

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – (#51)

For February 15, 2007 Council Meeting

(September 16, 2006 to February 2, 2007)

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*This Report covers the last quarter of 2006 and the first month of 2007. ASTTBC continued to ramp up efforts to enhance professional recognition, increase ASTTBC and member profile and promote technology careers. Significant work went into preparing for implementation of the 2007 Work Plan and Budget. A number of changes were made during this period in staffing, which will better position ASTTBC to more effectively manage staff succession. The year ended with most of the 2006 Work Plan accomplished and with a surplus which exceeded budget. As with most things, ASTTBC achieved success in 2006 with the support of many volunteers and staff and the cooperation of other organizations and government.*

***“Can’t pull this train over the mountain without you”***

Gary Fjellgaard, BC songwriter and performer

## **GOAL #1 – ASTT ACT**

### **ASTT Act and Regulations**

**ASTT ACT CHANGES.** ASTTBC has requested changes to the *ASTT Act*. All signals are that changes are not likely until fall 2007 or spring 2008.

**UMBRELLA LEGISLATION:** ASTTBC continues to make the case for a broad review of professional regulation and specifically proposes a new regulatory regime in which legislation is ‘bundled’ by way of ‘umbrella legislation’. The model is being refined and will be presented to Council in the near term.

## **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 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.

### **Engineering Technology Practice & Liaison**

**GUIDES TO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.** Completed drafting Guide to Professional Practice for Electrical Design in Buildings. This draft will be reviewed by Council on February 15, 2007. Work continues on developing additional Guides in several other areas.

**APEGBC LIMITED LICENSE (LL).** APEGBC has adopted 'EngL' as the new designation to be used by those holding a LL. ASTTBC met recently with the APEGBC Executive and indicated full support for nation-wide acceptance of this designation, requirements for achieving the LL, approach to scopes of practice, portability of the credential and its administration.

**LICENSED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL.** ASTTBC remains concerned about this initiative on a number of fronts: that ASTTBC-registered professionals are not included and are not permitted to write the examination; and, that the formation of a separate society to regulate in this area may not be appropriate or the best method of achieving the stated objectives. ASTTBC will continue to advance its views on this initiative.

**FOREST ROAD CROSSINGS.** Now that the new format for Guides to Professional Practice has been established, work will continue on a Guide for ASTTBC member involvement in the design and review of small and medium sized culverts and bridges.

**CEBC LIAISON.** ASTTBC met with the CEBC Executive last fall. Good exchange on a number of fronts, especially in areas where the two associations might work together. Keith Switzer was invited for a second year to serve on the CEBC awards selection panel. ASTTBC has agreed to offer Platinum Sponsorship for the CEBC awards... upping the commitment from recent years as a 'Silver' level sponsor. A number of benefits, including a write up in recent CEBC e-newsletter. (See attachments 2-1 and 2-2)

**ALBERTA TECHS & ENGINEERS AGREE ON ONE ACT – TWO ASSOCIATIONS.** ASET and APEGGA have agreed on a one act – two association model for regulating engineering and technology practice. Recent statements are provided with this report. (See attachments 2-3 and 2-4)

**APEGBC APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.** APEGBC Council appointed Derek Doyle, PEng as its new Executive Director. (See attachment 2-5)

**ASTTBC CONNECTS WITH THE INSTITUTE OF POWER ENGINEERS (IPE).** Discussions and liaison (re-connect) with the Institute of Power Engineers, Vancouver Branch (IPE – Vancouver) commenced in 2006. ASTTBC staff attended the National AGM and Convention on October 12-14<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver. Initial review of academic standards for registration purposes done on Power Engineering curriculum. Meetings are planned in 2007 for further exploratory discussions between the two organizations to determine next actions.

*Electronics/Information Technology* – Nothing new to report.

*Forest Technology Practice*

**ASTTBC – ABCFP LIAISON.** The Executives of ASTTBC and ABCFP met last fall to discuss topics of mutual interest. Agreed to move forward on FMRB future.

**ASTTBC – ABCFP AGREEMENT RE FMRB** – The FMRB and ASTTBC Council have approved in principle the proposed MOA. ABCFP Council has now agreed they will proceed toward an agreement with ASTTBC that could see the certification of forest measurements specialists move from ASTTBC to ABCFP if an agreed upon model and transfer arrangement can be worked out.

