

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – (#43)

For January 27, 2005 Council Meeting

(Covering the Period November 5, 2004 – January 14, 2005)

INTRODUCTION

This reporting period is short given the holiday season. In addition to wrapping up 2004 and setting the stage for 2005, staff report accomplishments in registrations, practice, fundraising and public relations.

“Another friend, another door; another foe, another wall.” -- Chinese proverb

GOAL #1 – ASTT ACT

ACT & REGULATIONS TASK FORCE. This issue of practice rights and limitations within the broad field of ‘engineering’ remains a crucial issue for ASTTBC... and between ASTTBC and APEGBC. There is, I trust, an interest on the part of APEGBC to work with ASTTBC to come to an understanding / agreement(s) re the scope of practice for ASSTTBC-registered technology professionals. THIS ISSUE, more than any other, will continue to be a challenge for the two associations until agreements / understandings are concluded.

To ensure a better understanding of the scope of practice of ASTTBC members, it is critical that the association better define the scope or practice of ASTTBC-registered professionals, ideally through the *ASTT Act...* or other legislation that might be developed in conjunction with APEGBC and / or others. Given that there is little likelihood of legislative change in the near term I approached legal counsel with the request that he draft changes to the *ASTT Regulations* to better define ASTTBC members’ scope of practice. The current definition is valid but does not go far enough in scoping out the broad limits of practice within ‘engineering’. This work continues and will be ready for presentation to Council this spring.

In addition to practice issues I reviewed with MAVED staff and subsequently with the ASTTBC Officers the MAVED expectation that ‘lay representatives’ will be appointed to ASTTBC Council. While this requires legislative change, it is possible to consider lay appointees the near term, although they would not have a vote as one must be a ‘member’ to be on Council. I asked legal counsel to draft changes to the Regulations to get us started and this will be brought to Council on March 31, 2005.

GOAL #2 – PROFESSION & REGULATION

Engineering Technology – ASTTBC - APEGBC Relations

ASTTBC – APEGBC MERGER CALLED OFF. The two associations have agreed to call of the proposed merger. The APEGBC Council passed a resolution at the Nov 20, 2004 meeting stating that Council does not wish to pursue a merger as this is not in the best interest of APEGBC members. ASTTBC Council discussed developments on November 27, 2004 and reached the conclusion that the merger will not go ahead. The two Presidents signed (December 2, 2004) a joint statement acknowledging this development. *SEE COUNCIL ACTION AGENDA.*

RELEASE FROM MERGER MOU. In the process of working on the merger the two associations signed a MOU re how we would do business during merger discussions. Council is being asked to release APEGBC from the MOU. *SEE COUNCIL ACTION AGENDA*

MERGER INTEGRATION TASK FORCE (MITF). Given that the proposed merger has been called off there is a need to 'disband' the MITF. *SEE COUNCIL ACTION AGENDA.*

ASTTBC INFORMS MEMBERS THAT MERGER CALLED OFF. On December 29, 2004 ASTTBC sent a broadcast email to all members. **(See attachment 2-1)**

ARTICLE IN *ASTT NEWS*. An article in the Fall issue of *ASTT NEWS* outlined where we were at with APEGBC as of the early part of last Fall. Since then the two associations have agreed to call off the proposed merger. **(See attachment 2-2)**

APEGBC INFORMS ITS MEMBERS. APEGBC sent a letter out to its members. **(See attachment 2-3)**

APEGBC CANCELS ASTTBC REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES. The APEGBC Council cancelled ASTTBC representation on APEGBC committees and boards, especially where this consideration was aligned with, and contributing to, the proposed merger.

APEGBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Nov/Dec 2004. The article references the decision made by AEGBC to call off the proposed merger. **(See attachment 2-4)**

APEGBC ARTICLE RE MERGER. The attached article talks about the merger. **(See attachment 2-5)**

APEGBC PRESIDENT, D McJUNKIN, INTERVIEW. The new APEGBC President was interviewed in the recent issue of Innovation. **(See attachment 2-6)**

His comments include the following statements:

- a) *"What I do not support is a scope of practice for technologists and technicians. My problem with the "vision" statement is that it may infer the inclusion of a scope of practice for technologists and technicians as outlined in the merger proposal."*
- b) *"The most immediate steps.....come from a motion....to suspend active participation of ASTTBC and APEGBC in each other's committees that relate specifically to the merger."*
- c) *"We need to keep in mind that ASTTBC now includes many members who work in fields other than engineering."*
- d) *"..a great many technologists and technicians who work with APEGBC members have chosen not to belong to ASTTBC."*
- e) *"..we also need to recognize that most technologists and technicians, regardless of their membership (or lack of) in ASTTBC, are not interested in independent public practice."*
- f) *Re the Limited License... "I believe this designation is the most appropriate means of reconciling the legitimate needs of individual technologists, interested operating their own businesses, with society's - and APEGBC's - need for public safety."*

APEGBC & ASTTBC EXCHANGE REPS AT COUNCIL. The two associations continue to send reps to each other's meetings. A full agenda package is provided to each of the President and Executive Director.

