

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – (#47)

For November 18, 2005 Council Meeting

(Covering the Period September 3 to October 31, 2005)

INTRODUCTION

ASTTBC is approaching year end with the 2005 Work Plan on target and, with a few known variables on target to meet 2005 Budget expectations. The 2006 Work Plan and budget have been approved and we have commenced working through the details of 'how' we will achieve same.

The 2005 Member Survey has been completed and is being compiled. A full report will be presented to Council on November 18 and put up on our web site for members to review. A summary will be published in the ASTT NEWS. ASTTBC continues to build on the momentum established at the Building Careers in Technology conference. A special 'action plan' is nearing completion and much work is going into promoting National Technology Week. New member services have been added and ASTTBC has recently paid off the mortgage on its building. Details of these and other initiatives are included in this Report

“One can never consent to creep when one feels the impulse to soar.”

Helen Keller, Author

GOAL #1 – ASTT ACT

ASTT Act and Regulations

ASTT REGULATIONS. Proposals for implementing the new *ASTT Regulations* dealing with the titles 'PTech' and RTMgr', definition of practice, reduced size of Council and the addition of public representatives to Council. All are on track for full implementation in 2006. Revisions to print publication and web document are underway to reflect changes in the *ASTT Regulations*, as ratified by members at the 2005 ASTTBC AGM.

ASTT ACT CHANGES. ASTTBC President Keith Switzer and I met with the Ministry of Advanced Education to review ASTTBC's proposal for changes to the *ASTT Act* and to consider future directions for the professional regulation of BC's technology professionals generally. Outcomes from the meeting included an indication that administrative and governance changes may be considered during the spring 2006 session of the BC Legislature with more substantive changes considered in 2007.

MAVED REVIEW OF PROFESSIONAL LEGISLATION. In my last report I reported that the Ministry of Advanced Education indicated it would, at the request of the Attorney General, undertake a complete review of professional legislation and regulation. I inquired as to whether this broad review will proceed and have been advised that there has been no further word as to the status of this proposed review.

GOAL #2 – PROFESSION & REGULATION

Professional Regulation and 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*”. Toward this end ASTTBC is active on a number of fronts to address this mandate. A brief update only is provided with this Report.

Relations with Other Professional Associations - General

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.

Professional Practice

Engineering Technology Practice

APEGBC is ‘the’ professional association with whom ASTTBC has the most significant working relationship. Practice issues currently being examined by APEGBC and ASTTBC include: APEGBC plans to appoint a special task force (ASTTBC is invited to appoint a representative) to review the Limited license issued by APEGBC under the *Engineers & Geoscientists Act*; and, rights to provide Type 3 system planning as a ‘professional’ under the Onsite Sewage Regulation. ASTTBC continues to dialogue with APEGBC regarding ASTTBC-registered technology professional’s rights to practice in the broad field of ‘engineering’ (which includes ‘professional engineering’ and ‘engineering technology’); the APEGBC – ABCFP joint agreement re ‘crossings’ (small and medium sized culverts and bridges in Forest applications); and, Licensed Environmental Professional program.

LICENSED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL. The Contaminated Sites Roster Steering Committee continues to work toward a new, separate association that will issue LEP certification. This approach is not supported by ASTTBC. We also understand APEGBC does not support the formation of a separate association for the purpose of certifying qualified practitioners. ASTTBC continues to raise this issue with the Ministry of Environment.

QUALIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL (QEP). Nothing new.

QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL (QP). Nothing new.

CROSSINGS AGREEMENT – ABCFP and APEGBC. I will meet with the Chief Forester and others in MoFR to discuss this issue. I have received expressions of concern from the field.

