

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – (#55)

For May, 2008 Council Meeting

(Covering the Period February 1 to April 30, 2008)

2008 is off to a great start with many key activities, both planned as well as a result of opportunities presented and seized. We are mobilizing around the 2008 Work Plan and Budget. Many initiatives to address professional recognition, regulation and profile. With this report I am re-organizing to place most items in alphabetical order and not in order of priority, as was generally the case with past reports. This will, I anticipate, make it easier to track items of particular interest.

“A good hockey player plays where the puck is. A great hockey player plays where the puck is going to be.”
Wayne Gretsky

GOAL #1 – PROFESSIONAL LEGISLATION & REGULATION

AIBC EXTENDS ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP TO BUILDING DESIGNERS. AIBC sent an invitation to ASTTBC members registered as RBDs and CRDs to join AIBC as ‘associate members’. AIBC is awarding the title ‘BD.AIBC’ RD.AIBC’. This action was taken without any involvement or sanction of ASTTBC and with a list that was not authorized for this use by ASTTBC. ASTTBC has communicated with the Minister and Ministry staff advising that it is ASTTBC’s view that this action by AIBC is ‘interference’ in the affairs of ASTTBC. The Architects Act was not intended to allow for the registration of technologists and technicians.

ARCHITECTS ACT CHANGES. ASTTBC has written to Minister Coell seeking an exemption in the Architects Act. Information has also been communicated to MLAs.

ASET – ASTTBC and TILMA. ASTTBC and ASET signed an agreement making commitments to enhance portability of credentials. The agreement also points to the need to ‘harmonize’ professional legislation / regulation.

FAIR ACCESS TO REGULATED PROFESSIONS ACT – NOVA SCOTIA. Another province will enact legislation dealing with professional regulation. The Nova Scotia legislation defines a ‘Fair Practices Code’, appoints a ‘Review Officer’ and gives this office / person extensive powers and requires accountability of professional associations. The statute establishes an offence for breaches of the Code and legislation. This move by governments is designed to hold professional self-governing regulatory bodies accountable. Watch for something similar in BC. Long overdue.

HOUSE INSPECTOR LICENSING. The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General received some 125 responses to the consultation paper. ASTTBC (as well as BCIPI and others we assume) have been invited to meet with Ministry staff to review inputs from the consultations and talk about future directions. ASTTBC has also organized an ‘all party’ meeting, with BCIPI and NACHI attending. We have also invited Ministry staff who in turn asked as to whether the BPCPA could attend and we agreed. To this date CAHPI(BC) has refused to participate. CAHPI(BC) also refused to contribute to the government consultations. We were able to secure a meeting with the President, Vice President and Registrar of CAHPI(BC) and this was seemingly quite positive and productive. Since the meeting CAHPI(BC) has written to the BCIPI Board expressing concerns about some of ASTTBC’s approach. CAHPI(BC) asked for a meeting with BCIPI however the BCIPI Board decided this would not be appropriate under the circumstances. While the opportunity to meet with CAHPI(BC) was viewed as a positive step, it appears CAHPI(BC) has decided to continue along a path of ‘non-engagement’ with others.

NILMA. ASTTBC took a lead role in crafting a National Inter-provincial Labour Mobility Accord between the professional associations. It is expected that this document will be formally signed before the end of this year.

SOCIETY ACT CHANGES. The Law Institute is working on changes to the Society Act, with one of their recommendations (#105) being that the new statute not include the current Section (10) on title protection and that a separate statute be enacted dealing with this.

UMBRELLA LEGISLATION. ASTTBC continues to advance the concept. The recent statement on professional regulation approval by Council clearly signals that this remains an ideal option and will continue to be high on the list of possibilities for future professional regulation.

GOAL #2 – RIGHTS TO PRACTICE

ASTTBC is required, as one of the ‘Objects’ under the ASTT Act, “to regulate standards of training and practice of and for its members and to protect the interests of the public”.

APEGBC – ASTTBC MoU. The APEGBC-initiated process of developing a joint Statement of Collaboration to review professional regulation / legislation and work together to consider various models has ‘stalled’. No formal response has been received as yet from APEGBC. The latest information is that APEGBC is doing an organizational review and plans to complete this review prior to deciding next step(s) re the proposed joint initiative.