**ABCFP APPOINTS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.** Sharon L. Glover, MBA has been appointed as Executive Director for ABCFP. (See attachment 2-6)

**BC TIMBER SALES** – Nothing new to report.

**MoF FOREST PLANNING & PRACTICES REGULATION.** We continue to pursue the objective of having ASTTBC professionals included in this Regulation.

**PROFESSIONAL RELIANCE TASK FORCE.** Work continues on preparation of a generic version of a professional reliance statement.

*Geomatics Technology Practice* - There is nothing new to report.

*Architectural/Building Technology Practice*

**ARCHITECTS ACT CHANGES.** AIBC continues to press forward with its request for changes to the Architects Act that would see an inclusion of building designers and interior designers within a one act – one association model. Recent information indicates that AIBC is also approaching the Landscape Architects, although there is unclear messaging as to AIBC’s willed future per its statements and the real position of MAVED relative to government decisions as to legislative models. A recent email from MAVED captures the current position of the government:

*“... before any work is done on the existing (AIBC) proposal, government would need to understand other professional associations' perspectives, etc. and be confident that the proposal is workable over the long term for the stakeholders directly affected, as well as others indirectly but significantly impacted, such as BCSLA and ASTTBC...”*

*“We have not yet considered important policy issues in enough detail to have reached any preferences or recommendations. At this point, the Ministry does not have a "preferred model", but is needing to ensure that proposals brought forward are made with adequate consultation.”*

ASTTBC continues to present the ‘umbrella’ model for consideration. And, while a small umbrella, the one act – two association proposal in Alberta (ASET and APEGGA) points to the need to explore all options.

*Agrology and Biology Technology*

**COLLEGE OF APPLIED BIOLOGY.** CABBC is seeking a response from ASTTBC on the proposal to integrate technologists within the CABBC. In a recent exchange ASTTBC has asked CABBC for their perspective on key questions re professional standing and practice rights for technologists should they be brought within the CABBC. We await a response from the CABBC.

**BC INSTITUTE OF AGROLOGISTS.** Nothing new to report.

*Building Officials*

**BOABC.** ASTTBC maintains close links with BOABC, recently cooperating with BOABC on training sessions on the new Building Code. ASTTBC placed ads in recent BOABC newsletter. **(See attachment 2-7)**

*General Practice & Liaison*

**THE MODERNIZATION PROJECT.** The Modernization Project has been launched and ASTTBC is playing an active role. Report #50 detailed the various task groups. Key meetings this past fall and more this spring leading up to a recommendation as to the future direction for regulating the built environment. The project has been promised a window for legislation in spring 2008.

## Government Appointments, Priorities and Liaison

**BC-ALBERTA TRADE, INVESTMENT AND LABOUR MOBILITY AGREEMENT (TILMA).** This initiative comes up in most meetings with Cabinet Ministers, MLAs and government officials. ASTTBC is maintaining a close connection with key government officials as TILMA progresses toward implementation.

**MLA LIAISON.** Continue meetings (formal and informal exchanges) with MLAs to introduce them to issues of interest to ASTTBC.

**BC CABINET MINISTERS.** Recent formal meetings and informal exchanges: Hon John Les re house inspection and fire protection; Hon Murray Coell re technology careers, practice and legislation; Hon Ida Chong; Hon Bill Bennett; Hon Pat Bell; Hon Shirley Bond.

**MP LIAISON.** Limited contact this period with BC MPs.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION.** Scheduled to go back in on February 13, 2007 for the Spring session. Do not expect any major pieces of legislation of direct bearing on public issues of interest to ASTTBC and its members. Will monitor and offer comment and assistance where appropriate.

**GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES.** ASTTBC submitted brief to CAMPUS 2020 announced by Premier Campbell and Minister of Advanced Education Murray Coell in summer 2006. The MODERNIZATION PROJECT covering the built environment is very significant and will lead to major changes. The move to enhanced PROFESSIONAL RELIANCE is supported by most professional associations, including ASTTBC.