Engineering Technology - Other

APEGBC NEW PRESIDENT BOB ITO, PEng. Bob has assumed the position of President for 2005 – 2006. ASTTBC President Keith Switzer and I met with Bob and Past President Dennis McJunkin PEng and Executive Director & Registrar, Anne Garrett, PEng. APEGBC issued a press release. **(See attachment 2-1)**

CEBC LIAISON. ASTTBC has confirmed it will again provide ‘silver’ level sponsorship for the 2006 CEBC Awards. ASTTBC hopes to further develop our working relationship with CEBC in the year(s). ASTTBC receives a copy of CEBC’s e-newsletter. **(See attachment 2-2)**

DALE CHURCHILL ASCT RECEIVES CCTT AWARD. I am pleased to report that Dale will receive the CCTT National Achievement Award at the CCTT AGM in November. (See attachment 2-3)

ASTTBC REPORT TO BPAC. I submitted a report to the Building Policy Advisory Committee, a Committee that reports directly to the Minister of Forest & Range and Minister Responsible for Housing. John Schlosser ASCT, RBD is the ASTTBC representative on BPAC. (See attachment 2-4)

Electronics/Information Technology

Leading Edge BC – George Hunter, CEO for LEBC is being presented with Honorary Membership in ASTTBC in recognition of his contribution to the growth and development of BC's high tech sector. ASTTBC is pursuing various linkages with the High Tech Sector as part of our revitalized ELP.

Forest Technology Practice

TIMBER CRUISERS. Now incorporated within the FMRB. There are a number of initiatives in the works to enhance the professional status and recognition of Timber Cruisers (ATE and ATC).

BC TIMBER SALES – I met recently with the managers of BCTS to talk about their support for ASTTBC registration in timber cruising as an ATE or ATC. Favourably received. I expect to hear from BCTS shortly.

ASTTBC – ABCFP AGREEMENT RE FMRB – ASTTBC is working on a draft agreement with ABCFP that will see BOTH associations with responsibility for governing this area of technical specialist certification in forest measurements. It is anticipated that the draft I prepared will be returned by ABCFP in time for the proposal to be finalized and ready for ASTTBC Council to approve at the November 18 meeting.

MoF FOREST PLANNING & PRACTICES REGULATION. Nothing new. I will meet with MoFR Chief Forester and others to discuss this issue.

PROFESSIONAL RELIANCE TASK FORCE. ASTTBC continues to seek representation on / be informed on the Professional Reliance Task Force.

MoFR FOREST TECHNOLOGIST TASK FORCE - I raised a number of points regarding the report of the TF. This reviewed several months ago with the Chief Forester, ADM Operations and others in MoFR. A meeting has been arranged to review the MoFR response to the points raised.

Geomatics Technology Practice

ABCLS – ASTTBC JOINT TASK FORCE. Nothing new.

ADVERTISEMENT IN ABCLS 'LINKS'. ASTTBC advertises in the ABCLS newsletter.

Architectural/Building Technology Practice

AIBC-ASTTBC JOINT TASK FORCE (JTF). The JTF met informally to consider status of discussions, which have been 'in limbo' for over half a year. The informal meeting agreed the two associations should continue the work of the JTF, to the point of reporting to the two Councils. A meeting date is set for the end of November.

The Building Designers Institute of BC (BDIBC), an institute within ASTTBC, convened a special panel at their AGM in September to address the topic 'A New Era in Building regulation'. Panelists included: Vice President, AIBC; the Director, Building Policy Branch, BC Government; President Canadian Home Builders Association of BC; rep from Building Officials Association of BC; and, the incoming President of BDIBC. A most informative session with all participants acknowledging that there is a real need to address shortcomings in the current regulatory regime.

Biological Technology

COLLEGE OF APPLIED BIOLOGY. In addition to introducing our concerns with Ministry of Forest and Range staff, ASTTBC has asked for a meeting with the Minister to discuss the integration of biology technicians and technologists within the CAB in addition to a number of other issues of interest / concern to ASTTBC.

BC INSTITUTE OF AGROLOGISTS. Nothing new.

Building Officials

BOABC. ASTTBC reps from BDIBC and I met recently with the BOABC at which we covered a number of topics including ASTTBC's interest in being directly involved with the BOABC-lead training program on the new BC Building Code, expected in fall 2006. Other topics included ASTTBC's position re the roles and responsibilities and scope of practice of designers and officials.