GUIDES TO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE. ASTTBC Council approved on September 27, 2007 five (5) Guides to Professional Practice (Biomedical, Electrical Design in Buildings, Electronics, Geomatics and Mechanical Design in Buildings). Comments received from APEGBC have been reviewed by legal counsel and as a result a clarifying statement will be proposed for the Guides to take into consideration APEGBC’s primary concern that the Guides reference work that is, in APEGBC’s opinion, restricted under the Engineers and Geoscientists Act.

ASTTBC has drafted new Guides, one of which – Fire – is ready to be considered by ASTTBC Council. As well ASTTBC has prepared a draft in Architectural Technology – Building Design and this, too, will be ready for Council to consider at the May 2008 meeting. Feedback from members on both Guides has been very positive.

ASTTBC has offered to work with APEGBC in the development of ASTTBC’s Guides and coincidentally on APEGBC’s Guides for the EngL. We have not heard from APEGBC on this request to work jointly and concurrently on the ASTTBC’s Guides and APEGBC’s EngL standard scope for a Limited Licensee.

ASTTBC will also seek an agreement with AIBC to work together on the Guide in Architectural Technology – Building Design.

ONSITE WASTEWATER. Production on a new public information brochure is complete, with printing of 75,000 copies for general distribution and inventory by mid-May. This brochure will go a great distance in communicating with the public on the key elements of the program.

ONSITE WASTEWATER - SAFETY SYSTEM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (SSLC). Monthly meetings continue with discussion on various related topics. Two main areas of discussion over past several months include (1) Enforcement of Illegal Systems installation, and (2) Possible changes to the Sewerage System Regulation. Work continues in these two areas. Results of the paper audit are forthcoming.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN COMPLETION AND ASSURANCE OF RECLAMATION AND REMEDIATION WORK IN ALBERTA. September 2007. This agreement between six professional associations spells out requirements for site reclamation and remediation. What is noteworthy is that Forest Technologists are included.

GOAL #3 – PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS & REGULATION

This Goal is covered by the Registrar's Report to Council.

Goal #4 – PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

BCDEANS of TECHNOLOGY (BCDoT). Jason Jung attended March 25 meeting of BCDoT. Discussed several items including the current status of technology program enrolments at the various colleges. Enrolment continues to be in decline with only two program disciplines having strong registration interest; these being CIVIL and MECHANICAL engineering, and both mainly at Camosun and BCIT. The day concluded with a wonderful tour of the new and very impressive BCIT Aerospace Campus in Richmond.

BCIT ALUMNI NEWSLETTER. ASTTBC continued to run its 'corporate' ad promoting the Association and registration as a Technology Professional to BCIT Alumni; profile on an ASTTBC member featured Darrin Heisler, AScT, ASTTBC's President; editorial entitled 'ASTTBC Celebrates 50 Years of Making a Difference' was also included in the Spring 2008 issue, with the corporate ad and member profile including the 50th logo.

BCIT and COLLEGE LIAISON. Have continued contact with Deans and Instructors at BCIT, Okanagan College, Camosun, and Kwantlen College. On April 16 Jason Jung and Wendy Lawson, Manager, Marketing, hosted a special workshop for student members of ASTTBC at BCIT. The workshop was the first in a series of workshops designed to deliver value-added programming for student members. This first seminar was about Information Interviews and dealt with subjects such as learning what they are, how to get one, and what types of questions need to be asked. It was a very successful seminar which was attended by 34 students.

BCIT STUDENT ASSOCIATION (BCITSA). Re-visiting ASTTBC-BCITSA MoU and sponsorship agreement. Meetings are pending to finalize details in preparation for 2008/2009 academic year sponsorship.

BCIT OPEN HOUSE. Both Darrin Heisler, AScT and Jason Jung, AScT attended the BCIT Open House on April 11 and 12. Many school aged children attended on Friday and visited the ASTTBC taking away some excellent career profiles and NTW calendar posters. Darrin and Jason were able to connect with students and instructors from various CTAB accredited programs.