### **Premier Campbell announces the ‘Towns for Tomorrow’ Program:**

- This program will assist communities with populations under 5,000 with their infrastructure projects that are often ineligible for larger federal-provincial programs.
- The \$21 million program will support infrastructure priorities on cost-sharing basis whereby the Province will fund 80 per cent of project cost and the municipalities fund the remaining 20 per cent, up to a maximum total value of \$500,000.
- The program will be overseen by the Premier's new Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Kevin Krueger (MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson).

**UCFV Trades & Technology Centre Announced.** The University College of the Fraser Valley will create a new Trades & Technology Centre. (See attachment 2-8)

**INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED PROFESSIONALS.** ASTTBC has introduced a ‘provisional’ classification and the first ‘AScT (Provisional) has been awarded. ASTTBC has developed excellent connections with various ethic associations in an effort to help IEPs integrate into the BC workforce.

### Institutes - Special Certification Programs

**BCIPI.** The Board is working on the BCIPI AGM and other projects including licensing of inspectors.

**HOUSE INSPECTORS TO BE LICENSED.** ASTTBC’s President, Keith Switzer, Councillor, Darrin Heisler and I met with Hon John Les in January to talk about house inspector licensing and fire protection certification. Minister asked for ASTTBC’s view as to how we could move from the current situation to a new regulatory model.

**VAN SUN ARTICLE ON LICENSING INSPECTORS.** The SUN published an op-ed piece I wrote December 5, 2006. (See attachment 2-9)

**HOUSE INSPECTION REGULATION UPDATE – February 2, 2007.** First news bulletin sent out to various stakeholders. (See attachment 2-10)

**CONSUMER WRITES ON HOUSE INSPECTORS.** A concerned and affected consumer, Lorraine Bennett, wrote to the Ministry, copy to the Minister and me. (See attachment 2-11)

**CAHPI(BC) LINKAGES.** ASTTBC has modest contact with CAHPI(BC) and will continue to foster a positive working relationship with all stakeholders.

**CAHPI(BC) and MINISTER IN TUG-OF-WAR.** The leaders in CAHPI(BC) have embraced a very tough, ‘in-your-face’ approach to possible licensing of house inspectors. (See attachment 2-12)

**BDIBC.** The BDIBC Board is working on professional regulation of building designers and the 2007 AGM. BDIBC continues to advertise in BOABC newsletter. (See attachment 2-13)

**CONSTRUCTION SAFETY.** Conference on safety convened past fall, with good success. ASTTBC is working toward a ‘CSO Future Directions Summit’ to help decide future directions.

**FIRE PROTECTION.** Newsletter published fall 2006. A meeting has been arranged with the Fire Commissioner’s office staff to discuss future direction for ASTTBC certification. BC Housing supports ASTTBC certification. The City of Surrey has passed a Bylaw supporting ASTTBC certification. (See attachments 2-14 and 2-15)

**FOREST MEASUREMENTS REGISTRATION BOARD.** The Board is supporting a special seminar on forest measurements; much work going into policies for other forest measurements specialists.

**ONSITE WASTEWATER.** Working with MoH, BCOSSA and other stakeholders on enhancing awareness re the program. ASTTBC will develop policies re certifying persons doing Type 3 systems. Working with Sewage Systems Leadership Council on key implementation issues.

**PWIS.** Nothing new.

**SDIBC.** Nothing new.

**SITE IMPROVEMENTS SURVEYS.** Nothing new.

### **GOAL #3 – PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

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

### **GOAL #4 – MEMBER & EMPLOYER SERVICES**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.** Planning for the 2007 AGM proceeding. Will host a special dinner to recognize Keith’s service as President of ASTTBC.

**ASTT NEWS.** Issue #119, the third and final issue for 2006 was mailed to members in January, 2007. This issue was double the normal size. Inserts with the mailing included: ‘Building Your Technology Team’, the new ASTTBC employer liaison brochure; an information sheet on Errors & Omissions insurance; and a member service insert from Cityfone. With the shift to monthly ASTT e-News, *ASTT News* will be published twice in 2007.