General Practice & Liaison

ASSOCIATION COALITION. ASTTBC and several other associations will meet again within the next month to continue general discussions on topics of mutual interest.

Government Appointments, Legislation & General Liaison

MLA LIAISON. I wrote to all MLAs advising of several points of interest: *Building Careers in Technology* conference – outcomes report; plans to revitalize TechWORKS!; development of 'Shaping Our Future', an action plan to be published in November; and *National Technology Week*. I sent each a copy of an ASTTBC advertorial in *Business in Vancouver* and a copy of Jay Ingram's book, 'The Velocity of Honey'. (See **attachment 2-5**)

MLA MEETINGS. I have arranged a number of meetings with MLAs.

MP LIAISON. The letter sent to MLAs as noted above was adapted for all BC MPs. (See **attachment 2-6**)

CABINET MINISTERS. I wrote to several Cabinet Ministers asking for a meeting. A meeting with the Minister of Advanced education has been arranged for November and other meetings are in the works.

IMMIGRATION PROJECT. ASTTBC is preparing a contract proposal for HRSDC to assist with the integration of new immigrants into the BC work force. The proposal will see submitted in November. See earlier reports.

Institutes - Special Certification Programs

BCIPI. Gerry Goumans, CHI, elected as the new President, to take over for Rob Hakesley, CTech, CPI; dialogue between ASTTBC/BCIPI and CAHPI(BC) on matters of common interest, in particular, regulation of the industry in a manner that better serves the public interest, is being pursued but is not being well received by CAHPI(BC); brief prepared by ASTTBC on 'Professional Regulation of House Inspectors', as submitted to the BC Homeowner Protection Office (HPO), distributed to the BCIPI Board for information and further input as the attention is being drawn to the need to get on with industry regulation; initial draft of 'Best Practices' guidelines being developed jointly with the Real Estate Council of British Columbia (RECBC) has been circulated for review and feedback from members of the task group; monitoring the use of protected ASTTBC terms and titles by third parties: 'Certified Home Inspector' and 'CHI' continues; continuing professional development for members is nearing completion with one session remaining in November for 'Building Envelope Solutions: Theory & Practice (BEST) Seminars', a six-session technical series sponsored by BCIPI being delivered at BCIT, plus a final review and exam; modest revisions made to the BCIPI web site; and, an information kit is currently being developed by BCIPI for general/recruitment purposes. ...

CAHPI(BC) RELATIONS. BCIPI President Gerry Goumans and I wrote to CAHPI(BC) to express a sincere interest in working TOGETHER to enhance the professional regulation of all house and property inspectors. (See attachment 2- 7)

VAN SUN ARTICLES RE HOUSE INSPECTORS. The Vancouver Sun ran a number of articles and the attached editorial (October 21) on the issue of house inspections. I wrote an op-ed piece in the topic and this was published October 25. (See attachment 2-8 & 2-9)

CKNW INTERVIEW RE HOUSE INSPECTIONS – As a result of the Van Sun op-ed piece I was interviewed on by CKNW at about 6:50am Friday, October 28. In the interview I referenced ASTTBC's role as the association responsible for the professional regulation of house and property inspectors and commented on the concern about 'buyer beware' because of the lack of required licensing for house and property inspectors. I also referenced CAHPI(BC) as another organization working to ensure a standard of care for those providing services as a house inspector.

BDIBC. The BDIBC hosted a most successful AGM on September 16 – 17 in Kelowna. The programme was strong, likely one of the best ever. Highlights included a lunch presentation by MLA Al Horning; dinner presentation by the Kelowna Mayor; and, a PANEL including reps from BDIBC, CHBA(BC), BOABC, AIBC and the Director, Building Policy Branch. A special plaque was unveiled commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Association of Professional Building Designers (CAPBD), now BDIBC. Updating of a downloadable registrants list and modest changes to pages on the BDIBC web site were completed. Advertising placed in local Kelowna newspaper to promote the professional building designer, in general, and the BDIBC Annual General Meeting. (See attachments 2-10 & 2-11)

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY. Nothing new.

