jurisdiction apply to obtain British Columbia certification for that occupation. It allows the Supreme Court to consider whether Chapter Seven has been correctly applied and to make directions where that has not been the case. Information on the Bill can be found at:

http://www.leg.bc.ca/38th5th/1st_read/gov09-1.htm.

2. PROFESSIONALISM

E&O / CGL Insurance Plan

This has been a busy time for our broker (Willis Canada) with annual renewal of policies starting on May 1st. It was particularly challenging this year as we increased policy holders by about 20% as a result of our House Inspectors being required, by the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority, to have liability insurance coverage as a condition of licensing. To ensure appropriate coverage for these technical specialist members, we were able to get an agreement from the carrier (Catlin) to provide water egress coverage as part of the policy.

In anticipation of a desire by our Onsite Wastewater technical specialist members to access the same low insurance policy rates as all other members under the ASTTBC insurance plan, we managed to get the carrier to agree to provide coverage for damages caused by effluent. This had been a deterrent for these members to acquire the insurance as previously effluent was excluded from the policy.

Attached are the new 2009/2010 E&O/CGL Rate Matrix reports for information.

Risk Management

Two Risk Management seminars are being provided at the AGM on May 22nd. One session is all about ASTTBC's Liability Insurance Program and the other is 'Risk Management for Technology Professionals'

Registered Technology Manager (RTMgr)

The Registered Technology Manager (RTMgr) certification initiative will have a soft launch of the Program at the AGM on May 22nd.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The CPD Online Log is now available on the ASTTBC Website at: <http://www.asttbc.com/login1.php>. This is a secure site and available for voluntary reporting of CPD for members; except for Property and House Inspectors, for which mandatory reporting is required. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this member service, as it is an ideal medium to track their CPD activities for future reference.

As ASTTBC moves forward on the CPD front, Government's expectation is for Professional Associations to have mandatory CPD, as part of the required public accountability for the professionals represented. Members should expect that CPD will become mandatory for all members at some point in the future and the voluntary reporting is but the first step. For our licensed technical specialist groups, this will be sooner than later as has already been required of the Property and House Inspection members. The Association's CPD policy can be reviewed at: http://www.asttbc.com/practice/cpd/cpd_policy.php.

Continuing Technology Education Course Database

The Continuing Technology Education Course Database has been completed per Government contract requirements and on-line at: <http://courses.asttbc.org>. The recruitment of Educational Agencies to add their courses and populate the database is well underway. Workshops, seminars and other delivery methods will be added as a second stream later this year. CCTT may partner with ASTTBC to modify the resource so it can be used by their Skilled Immigrant Employment Network (SEIN) program for ITPs.

Professional Practice and Ethics Manual

The Professional Practice and Ethics (PPE) Manual is well underway with a draft of Part I 'The Profession' out for review; Part II 'Ethics' will be started in June. The PPE Manual is being developed to be offered online with an online exam by January 2010. This project is being funded under the Onsite Wastewater Practice Improvement Government grant, as an element of that project.

3. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

National Technology Benchmarks Implementation

The Registrations Department continues to focus on the development of an implementation plan utilizing the National Technology Benchmarks (NTB) for certification and registration. Great headway was made by the Council of Registrars (COR) in Halifax in early March with tools and processes defined and signed off by COR on behalf the CMs belonging to CCTT. ASTTBC and ASET continue to be the drivers for the process and the refined details and templates are on schedule to be presented at the COR meeting in Montreal in early June. Our Government contract to assist in the NTB implementation development is being amended to add a design phase for an on-line self-assessment web site, which will be an integral component of the new application process. Design of the site will be presented to COR in Montreal. CCTT may partner with ASTTBC to modify this resource so it can be used by their SIEN program for Internationally Trained Professionals (ITPs).

The implementation plan schedule, for NTB as a certification/registration tool, has the final details being adopted in the summer, training of Registrations' staff by the end of September, training of the Board of Examiners in October and applications available to potential applicants by November. Processing of applicants using the NTB format will start on January 1, 2010. This has been outlined in the PREP2012 Plan provided to Council previously.