**ASTT e-NEWS.** *ASTT e-News* moved to a monthly service in Q4, 2006 and will continue to be broadcast monthly in 2007. Both *ASTT News* and *ASTT e-News* are also posted to [www.asttbc.org](http://www.asttbc.org)

**ANNUAL REPORT & SERVICES DIRECTORY.** The *ASTTBC Annual Report & Services Directory 2007* is now being scoped and will be published for the AGM and then sent to members in June.

**EMPLOYER LIAISON BROCHURE.** New brochure published and sent to all members. This will be used with trade shows, in mailings to employers, etc. (See attachment 4-1)

**ASTTBC WEB SITE.** Work on redeveloping the ASTTBC web site continues with a prototype nearing completion. This should be tested by staff by the end of March. A campaign to promote the launch is being developed.

Average number of visitors per day to the current site was 600 between September 15 and January 31, consistent with the previous report.

**BROADCAST E-MAIL.** 53 broadcast e-mails were sent between September 15 and January 31. Fourteen of these went to the full membership, the balance were messages for specific disciplines, institutes or target audiences. This compares to 28 and 7 for the last report.

**MEMBER COMPENSATION SURVEY.** The Member Compensation Survey was conducted on-line during September, 2006. To increase participation, the deadline was extended for October and draw prize tickets to the Rolling Stones concert was added to the six fleece jackets already being offered. A total of 8,506 registrants were eligible to participate; 1,217 responded for a 14.3% response rate. This compares to a 17.7% response for the last survey in 1999. Members who have not provided ASTTBC with an email address were mailed a paper copy. With the addition of Technical Specialist programs, tabulating the results was more complex than anticipated. Results will be posted by posted by mid-February. Preliminary results indicate the median monthly salary was \$5,615 for AScTs and \$5,375 for CTechs. 87% of respondents reported a salary increase for the past year, with the median increase being 4.0%.

**AFFINITY PARTNER PROGRAMS.** Work continues on refining and updating member services. Several existing affinity partner contracts are up for renewal. One or two under-performing services may be discontinued.

**E&O INSURANCE PROGRAM.** Work continues to promote the new broker for the ASTTBC E&O Insurance Program – Willis Canada Inc. A FAQ bulletin was distributed to all members with the last issue of *ASTT News*. ASTTBC staff have been working with Willis on coverage provided, risk management workshops and an annual marketing plan.

## **GOAL #5 – TECHNOLOGY CAREERS AWARENESS**

### Career Awareness and Liaison - General

**‘CAMPUS 2020’ SUBMISSION.** ASTTBC made full submission. Posted to ASTTBC web site and sent to key stakeholders. The Executive summary is attached. (See attachment 5-1)

**NORTHERN BC BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW.** ASTTBC sponsored the ‘Technology Provider of the Year’ award and was well recognized by the organizers. Joanne Niwranski does a superb job as manager of the event. ASTTBC was a sponsor, and in addition to the ads and general profile associated with sponsorship, ASTTBC also placed some pre and post event ads in community newspapers throughout Northern BC. (See attachments 5-2 & 5-3)

**MISTIC AWARDS – VANCOUVER ISLAND.** ASTTBC joined as a sponsor of the first annual awards presented by the Mid Island Science Technology & Innovation Council (MISTIC). ASTTBC sponsored the Souvenir Program. (See attachment 5-4)

**NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY WEEK 2006.** Highlights of NTW 2006 included an advertising initiative undertaken with assistance from Black Press to promote NTW to many communities in British Columbia. A combination of editorial and advertisements were included in 28 community newspapers with distribution of approximately 780,000. Editorials featured ASTTBC members in different areas of the province to highlight careers in technology. (See attachment 5-5)

ASTTBC participated on the **CCTT National Roster Steering Committee for NTW.** This committee's purpose was to unify messaging across the country and coordinate activities between participating CM's.

**National Poster Design Contest – British Columbia** saw an impressive level of participation in a national event. Designed to raise awareness for careers in technology, students from grades 7-9 participated in a poster design contest. BC's contribution was significant, seeing over 2/3's of the total submissions originating from BC students. Among the entries, two BC students finished in the Top 3 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place respectively) as well as another 2 placing in the TOP 10 in Canada. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers were awarded iPods and \$500 RESP contributions from CCTT. Followed up with visits to the three schools of the finalists. A brief presentation was conducted with thanks and certificates to the students from ASTTBC along with \$25 gift certificates to Future Shop.