ENGINEERING & GEOSCIENCE PROFESSIONALS ACT. APEGBC has advised that they are seeking administrative changes to their statute. ASTTBC has been advised that there will be no professional legislation in the Spring sitting of the BC Legislature. APEGBC will keep ASTTBC apprised of changes they propose for the Act.

PRACTICE GUIDELINES. During the merger discussions ASTTBC and APEGBC drafted 'Practice Guidelines' for Technologists providing independent services in Electrical, Geomatics, Mechanical, and Structural, with a statement of principles for Electronics and good progress on Civil. Late last Spring, ASTTBC sent to CCTT and sister associations in Canada for feedback. ASTTBC is still waiting for feedback on all but Electrical. The Guides remain on the ASTTBC web site with an explanation of current situation between ASTTBC and APEGBC. Once we have feedback ASTTBC will consider next step(s). The introductory statement on the web site has been revised to read:

During the discussions leading to a merger of ASTTBC and APEGBC the two associations developed Practice Guidelines to help clarify the scope of work of a Registered Engineering Technologist (RET), the title proposed for the technologist within a new legislative model. ASTTBC and APEGBC decided in November 2004 that the proposed merger should be called off. As a result 'joint' work has stopped on the DRAFT Practice Guidelines that are posted to the ASTTBC web site.

The purpose of these guidelines was to capture the CURRENT scope of work being carried out by ASTTBC-registered technologists. The intent of ASTTBC and APEGBC in developing the Guidelines was to clarify the scope of work that could be carried out by technologists 'without supervision', ie independently. ASTTBC believes it is essential that this work continue, ie to define the services that can be provided independently in the broad field of 'engineering' by AScTs and CTechs without violating the restricted practice of 'professional engineering'. The processes and time lines for developing these Guidelines has not been determined.

"We will keep you posted as this work continues."

Engineering Technology Practice - General

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY. ASTTBC will meet with BMETs early in the new year to map out an approach to enhancing professional recognition and practice.

LICENSED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL. There is still no word yet on the composition of LEP Practice Guidelines review committee. At least two members of ASTTBC have put their names forward to volunteer.

In November, 2004, ASTTBC met with Wally Brault (author of the LEP Framework draft); Glyn Fox (MWLAP) and Megan Begley (LEP secretariat c/o APEGBC) about our recommendations to the LEP Framework draft. In the revised Framework document of December 15, 2004 our recommendation to be included as one of the LEP 'Parent Organizations' was not approved at this time. In response to our comment that technologists were the only group singled out to get a Limited Licence before being eligible to apply for the LEP designation, it appears that the new draft, rather than removing this requirement, has 'upped' the requirements for other non-parent groups such as toxicologists. A more complete review of the new December 15 draft will be prepared and an ASTTBC action plan developed.

ASTTBC expects ASTTBC-registered professionals will be allowed to write the exams to acquire the LEP status. ASTTBC's proposed recognition is not being supported, it is apparent, by APEGBC staff and this, once again, puts the associations on 'opposite sides' of an issue. ASTTBC will continue to dialogue with the MWLAP. ASTTBC will also review this with APEGBC, CAB and BCIA.

Engineering Technology - OTHERS

CEBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. Glenn Martin, formerly with APEGBC, has joined CEBC as their new ED. (see attachment 2-7)

Forest Technology

TRANSFER OF TIMBER CRUISERS TO ABCFP. The ABCFP Voluntary Certification Task Force (VCTF) continues toward a recommendation re the future direction for 'voluntary certification' programs within ABCFP. The VCTF is now indicating it will not support an ASTTBC-like 'fully integrated' model and is moving forward with a model wherein the voluntary certification programs would be 'at-arms-length' from ABCFP. This is not what was originally envisaged by ASTTBC when provision was made for 'voluntary certification' within the Foresters Act. ASTTBC will have to see where this leads and then make some decisions as to its approach re the Timber Cruisers registered with ASTTBC. (See attachment 2-8 and also view VCTF report on www.abcfp.bc.ca)