CAMOSUN COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE. Held on April 24th ASTTBC attended (Jason Jung) the Camosun College Open House at the Lansdowne Campus. We were together on display with Civil, Electronics, Mechanical, and Computer Science Technologies. ASTTBC donated a Nintendo DS as a prize draw which was extremely popular. It was a busy day seeing many, many youth and adults alike seeking more information on technology career options at Camosun.

CAMOSUN COLLEGE TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY SPOTLIGHT. April 3. Mainly an employer job fair type event, ASTTBC was invited to attend as an exhibitor. Another opportunity to show ASTTBC presence on the Camosun Campus. Connected with several co-op coordinators to speak about ASTTBC and their role in helping students achieve career objectives through membership and certification. Several top employers from the Greater Victoria area attended including BC Ferries, Schneider Electric, and VIATECH to name a few.

CAREER ADS CALLING FOR ASTTBC REGISTRATION. ASTTBC has noted several career ads calling for ASTTBC registration.

INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED PROFESSIONALS. ASTTBC received a BC Government grant to enhance services to IEPs. As a result ASTTBC developed a statement on 'The Engineering Team in BC' brochure. This was a collaborative initiative with APEGBC and ITA. As well ASTTBC formulated policies and procedures for utilizing interviews as part of the application process. A lot of assistance provided by APEGBC. The Government is providing new funding and issued a RFP to which ASTTBC will respond.

MINERIALS NORTH 2008 CONFERENCE. ASTTBC placed full page, full colour ad in event feature in support of the annual conference hosted in Smithers in 2008.

ONTARIO JOB FAIR. February 25-29. ASTTBC partnered with the City of Richmond, City of Abbotsford, Metro Testing, Fortis BC, Terasen Gas, and WoodTech International in a series of Career Fairs organized by the Ministry of Economic Development. Sponsored in part by Canwest Media (Vancouver Sun and Province), over 35 of the top employers from BC travelled to Southern Ontario (Kitchener, Windsor, Hamilton, Toronto) to promote career opportunities in BC. Jason Jung, Manager, Technology Careers, was on hand to both promote our partner companies as well as provide information about the association. At four events held, it was estimated that well over 2,500 people attended. Quite a number of OACETT members were in attendance and interested in job opportunities in BC. Those familiar with ASTTBC stopped by the booth to ask questions about how their memberships would be handled if they were to move from Ontario to BC. In a few instances, there were former ASTTBC members who were now located in Ontario and registered with OACETT.

OUTLOOK 2008. Advertising again placed in annual Prince George publication produced by the Prince George Free Press, a Black Press paper.

QUIZME – PGTV. As a result of placing the 2008 ad in Outlook 2008, ASTTBC was approached by Prince George TV to support 'QuizMe', a program designed to engage youth and their parents in science and technology. ASTTBC has agreed to pursue this opportunity.

S.U.C.C.E.S.S ITP PRESENTATION. Jason Jung, Manager, Technology Careers delivered presentation to S.U.C.C.E.S.S New Westminster clients regarding the ITP Program. Other presentations will be scheduled shortly in New Westminster and Richmond.

TECHNOLOGY ROUNDTABLES. The CNC Roundtable has manifested itself into a collaborative working group looking at 'technical and engineering education' in northern BC. ASTTBC has contributed funding for the project. ASTTBC and CNC are interested in seeing that technology education issues are fully addressed as the top priority for the group.

Another roundtable has been arranged for Campbell River, a joint initiative of North Island College and MISTIC. This has been arranged for June 6. Another will be arranged for Nanaimo, partnering again with MISTIC and in this case with Malaspina University.

Several industry, economic and chamber of commerce folk met together with Okanagan College Vice President and me in April. Further meeting lined up for June all heading toward a major roundtable in fall 2008.

Other roundtables likely in Kamloops, Victoria, Nanaimo, Fort St John, Prince Rupert and Nelson.

TELUS. We continue to process applications from Telus employees. Conducted information sessions as needed and continue tracking with senior staff.. We expect that all appropriate TELUS employees will have applied by summer 2008.