FIRE PROTECTION. Larry Barker prepared a draft work plan for 2006; revisions to *Fire Protection Practice Guidelines* completed and forwarded to PRB for consideration; draft letters to various municipalities encouraging enactment of Bylaw; letter to the Director, Building Policy re the issue and request for adding certification requirement within the BC Fire Code; and letter to the Minister raising the issue and asking for a meeting to discuss.

FOREST MEASUREMENTS REGISTRATION BOARD (FMRB). The FMRB continues to consider next step(s) as it establishes its foundation as a new registration body.

ONSITE WASTEWATER. Updates and supporting documents posted in the OWRP web site; further refinement of information to be included and final format of web page is necessary prior to posting a searchable Registrants list on the OWRP web site.

PWIS. Nothing new.

SDIBC. SDIBC Board wishes to link with members re future directions. ASTTBC staff trying to find the most appropriate and effective means.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS SURVEYS. Nothing new.

TIMBER CRUISING. See FMRB re changes to the Timber Cruising Certification Board.

GOAL #3 – PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

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

GOAL #4 – MEMBER & EMPLOYER SERVICES

ASTTBC AWARDS & RECOGNITION CELEBRATION. This annual high-profile event will be held NOVEMBER 19, 2005 at the Renaissance Vancouver Hotel. Guest speaker will be the Hon. Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education. *All Council members are urged to attend.* Volunteers, award recipients, special guests and spouses attend at no charge in appreciation of their support and assistance. This year we also promoted to the general membership that they could attend for \$75 each.

ASTTBC MEMBER SURVEY. The on-line Member Survey was open for responses between September 15 and October 15. 977 electronic responses were received and 113 by fax or mail; total of 1090. *(A verbal report will be provided to Council at this meeting).*

ASTT NEWS. Final issue of the newsletter for 2005 will be published as 8 pages to accommodate increase in editorial content, with distribution to members by mid November. It will include articles on ASTTBC strategic directions, the new PTech/RTManager titles, the careers conference outcomes and National Technology Week activities. Inserts highlight a number of money-saving member services and Errors & Omissions insurance. Numerous inserts for ASTTBC's affinity partners and the 'Shaping Our Future' brochure.

ASTT E-NEWS. An electronic newsletter is anticipated early in 2006 based on feedback from the Member Survey. This will replace most broadcast e-mails.

AFFINITY PARTNER AGREEMENTS FOR MEMBER SERVICES. During the summer a concerted effort was placed on adding and reviewing/renewing existing services that add value to holding registration with ASTTBC. Web pages with hotlinks have been added to the ASTTBC web site and inserts will be going with ASTT News for: Marks Work Warehouse; Hertz; Meetingmax (on-line hotel reservations) and general insurance.

'BUILDING CAREERS IN TECHNOLOGY' CONFERENCE OUTCOMES REPORT. The Outcomes Report from the 'Building Careers in Technology' strategic planning conference that was held in conjunction with ASTTBC's AGM in June, 2005 has been posted on the ASTTBC web site. Conference delegates, Deans and other key stakeholders were advised.

BROADCAST E-MAIL. ASTTBC sent 24 broadcast e-mail messages in the period Sept 2 to Oct 24/05. This is double the normal frequency and runs the risk of recipient fatigue. Subjects included the Awards & Recognition Celebration; the careers conference outcomes report; National Technology Week activities; and a request for FEAT donations through the United Way.

WEB SITES. Average number of VISITORS to the ASTTBC web site increased from 375 to 400 per day. During the remainder of 2005 ASTTBC will engage in a planning exercise to revamp our web site to ensure our approach meets the differing needs of members, potential members, students, other stakeholder groups and the general public (e.g. in reaching various practitioners in the technical specialist groups).