MoF FOREST PLANNING & PRACTICES REGULATION. Late in the year ASTTBC became aware of a proposed new MoF Regulation in which certain professional associations and designated professionals are referenced as being able to sign component parts of the overall forest plan. One of the four areas covered is MAPPING, a field where THE technical / professional experts are technologists and technicians. Included in the Regulation were ABCFP, APEGBC, BCIA and CAB. NOT INCLUDE within the Regulation are ASTTBC, ASTTBC-registered professionals and RFTs. After learning a bit more about the Regulation I took the matter up with the Minister, with the hope that ASTTBC would be successful in securing inclusion of ASTTBC-registered professionals. After discussion with the Chief Forester and ABCFP Executive Director, Van Scoffield, I was convinced to drop ASTTBC's objections in the interest of this Regulation going forward. I received assurance from the Chief Forester that ASTTBC issues will be addressed early in the new year. I also indicated that ASTTBC's expectation is that the Regulation would be amended by April / May 2005 to include ASTTBC members. ASTTBC will continue to press for inclusion of ASTTBC members as there are serious consequences for those techs operating their own businesses in mapping. I will keep Council posted as we work on this file.

ABCFP ATTENDS ASTTBC COUNCIL AND TCCB MEETINGS. ABCFP continues to receive the full Agenda package, and, where available, to send a rep to the ASTTBC Council and Timber Cruising Certification Board (TCCB) meetings.

PROFESSIONAL RELIANCE TASK FORCE (PRTF). This group, including ABCFP, APEGBC, BCIA and CAB continue to take the position that ASTTBC should NOT be included in the group. YET, there are now a number of other trade and technical bodies represented on this group, which is working on matters pertaining to the broad implementation of professional reliance. Whereas this group started within the MoF it now appears to want to branch out into all areas of government as pertains to professional reliance. I have discussed this with the Chief Forester and he supports ASTTBC being added to the PRTF. ASTTBC will be approaching the current professional associations, the MoF and others to secure a seat for ASTTBC with this group.

Geomatics Technology

ABCLS – ASTTBC JOINT TASK FORCE. Nothing new to report. ASTTBC will present a 100 year anniversary plaque to CLSBC. (See attachment 2-9)

ADVERTISEMENT IN ‘LINKS’. We continue to run an advertisement in the ABCLS newsletter. (See attachment 2-10)

Architectural/Building Technology

AIBC-ASTTBC JOINT TASK FORCE (JTF). AIBC has developed and posted a new version of their proposed legislation, which includes technologists and technicians. The primary issue / concern with this initiative is that AIBC is moving ahead with THEIR AGENDA in spite of the fact that the AIBC – ASTTBC JTF has not completed its work and there is no agreement between ASTTBC and AIBC on the matter of techs being included. In addition the JTF has focused on a one act – one association model whereas the ToR clearly require the JTF to consider ‘new legislative and regulator models’. The ToR speak to the PURPOSE of the JTF as follows:

The purpose of the Task Force is to consider and bring forward recommendations regarding a new regulatory regime that will embrace all those practitioners providing architectural – building design services. In particular the Task Force will consider the need for:

- *Greater clarity of roles and responsibilities*
- *Increased public accountability*
- *New legislative and regulator models*

As the JTF has to date concentrated on a one act – one association model to this point, it is expected that the JTF WILL, in the near future, work on alternative approaches / models. Within the context of a modified Architects Act to include other design professionals, the JTF has addressed SAOME of the key issues but much work, even within this possible model, is to be done. For example, there is not agreement on: the scope of practice for a technologists; ASTTBC’s position that the definitions of practice must be within the Act and not addressed within the Bylaws; governance; and other significant matters. AIBC is not respecting the process as defined within the ToR and is marching ahead with its own agenda. I am very concerned that ASTTBC’s and, arguably, the public’s interests are not, at this time, being well served by the JTF.

CHBA(BC) SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. In a recent meeting with CHBA(BC) reps ASTTBC learned of CBHA’s program to register home builders and their support for new trades certification, including ‘residential framing technicians’. ASTTBC will meet with CHBA to consider areas of common interest and determine where we might work together. (See attachment 2-11)

GVHBA RENOVATION COUNCIL. The CHBA has reported on the work of the Renovation Council. (See attachment 2-12)

CCA & CIQS SIGN RECIPROTCITY AGREEMENT. An historic agreement has been signed by the Canadian Construction Association (a trade association) and Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (a professional association) to provide for recognition for CIQS members within the Gold Seal program. (See attachment 2-13)

Biological Technology

COLLEGE OF APPLIED BIOLOGY ACT. I promised to send to CAB a statement as to issues to be addressed. Time constraints have precluded this action, however hope to get rolling early in 2005.