YWCA ITP PRESENTATION. Jason Jung, Manager, Technology Careers represented ASTTBC and delivered presentation to YWCA North Vancouver, Employer Services Department and clients about the ITP (AScT Provisional) program on March 26. 13 people attended and learned about the ITP program and how to become provisionally certified. Very successful meeting met with much support from Client Services. We will continue developing a relationship with the YWCA to promote careers in technology and promote the ITP program. Richard Myers from the YWCA was an attendee at the Roundtable held at the Wosk Centre in October 2007.

Relations with other Associations

ASTTBC interacts, as appropriate given the circumstances, with other professional associations. ASTTBC links with these associations in a variety of ways, in order to most effectively meet the requirements of the ASTT Act and to generally serve the public interest.

ABC FP Annual General Meeting was held on February 20-22 at the Penticton Trade & Convention Centre. As the ASTTBC Council Meeting was during the same time, the ASTTBC President and ED were not available to attend.

ABCLS Annual General Meeting was held on February 28-29 at the Grand Okanagan Resort in Kelowna. President Heisler attended and was warmly welcomed. ASTTBC is seeking a meeting with the ABCLS Executive.

AIBC Annual General Meeting was held on April 24-26 at the Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre. ASTTBC was not invited this year.

ASET Annual General Meeting was held on March 14-15 in Alberta. President Heisler & ED John Leech attended.

BCOSSA Annual General Meeting was held on March 14-16 at the Coast Hotel, Langley. A well attended event. ASTTBC had a booth during the tradeshow and connected with many ROWP members and others from industry. Associate Registrar John Shortreid and Manager, Technology Careers Jason Jung attended.

BOABC Annual General Meeting was held April 20-23 at the Grand Okanagan Resort in Kelowna. ASTTBC had booth and representation during the conference.

CEBC LIAISON. ASTTBC was a Platinum Sponsorship for the 2008 CEBC awards. ASTTBC President Darrin Heisler served on the CEBC Awards Selection Committee. Darrin and Executive Director attended the Awards Gala. ASTTBC and CEBC Executive plan a joint meeting in June.

OACETT Annual General Meeting will be held on May 28-31 in Niagara Falls Ontario. President Heisler and Executive Director John Leech will be attending.

SAFERHOME. ASTTBC was awarded 'Partner of the Year' from SAFERhome Society. Cross promotional activities continue to be explored by both ASTTBC and SAFERhome. Final details regarding BCIPI Inspectors becoming SAFER Certified on pending. It is anticipated that this certification program will be launched shortly.

GOAL #5 – MEMBER SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT & SERVICES DIRECTORY. ASTTBC's Annual Report and Services Directory is published this year as an insert in ASTT NEWS, a decision driven by the plan to design and produce a 'corporate monograph' as part of ASTTBC's 50th Anniversary. The Member Services section, which forms an integral part of the Annual Directory, will be published as a stand-alone brochure in the fall of 2008.

ASTT e-NEWS. ASTT e-News continues to be broadcast monthly with an average of 20 timely articles per issue. It is sent to members and stakeholders. A recent issue brought the following comment *“Was talking to Richard Bushey at BOABC and he brought up how great he thought our eNews looks and that he might steal our format it looks so good.”*

ASTT NEWS. Issue #122 will be mailed to members in the first week of May. The focus is on ‘Making a Difference’ and announced 2008 as ASTTBC’s 50th anniversary year, plus included ASTTBC’s Annual Report for 2007, a first time ‘employer profile’ on Metro Testing and other new features. Renewed interest by HR placement agencies saw more recruitment ads in this issue. The lead article is a message from BC’s Premier Gordon Campbell. The government writer for the Premier’s article sent the following message to ASTTBC *“Thank you so very much for your kind note John. Speaking and emailing with Ted was a pleasure. He has a sixth sense and a deft touch! He understood what information I needed well before I did.”* This issue of ASTT News continues the trend toward more human interest articles and enhanced use of photography. Inserts include: ASTTBC AGM registration form and a reprint of the CTEN brochure.

CORPORATE MONOGRAPH. Preliminary work is underway to develop design concepts for a top-level corporate brochure for general use that tells ‘The ASTTBC Story’. Inaugural publication of this new ASTTBC brochure is planned for the fall of 2008 and will be distributed at the Awards & Recognition Celebration.