CCTT/CTAB

The Council of Registrars, at the Halifax meeting, determined that it was in the best interests of the Constituent Members to propose the following recommendations to the CCTT Directors for consideration and action:

A. National Technology Benchmarks:

- a. The NTB maintenance process be altered to give COR direct control over any changes to the NTB.
- b. COR have two votes on the NTB Committee.
- c. COR manage the document control for the NTB.

B. Canadian Technology Accreditation Board:

COR have a minimum of two seats on CTAB.

A letter to the CCTT President is attached for Council's information, as to COR's rationale for the suggested changes. It is hoped that the COR proposed changes will be supported by Council through its CCTT Director.

Skilled Immigrant Employment Network (SEIN) Program

CCTT has launched a new initiative to facilitate credential recognition and labour market integration for foreign trained technology professionals. Within its broader national skills development strategy, CCTT has identified the integration of skilled immigrants as a key priority for expanding the supply of Certified Technicians and Technologists in Canada. With funding support made available from the Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC), Foreign Credential Recognition Program, CCTT is launching a 30 month project that will facilitate the attraction of skilled immigrants overseas, expedite the recognition of their foreign credentials, and facilitate their integration into Canada's labour market. These objectives will be addressed through the creation of a Skilled Immigrant Employment Network (SIEN), comprised of partner organizations that include CCTT's provincial associations, government agencies, academia, trade and industry associations, and immigrant serving agencies.

Led by CCTT, the SIEN will expand Canada's technical skills inventory by increasing the numbers of foreign-trained technology professionals seeking Certification from provincial constituent members (CMs). SIEN will engage the CMs directly in the process of developing programs and building capacity that will expedite credential recognition and ultimately their ability to attract and retain new members. The SIEN will also play a key role in managing expectations and familiarizing foreign trained technology professionals on labour market conditions, employment opportunities and language and technical requirements prior to their arrival in Canada. For more information on the SIEN initiative, visit www.cctt.ca or contact Rick Tachuk, Communications Director at rtachuk@cctt.ca. The Registrar will be representing ASTTBC at the SIEN kick-off in Toronto on May 28th.

International Qualifications Data Base Update

Nineteen new course outlines for educational programs from Germany, India, Israel, Philippines, Romania, Switzerland and former Yugoslavia have been provided and uploaded into the IQDB. The IQDB has now been integrated with the CCTT Passport system. The CCTT Passport is a centralized database of user login credentials for CCTT online services. Once completely integrated, the system will allow a user to have one login name and password for all CCTT online applications that he or she is authorized to use. The IQDB is the first application that is integrated with the CCTT Passport System. The other applications to be integrated with the CCTT Passport System include the CCTT Intranet, NTB Forum and NTBdb.

In February and March the IQDB was queried ninety-five times; in April ninety-three times. The database is functioning normally. It was not accessible for several hours on April 14, 2009 due to a problem at the hosting company. The database is being maintained and backed up regularly on a local CCTT server.

For all the latest information on the activities of CCTT members are reminded to visit the CCTT Website (<http://www.cctt.ca/home.asp?lang=1>) to get access to CCTT's 'Innovation' Newsletter.

4. BOARD REPORTS

Board of Examiners

As previously indicated on page 1, Government has indicated to ASTTBC that formal approval by Certification Boards for handling Transfers under AIT/TILMA is unacceptable and non-compliant with AIT/TILMA rules, due to potentially extensive time delays (Boards typically only meet once every 2 to 3 months). It is therefore required that the Board of Examiners Policy be changed to enable the Registrar to be the approving officer for such transfers, since no reassessment of the applicant's credentials under AIT/TILMA is permitted in any event. Based on this Government requirement, Council is being asked to approve a change to the Board of Examiners Policy which will empower the Registrar to administratively handle such transfer requests.

Practice Review Board

As you will see from the Summary Chart imbedded below, we are heading for a record year in complaints. With the 34 completed and 28 under investigation (likely will be completed shortly after the summer) we already have a total of 62 complaints that will have been dealt with in 2009 and we are only into May. The highest number of complaints ever handled previously was 49 complaints in 2006. With the new BBPCPA House Inspection Licensing, we are already starting to receive inquiries on house inspection complaints and these have yet to make the list.