AGROLOGISTS ACT. ASTTBC has connected with BCIA and plans to discuss future directions regarding the professional recognition of Agricultural techs. Meeting anticipated for early in 2005.

High Technology

ASTTBC SPONSORS 'TECHNOLOGY PROVIDER OF THE YEAR' AWARD AT TECH 2005. The organizers for Tech 2005 a business and industry trade show and forestry forum invited ASTTBC to sponsor an award this year. After reviewing the contribution we could make this year and well into the future I decided to accept the offer. This was a most worth while event and I am confident ASTTBC has much to offer in the future. During the time at the event I had the opportunity of meeting with Minister of Forests, Minister of Forest Planning and Minister of Mines as well as other MLAs and local officials. **(See attachments 2- 14 and 2-15)**

Building Officials

ASTTBC and BDIBC reps met recently with the President and Executive Director of BOABC. A number of issues discussed with agreement to meet again early in 2005.

General Practice & Liaison

SAFETY STANDARDS APPEAL BOARD. The new Appeal Board has been appointed. Techs with registration with ASTTBC are on that Board. **(See attachment 2-16 and www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/ssab/)**

INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES 'ACE IT' PROGRAM. The ITA issued a press release on a new program designed to get more people involved in industry training at an earlier age and to recognize the career options in trades. **(See attachment 2-17)**

ELECTRICAL SAFETY REGULATIONS. ASTTBC's request to have CTechs included within the Regulation was not approved. ASTTBC is taking this matter up with the MCAWS.

Institutes - Special Certification Programs

BCIPI. Strategic planning session convened with BCIPI members in December; a new President (Rob Hakesley, CTech, CPI) and Vice President (Gerry Goumans, CHI) were elected in January 2005; final arrangements nearing completion for BCIPI-sponsored BEST Seminars on 'Building Envelope Solutions, Theory & Practice' being delivered by BCIT with as 6 sessions through the coming year, concluding with a review/final exam; preliminary work continued on developing 'Best Practices' for certified house and property inspectors working with real estate agents, which will be endorsed by the Real Estate Council of British Columbia (RECBC), ASTTBC and BCIPI; work on proposed changes to the BCIPI Constitution & Bylaws have been deferred to mid-2005; liaison continues with CAHPI-BC, RECBC and other related industry organizations, and renewed liaison with the US-based National Association of Certified Home Inspectors (NACHI), following that association's push to establish a much stronger presence in Canada and BC; enhanced 'Contact an Inspector' feature on the BCIPI web site was launched and a good number of updates posted online; and, communications with members by way of email broadcasts remained steady through the November and December directing members to information posted on the BCIPI web site. ASTTBC also making connections with CAHPI(BC) re possible linkages and joint approach to professional regulation. **(See attachment 2-18)**

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY. Nothing new to report

FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION & TESTING. Wrote Minister of CAWS re Fire Protection. Also mentioned House Inspection. Will meet Minister later in January. Met with BC Fire Commissioner in December to review ASTTBC progress. Fire Commissioner's web page includes reference to ASTTBC. Courtenay has approved a new Bylaw requiring ASTTBC registration. **(See attachment 2-19)**

ONSITE WASTEWATER. The program was fully developed ready for launch January 1, 2005. A new brochure (with financial assistance from Ministry of Health) was designed, printed (10,000 copies) and distributed to all stakeholders with many copies provided to Health Authorities for their use in communicating the new program. Web site launched, database developed, logo and stationary, forms, professional stamp, etc all ready to go. Ministry of Health provided start-up funding to help launch the program. **(See attachment 2-20)**

ASTTBC to Speak at BCWWA AGM 2005. The BC Water and Waste Association has invited ASTTBC to speak about the Onsite Wastewater Program at their 1005 AGM. John Shorttreid will present.

PWIS. Newsletter published and distributed.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS SURVEYS. Nothing new to report.

SDIBC. Board met in November to review progress through 2004 and refine 2005 SDIBC Work Plan & Budget; meeting dates for 2005 Board meetings set. recognition.

TIMBER CRUISING. Web site launched for registrants in Timber Cruising; newsletter to be published in early 2005.

GOAL #3 – PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

This is a SEPARATE REPORT to Council.

GOAL #4 – MEMBER & EMPLOYER SERVICES

MEMBER SURVEY. On-line survey planned for early 2005.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION CELEBRATION. Held November 27, 2004. 150 volunteers and guests attended. A high profile event done to a high standard. The silent auction raised \$8,000 for FEAT.