MEMBER MEETINGS. Meetings held in Kelowna on March 6th and over 65 Members attended. A Member Breakfast Meeting was also held in Kamloops on March 11th with over 35 Members attending. Additional Member Meetings are scheduled for May 13th in Victoria and June 17th in Nanaimo.

MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY. Results have been compiled for the general member survey and layout of the final report is in progress. Copies of the full report will be provided to Council and will be posted on the ASTTBC web site.

PR AND RELATED ARTICLES. A member profile on Darrin Heisler, ASCT, and an editorial article were produced/written for the BCIT Alumni Ambassador newsletter. Photography was done for the PNWER event with Minister Coleman; the TECC Board meeting with Minister Coell; the WoodWorks Catapult Competition; BCIT Ambassador; various ASTT News articles.

Member Services

AFFINITY PROGRAMS. Development of annual marketing plans for ASTTBC’s affinity programs are nearing completion. Through the course of negotiation with affinity partners, it became clear that, while most are doing well, there is a need to revisit some of the affinity programs.

CPD PROGRAM. CPD or PDCs (Professional Development Credits) certificate design being finalized with first use being for members who attend the ASTTBC AGM in May 2008.

GENERAL. Meetings were held with representatives from Cityfone and from TD Meloche Monnex (now TD Insurance). An email promotion was conducted with TD Insurance, members who requested home insurance quotes received free movie tickets supplied by TD Insurance.

JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES. ASTTBC is ‘dusting off’ the previously published and highly successful booklet that was produced to assist new graduates and techs looking for work with job search techniques and strategies.

PLAYLAND AND PNE GROUP DISCOUNTS. Negotiated group discounts for both Playland 2008 and PNE 2008. Information will be sent to the membership regarding the group discount program.

VANCOUVER ARTS CLUB THEATRE. ASTTBC is participating in the Corporate Membership Program at the VACT. It gives ASTTBC members exclusive access to previews along with a 20% discount on regular ticket prices.

Institutes - Special Certification Programs

BCIPI. February 21, 2008 BCIPI held their Annual General Meeting. A productive meeting of the BCIPI Board and membership included two excellent CPD workshops, the first on Structural Concrete Solutions by Grant Molsberry of Mainland Concrete Lifters, and the second by Ulrich Janisch, Electrical Safety Officer for WorkSafe BC who presented Electrical Panel Inspections. The new BCIPI Board was elected at that AGM. Recently Bruce Allan, CHI, resigned from the position of the President of BCIPI due to time commitments. Certification Policy is ready and will be presented to Council for review and approval. President Darrin Heisler, Manager, Technology Careers, Jason Jung and Executive Director John Leech attended for portions of the meeting.

BDIBC. Council has agreed to re-constitute BDIBC and will be appointing a committee in the near term to decide best approach in reaching out to members.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY. Work continues to further ramp up services for CSO/TSC members. Further progress expected before year end. ASTTBC is approaching the 100 attendees at fall workshop to recruit those who expressed an interest in getting certified.

FIRE PROTECTION. Work plan now drafted and communications program being re-vitalized.

FOREST MEASUREMENTS REGISTRATION BOARD. Discussions continue about transferring the program from ASTTBC to ABCFP.

ONSITE WASTEWATER. New public information brochures drafted and will be published and distributed by the end of May. Additional brochures planned. All will be posted to www.

SDIBC. Held their Annual General Meeting on March 12, 2008. An excellent turnout of members to take on the business session and CPD workshop on Welding Symbols by Pat Newhouse of the Canadian Welding Bureau. Ken Mussato, RSD is continuing on for one more year as President. The SDIBC Board recruited over 10 non-members to attend as well as 20 SDIBC Members. Manager, Technology Careers Jason Jung attended the meeting.

GOAL #6 – TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION & CAREERS

Career Awareness and Liaison - General

BC INNOVATION COUNCIL. ASTTBC was represented at the Richmond District Science Fair at Aberdeen Mall in Richmond, BC on March 13th by Jason Jung and Wendy Lawson. It was a very successful event and ASTTBC had great exposure to both high school students and other technology awareness groups in attendance. ASTTBC continues to develop a relationship with the BCIC and plans on attending several more events with the BCIC which has been extremely active in awarding scholarships to students who plan on attending technology programs at post secondary institutes. While they are offering scholarships to degree seekers, they are also beginning to heavily promote pathways to technology careers by offering similar financial assistance to those attending BCIT or a technical college.