The greatest numbers of complaint cases still involve Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioners. It is recommended to Council, in a separate report, to approve changes to the Onsite Wastewater Registrations Program Policy that will provide for a Practice Assessment Program (PAP) and process; which will instill a proactive auditing tool for member's practices.

Of special note, an applicant for CTech reinstatement and also wishing to add certification as a Fire Protection Technician complained to the Ombudsman's Office about the handling and processing of his file. This applicant has an outstanding Practice Review Board matter that had remained unresolved and processing was delayed while staff tried to get this issue addressed. The Ombudsman's Office investigated and found no fault with ASTTBC and closed the case.

PRB INVESTIGATION & DISCIPLINE SUMMARY
AS OF JANUARY 12, 2010

COMPLAINTS STATISTICS	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Technologist/Technician complaints								
Unauthorized use of ASCT, CTech, CET; Certified Technician etc.	1	7	1	2	3	8	1	4
Ethics/logo/procedural etc.	1	1		2		3	1	
Inquiry – no action				1				
Special Certification Complaints								
Property Insp. Title/logo	7	2	6	5	12	5	2	4
Property Insp. Ethics/other	3	2	5	2	2	3	2	2
Fire Prot. Title/logo			2			2		
Fire Prot. Ethics/other	4	3	9	15	7	10	12	5
Timber Cruiser Title/logo				1				
Timber Cruiser Ethics/other					2	1		
Onsite Waste. Title/logo				1	1			
Onsite Waste. Ethics/other	17	22	18	18				
All other Spec. Cert. groups – Title/logo	1	7	1					
All other Spec. Cert. groups - Ethics/other		1		2				
FILES CLOSED TO-DATE	34	45	42	49	27	32	18	15

Note: Statistics for current year are year-to-date; other years are to year-end.

COMPLAINT OUTCOME	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Cease & Desist - ethics/logo/titles – complied	9	15	11	11	15	15	3	8
Ethics Complaint - censure applied	23	14	12	11	4	5	6	4
Ethics Complaint - no breach of code found		13	14	9	7	11	9	3
Ethics Complaint withdrawn			1	2	1	1		
Title/logo inquiry – no action taken by PRB		1	1	16				
Complaint in abeyance (membership cancelled)	2	2	3					
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	34	45	42	49	27	32	18	15
TYPE OF ACTION INVOLVED	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Disciplinary Hearing held			1		1		5	
Special Investigative Meeting held				2				2
Stipulated Order accepted	4	4	1	9				
Stipulated Order rejected		1		1				
Appeal to PRB upheld							1	
Appeal to PRB denied								
Appeal to ASTTBC Council upheld			1		1			
Appeal to ASTTBC Council denied					1			
Title/Logo/Stamp/Inquiry – no action by PRB			2	3				

Note: 'Type of Action' - included in totals of 'Complaint Outcomes'

COMPLAINTS IN PROGRESS	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Ethics Investigation in progress	28	29	16	13	13			
Cease & Desist order in progress (all – incl. ethics/title/logo/stamp/misc. inquiry)	0	6	4	3	2			

Note: 'Investigation in progress files' is not included in totals

SPECIAL CERTIFICATIONS UPDATE

Fire Protection

The Manager of Fire Protection Registrations attended the Fire Prevention Officers Convention in Victoria at the beginning of May, where ASTTBC also provided a display booth. Several Fire Inspectors from the Central Interior and Greater Victoria Regional District showed great interest in our Certification/Registration Program. The Manager is going to follow up on this interest with site visits. The Manager is also reviewing the Practice Assessment Program (PAP) of the Onsite Wastewater Program to determine its adaptability for implementation in the Fire Protection Program.

House and Property Inspection

ASTTBC staff has done a tremendous job in addressing the flood of applications for certification/registration as House Inspectors; in order that they would qualify for the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority's (BPCPA) licensing. This effort was led by our Manager of House & Property Inspections Registrations and has focused on the Inspection Assessment (field audit) requirements for the new applicants. In order to effectively carry out the necessary Inspection Assessments required for certification, it was necessary for these assessments to be batch processed. This was accomplished by renting several houses as inspection sites. The batch assessments began on March 9th and, to the end of April, 188 field exercises, consisting of 146 Inspection Assessments and 42 Mentoring Sessions have been completed. As of May 1st we no longer have rental houses to continue the batch assessment program. The policy governing Inspection Assessments for new applicants will expire on June 30th and there is still a strong demand for the Inspection Assessments by applicants. It will likely require that ASTTBC continue with finding suitable rental houses for batch processing until the end of June.