ASTT NEWS. Issue #114 June-December, 2004 produced and mailed. Addition of e-news planned in 2005.

BROADCAST E-MAIL. 20 broadcast email messages were sent in the period Nov 7/04 – Jan 13/05. Five for BCIPI, 3 for BDIBC, 2 for Fire, 4 for ASTTBC specific disciplines, 2 for general ASTTBC news (e.g. merger called off), 2 for Awards & Recognition Celebration and 2 for chapters.

WEB SITES.

- a) ASTTBC:
 - Average number of VISITORS now over 400 per day, up from 365
 - Major revamp planned in 2005. It is anticipated this will include 'e-modules' as ASTTBC makes increasing use of the web to conduct its business and communications with members.
- b) OWRP: web site developed and activated
- c) TCCB: web site developed and activated
- d) BCIPI: CPD tracking section under development.

EMPLOYER LIAISON PROGRAM. Direct linkages on-going with BC Hydro and Telus. ELP Action Plan being developed.

CAREER ADS. The attached clippings are career ads in which employers support ASTTBC registration. *(See attachments 4-1 and 4-2)*

GOAL #5 – SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

FEAT.

- a) \$6,500 in bursaries has been paid out to BCIT and the Colleges for 2005 FEAT bursaries.
- b) Volunteers have been solicited for the FEAT Board for 2005.
- c) ‘Go FEAT First’ sports socks were given out at the Awards & Recognition Celebration and will be mailed to all donors who donated more than \$50 between Nov 1/04 and Feb 1/05.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION CELEBRATION. Members who attended this year’s upscale event described it as ‘fabulous’. Press releases with photos of award recipients being prepared for distribution to local papers where recipients reside.

AWARDS. Leaders’ Legacy announced at the ASTTBC Awards & Recognition Celebration, with design of award in the preliminary stages.

FEAT YEAR END MESSAGE / LETTER. The Foundation sent a special letter out to past donors and others. *(See attachment 5-1)*

ABCFP RECOGNIZES FEAT DONATION TO FORESTRUST. A letter from ABCFP (Oct 27, 2004) received acknowledging the \$10,000 donation to ABCFP ForesTrust. *(See attachment 5-2)*

VANCOUVER PROVINCE RE MINING CAREERS. An article published August 1, 2004 talked about careers in mining and cited salary info provided by ASTTBC. *(See attachment 5-3)*

OPEN DOOR CENTRE – PENTICTON. ASTTBC Community Rep Shaun Bovin AScT represented ASTTBC at a careers event. *(See attachment 5-4)*

GOAL #6 – ADMINISTRATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – DECEMBER 2004. The Report, with full comments, will be sent out to Council in March, once auditor has reviewed. Early indications are that we ended with a healthy surplus.

ANNUAL DUES INVOICES 2005. Mailed out beginning of December 2004. Letter from President included. *(See attachment 6-1)*

STAFF. Martin Mac Gregor, AScT, Director, Professional Standards increases to 4 days/week effective mid- January.

OFFICE & COMPUTERS. Completed upgrading hardware in 2004... workstations, laptops and server are all now upgraded. Purchased a new server, to be billed in 2005. Servers have been moved to their own locked room. Much of the previous gear dated to 1998 and the lease was paid out. Hardware purchases in 2005 should be nominal except for a few printers and unanticipated occurrences. In 2005, we will be upgrading AMSoft software and some ancilliary software. One additional office will be provided with new furniture early in 2005.

AScT/CTech RETENTION. Retention calling 2005 to conclude by mid-October with striking of members in early November and reinstatement of members who paid their annual dues prior to the November BoE meeting; final report for 2004 campaign pending.

SPECIAL CERTIFICATION RETENTION. Further notices distributed to members with unpaid 2004-2005 annual dues.

CLSBC 100th ANNIVERSARY. Special plaque produced to commemorate the Corporation's 100th Anniversary in 2005. Plaque presentation will be made at the CLSBC AGM in January 2005.

COMMUNICATIONS / IT. Future directions explored with respect to member and stakeholder communications, and approaches to be considered in developing a 'web enterprise' concept that would meet the Association's communication and marketing needs over the long-term.

HOLIDAY CARD. This year ASTTBC sent out a special e-card to all volunteers and folks with other organizations. (See attachment 6-2)

ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

'Forget a Job'... (See attachment 6-3)

'The Big Picture – British Columbians by the numbers'. (See attachment 6-4)

'ASTTBC Awards' – DOWCO newsletter. (See attachment 6-5)