BIG LITTLE SCIENCE CENTRE (BLSC). ASTTBC continues as an active sponsor and supporter of BLSC. ASTTBC has renewed sponsorships for 2008, totaling about \$4,500. This includes a general sponsorship of \$2,500 plus sponsorship of three science days and the BLSC newsletter.

BLSC OPEN HOUSE. ASTTBC was asked to place its booth at the spring Open House. Attending for ASTTBC were Community Representative, Tony Walters, CTech, Lyle Killough, AScT, and Don Graham. Due to the 'give-aways' the booth got a lot of attention.

KELOWNA SD#23 CAREER EXPO. ASTTBC was invited by the Kelowna school district to deliver a keynote speech and participate in delivering three technology career workshops at their recent Career Expo held March 11, 2008. This event was aimed at over 300 students from various area high schools and intended for them to get exposure to great career opportunities in technology fields. Jason Jung, AScT attended and delivered both the keynote as well as the workshops which were very well received.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY WEEK (NTW) 2008. NTW will be held this year from November 3-7. ASTTBC continues to participate on the NTW steering committee giving BC input on national initiatives to promote careers in technology. There are a number of initiatives ASTTBC will participate in several association initiatives around the province along with several events slated on a national level. Details are being discussed and are not anticipated to be ready for launch until summer.

OSTEC Awards Dinner was held on April 10th at the Coast Capri, Kelowna. ASTTBC was a sponsor for this event. Bruce Stevens, AScT attended as the ASTTBC Representative.

SCIENTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS (SIS). ASTTBC members were invited in February to join a workshop in Nanaimo to learn how to engage as a SIS. This is a very successful program sponsored by Science World.

SKILLS CANADA REGIONAL COMPETITION – CAMOSUN. ASTTBC sponsored and attended the event which again involved pasta and bridges.

SPAGHETTI BRIDGE CONTEST – OKANAGAN COLLEGE. Once again ASTTBC was the prime sponsor of the contest. John Leech was on hand, greatly supported by Community Representative, Henry Murphy, AScT and Bruce Stevens, AScT.

WOOD WORKS! CATAPULT CONTEST. ASTTBC was prime sponsor at \$1,500. Brad Walton AScT, RFPT attended and was judge. Winner was a team of carpentry students from North Island College, 'The Knights Who Say NIC'. The prize monies will purchase and engrave a good quality adjustable square, put \$250 into a needy student fund and leave enough to help fund the grad party,

Marketing, PR and FEAT

ASTTBC DISPLAY BOOTH. Continued to be booked regularly for career fairs, annual meetings, tradeshow, and other awareness events.

FEAT.

a) Cheques for FEAT bursaries were provided to BCIT and the colleges (\$7,000 to BCIT; \$1,000 each to Okanagan College, Kwantlen, TRU, Camosun, VCC and Selkirk). Selkirk was a new addition this year. CNC currently has no students in an accredited technology program and the FEAT Board suspended the bursary to CNC this year. BCIT and the colleges have been asked to acknowledge ASTTBC instead of FEAT to clarify/strengthen student linkage with ASTTBC.

b) Solicitation of applications for 'direct' ASTTBC/FEAT bursaries is currently underway. \$11,000 will be awarded including the ASTTBC/BC Hydro bursaries; ASTTBC/TD Insurance bursaries; the Wade Wicks Memorial Bursary and a high school bursary.

GOAL #7 – PUBLIC POLICY

Building Standards

GREEN BUILDING CODE. The BC Government has held consultations and is now moving ahead with changes to the BC Building Code to address the 'green agenda'. ASTTBC has had involvement in the development of the new Code, tabled in the Legislature this spring.

MODERNIZATION PROJECT. The Modernization Project continues at a steady pace. The Green Building Code is a priority at this time.

Economic Development and Employment

BC BUSINESS COUNCIL EMPLOYER FORUM. ASTTBC was approached by a member involved with this Forum. We have agreed to get involved. Brian Brown, ASCT, CRSP, CHSC, CCEP, Environmental, Health and Safety Consultant, Free Spirit Ventures, Prince George, will represent ASTTBC interests with the Forum. Details at the September meeting of Council.