In addition to the new applicants, there are a number of existing IITs and CHI(P)s that will require an estimated 80 Inspection Assessments prior to September 30th, for adherence to current policy. It should be noted that without the addition of any new members, we will require a total of 189 Inspection Assessments to be completed by members before March 31, 2010.

Staff is to be congratulated for the successful handling of the special challenges presented by the BPCPA licensing requirements. The BCIPI Website also required revamping to meet the needs of the licensing regime and our Liability Insurance Broker (Willis Canada) did an excellent job in writing policies for all our licensed House Inspectors, who are required to carry liability insurance as a condition of licensing.

Onsite Wastewater

As a result of AIT and TILMA, changes to the OWRB Policies are being recommended to Council in a separate report for approval. These changes will make ASTTBC compliant with the AIT/TILMA Agreements. Interest from people in the onsite wastewater industry is starting to come in from as far away as Ontario and we are ensuring a process that will provide a smooth transition.

To ensure that all onsite wastewater practitioners are maintaining a high level of professionalism, the Practice Assessment Program is now being incorporated within the registration process so that all new applicants, as well as those requesting to add categories or remove restrictions, are required to undergo the Practice Assessment immediately. For those practitioners being dealt with through the Practice Review Board, many will also be required to undergo the Practice Assessment to ensure their adherence to the Sewerage System Regulations, the Standard Practice Manual, or the Code of Ethics are confirmed. The Practice Assessment Program is a vital tool to ensure professionalism and is also being provided to Council for approval. These changes are also covered in the proposed policy changes recommended to Council.

Around the province, the Manager, OWRP is continuing to strengthen relationships with Health Authorities, Regional Districts and Building Department staff in efforts to identify problems within the onsite wastewater industry and ensure they are addressed as quickly as possible. A considerable increase in requests for information on how the Regulations work was noted. This has included conducting a workshop at Royal Roads University for realtors on Vancouver Island, at the request of the Capital Regional District. Not only was it a sold-out attendance, but the highly positive feedback to the CRD resulted in the Manager, OWRP being invited to re-attend this fall to give another workshop. Some requests for workshops to Regional District or building department staff are also coming in.

The Manager is continuing with his efforts to drop in to Health Authority offices and conduct random reviews of Filings and other related documents from ROWPs. This pro-active measure is finding problems at an early stage and working to correct matters before they become more serious and more public. Such action is not only cultivating positive relations with Health Authorities, but also with many ROWPs who are frustrated by the few giving the many a poor reputation. As a number of ROWPs have described, it levels the playing field and ensures good quality work is provided to the public.

Efforts to improve ROWP and consumer knowledge are continuing, with web-based information as well as brochures being developed to assist. In the coming months, information covering a wider range of topics will be available to meet the needs of the various stakeholders. This could include workshops, possibly in conjunction with the B.C. Onsite Sewage Association or with community groups and training agencies. A recent presentation to BCIP members also identified common links between our programs and cross-education and marketing opportunities are being explored.

The recent government grant is being utilized to implement the initiatives outlined in the Executive Director's PLAN2012 for the Onsite Wastewater Program. A contractor has been hired to administer the government grant and coordinate all activities identified in PLAN2012.

Forest Measurements Registration Board (FMRB)

ASTTBC Council approved the transfer of the FMRB from ASTTBC to the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (ABC FP) and required that ASTTBC wind down certification in Forest Measurements (Timber Cruisers) effective April 30, 2009. Council further required that certification will be canceled effective April 30, 2009 for those Timber Cruisers registered with ASTTBC who chose not to transfer their certification from ASTTBC to ABCFP. This requirement has now been fulfilled.

The FMRB expressed its appreciation to ASTTBC for its leadership and continued support for forest measurements certification.