EMPLOYER LIAISON PROGRAM

- a) BC Hydro. A meeting was held to explore opportunities for tapping into foreign-trained tech's to address the anticipated skills shortage. This builds on preliminary work done at the Building Careers In Technology conference.
- b) Terasen. A meeting was held with the Engineering Services department to discuss how ASTTBC can assist with an anticipated skills shortage and the career development and roles and recognition of techs within Terasen.

BCIT LIAISON. We have developed a 90-day Action Plan and continue working on a longer term approach to enhancing ASTTBC visibility on campus. Awareness, services and student recruitment are the three outcomes expected with this initiative. Details with the next Report.

BCIT ALUMNI. ASTTBC is working to enhance awareness with the BCIT graduates and will do this in part through an information campaign through the BCIT Alumni. We submitted an article on 'Professional Recognition' and will place two half page advertisements in the Alumni Ambassador (newsletter), fall 2005 issue. One of the ads will feature ASTTBC President Keith Switzer and the article with profile John Leech and ASTTBC's work to achieve professional recognition. Advertising and further editorial features also planned for spring 2006, and fall 2006. A long term relationship is being considered.

CAREER ADS. ASTTBC monitors career ads. (See attachments 4-1)

GOAL #5 – SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

SHAPING OUR FUTURE – Building Careers in Technology. Following on the heels of the careers conference, ASTTBC will publish a special paper outlining key strategies and action steps to encourage 'forward motion' on the promising practices and potential solutions identified during the course of the conference. The document will be distributed to ASTTBC members with the fall issue of ASTT News. This 'call to action' brochure will also be distributed to key stakeholders including MLAs, BC MPs, industry and association leaders, educators and conference delegates. A special web page will also be posted to facilitate e-distribution to a broader audience.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY WEEK. ASTTBC activities planned:

- a) Posting the Outcomes Report of the Building Careers in Technology conference on the ASTTBC web site.
- b) Developing the 'Shaping Our Future' call-to-action around careers in technology
- c) Publishing articles on both the careers conference and on National Technology Week in ASTT News
- d) Sending broadcast emails to members with a list of suggested activities developed by CCTT
- e) Partnering with BCIT for a full page in the Vancouver Sun and Province on careers in technology
- f) Mailing the 'Velocity of Honey' science book to all MLA's
- g) Developing a draft MOU with Skills Canada – BC Chapter

Details with the next ED Report.

CHINESE DELEGATION VISITS ASTTBC. An 18-member delegation from the China Association for Science and Technology will visit ASTTBC in early November to learn how we approach certification, regulation and career development. Volunteers from SUCCESS will assist as interpreters.

GOAL #6 – MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – SEPTEMBER 2005. We are generally on track with the 2005 Budget. Revenues are at \$1,764,884 against a Budget of \$1,951,000 and Expenses at \$1,396,214 against a Budget of \$1,942,000. The Excess of Revenue over Expenses to date is \$368,670, down considerably over 2004. Two key factors to note are the significant surplus at the end of 2004 and a Government grant which has not as yet been received. **SEE COUNCIL INFORMATION AGENDA.**

OFFICE BUILDING MORTGAGE. The mortgage has been paid off. On October 19, 2005 ASTTBC President, Secretary Treasurer and Executive Director instructed our bank to transfer funds to pay off the mortgage. A special ceremony at the Awards & Recognition Celebration will celebrate this historic development. ASTTBC is the only association of technologists and technicians that owns an office building.

AMSOFT SOFTWARE UPGRADE. Our association management software was developed in 1997 and is due for an upgrade. This is expected to be completed by year-end at a cost of approximately \$15,000.

ASTT WEB SITE UPGRADE. A major initiative to upgrade the ASTTBC web site will commence in November. This project will likely not be completed until summer 2006.

CSAE NATIONAL CONFERENCE. Ted Nodwell, CAE, Deputy Executive Director, attended the national conference of the Canadian Society of Association Executives and made a of point attending sessions relating to web sites and e-enterprise. This was timely given the updates planned for our association management software and our web site.