CCPE – CCTT LABOUR MARKET STUDY. ASTTBC is taking an active role in this national study sponsored by HRSDC and delivered by CCPE and CCTT. To date over 500 members have responded. A special focus group was convened together with APEGBC. ASTTBC representatives included: Craig Crawford, Vice President BC Housing; Robert Terris, ASCT; Bernie Jebson, ASCT; Keith Switzer, ASCT; Graham Wickham, ASCT; Tim Murphy, ASCT; and Brad Walton, ASCT.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION (PNWER) is convening regular organizational meetings in preparation for the 2008 Summit to be held in Vancouver. ASTTBC is a sponsor and also assisting by organization associations as partners of, and contributors to, PNWER.

PNWER LUNCH. ASTTBC sponsored a special lunch for PNWER at which Minister John van Dongen, Vice President, PNWER, was the Guest Speaker. PNWER Executive Director Matt Morrison attended as did staff from Minister's office. ASTTBC representation included President Darrin Heisler, Secretary Treasurer Bill MacPherson, Executive Director, John Leech and ASTTBC staff Cindy Aitken, Ted Nodwell and Richard Mayer.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION & CAREERS COUNCIL held a pre-launch meeting with Minister Coell. Official launch now set for June 3, 2008 at Science World.

First Nations

FIRST NATIONS TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL. ASTTBC is launching a special group of ASTTBC members and others who will provide ASTTBC input to the growth and development of technology education and careers in First Nations communities. The group has met several times by conference call and will hold its first face-to-face meeting at the time of the AGM.

Government Liaison

BC CABINET MINISTERS. Recent formal meetings, correspondence and informal exchanges: Shirley Bond, Premier Campbell, Murray Coell, Rich Coleman, Colin Hansen, and John van Dongen.

BC MLA LIAISON. Continued communications with MLAs to introduce them to issues of interest to ASTTBC. Sent report on Roundtable on Technology Skills II and other information.

BC LEGISLATIVE SESSION. The spring session is scheduled to end on May 29, 2008. Every indication is there will not be a fall session. The next election is May 2009.

BC MPs. Regular communication with BC MPs. Recent letter sent copy of report on Roundtable on Technology Skills II. Good feedback.

Immigration & Internationally Trained

CHINA VISIT RE TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION & CAREERS. ASTTBC plans to join a delegation going to China this fall to learn more about their technical education and careers. OACETT is organizing.

Sustainability Agenda

TechGREEN. Logo design for ASTTBC's sustainability program completed with development work in progress on the TechGREEN web site. A 'soft launch' of this program will take place at the Association's AGM in late May.

Technology Education & Careers

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS 2020. Draft plan is nearing completion and will be tabled with Minister and TECC at the launch of TECC

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION & CAREERS COUNCIL (TECC). The launch of TECC is now set for June 3 at Science World. The Board is in place, logo has been designed and work plan being developed.

GOAL #8- GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

50th ANNIVERSARY. Design work complete for ASTTBC's '50th' logo and derivatives for promoting the half-century milestone. Numerous events and/or initiatives are either in progress or will be rolled out through 2008. The ASTTBC web site, stationery and business forms, a commemorative plaque, etc., will carry the 50th logo.

ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Friday, May 23rd at the Coast Hotel, Langley. We will be launching our 50th Anniversary at this event. Dr. Moura Quayle, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education will be our Luncheon Speaker and we have lined-up a special presentation on 'Celebrating ASTTBC Excellence!' by Stuart Ellis Myers of Uniquely Speaking. The day will also include the ASTTBC AGM Business Session and 4 Breakout Sessions.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION CELEBRATION. The ASTTBC Awards & Recognition Celebration is scheduled for October 25, 2008. With this being the 50th anniversary and with CCTT convening its AGM at the same time we are expecting 400+ in attendance.

FINANCES. Statement and Report to Council to end of March 2008. On track with Budget.

WORKPLAN 2008. On track with the targets set for 2008. A full report will be presented to Council at the September meeting.