Received official **government proclamation** from the Attorney General's Office along with key messages of support from Ministers Bond and Coleman.

**SKILLS CANADA BC.** ASTTBC was invited attend the Skills Canada BC Annual General Meeting.

**YOUTHINK – BC'S HIGH SCHOOL MAGAZINE.** Advertised in the Spring 2007 (Issue #4) of YOUTHINK PS, BC's Definitive Post Secondary Listing. This publication is a twice annual guide to post secondary listings and career training organizations. It's current audited circulation and readership rates are 55,000+ and 154,000+ respectively. The YOUTHINK PS was a supplement to the standard publication; in addition to a circulation which includes over 180 BC high schools, YOUTHINK is distributed to community centres, Mac's Stores and Safeway Store.

#### Employer – Industry – Association Awareness & Liaison

**EMPLOYER LIAISON PROGRAM.** A new employer liaison brochure was produced and distributed to members with *ASTT News*.

Meetings with employers included:

- Municipal Managers Meeting, hosted by City of Burnaby
- Vancouver Hospital round-table with BMET's
- TELUS

**ADVERTISING.** Significant progress on the 2006 – 2007 marketing plan, with key ad placements. Planning for 2007 nearing completion. ASTTBC ads placed:

- Minerals North Conference
- Journal of Commerce special on Construction Careers
- Community newspapers (promoting Women in Technology, PG Woman Awards and a new ASTTBC-sponsored award for leadership by women in the technology sectors)

(See attachments 5-6 to 5-8)

**CAREER ADS CALLING FOR ASTTBC REGISTRATION.** A number of career ads were noticed. (See attachments 5-9 to 5-11)

#### Education Awareness & Liaison

**BCIT ALUMNI.** Editorial article, profile on Heather Andreychuck, AScT and ad in BCIT Alumni newsletter promoting ASTTBC and benefits of registration as a technology professional, continuing ASTTBC's campaign to enhance awareness of ASTTBC and registration. (See attachments 5-12 & 5-13)

**BCIT STUDENT ASSOCIATION.** Linkage and relationship development ongoing – moving ahead with positive results in the areas of sponsorship and student group involvement. ASTTBC placed two career focused advertisements in recent issue of The Link BCIT Student Newspaper. Work is underway to fulfill commitment of two additional ad placements in the March and April issues. Ads were aimed at student target markets, both male and female students.

**COLLEGE MoUs.** Signed MoUs with Okanagan College and Camosun College at Awards Celebration.

**OKANAGAN COLLEGE LAUNCHES MBA PROGRAM.** The program is of particular interest to ASTTBC as members have ready access to, and will benefit from, the program. THANKS to Bruce Stevens, AScT for his work in the initiative, especially in making links with ASTTBC. (See attachment 5-14)

**TRU LADDERS TECHS INTO TECH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.** The Thompson Rivers University is granting 81 credits toward the BTech (Technology Management) for EDDT grads. (See attachment 5-15)

**BCIT Cancels Forest Technologist and Technician Programs.** The Institute has decided to cancel the two programs effective September 2007. BCIT says there is limited enrollment and hence the program is no longer viable. We are meeting with President Tony Knowles to discuss BCIT's plans and future directions for technology education.

#### Career Management and Administration

**DISPLAY BOOTH.** Continued to be booked regularly for career fairs, tradeshow, and other awareness events such as: Today's Woman Show Prince George, Institute of Power Engineers, CHBABC, Kelowna Career Fairs, 2007 BC Natural Resource Forum & Trade Show Prince George, periodically at BCIT in the Great Hall for student liaison.

**FEAT.** Five \$1,000 ASTTBC / BC Hydro bursaries were awarded in 2006, four of these at the ASTTBC Awards & Recognition Celebration. The FEAT Wade Wicks Memorial bursary for a technology student overcoming disabilities was awarded to a BCIT student. TD Meloche Monnex has agreed to provide 3 - \$1,000 annual bursaries commencing in 2007. FEAT again conducted a festive season fund-raiser to close out the year.

**LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR AWARD.** Contact has been made with the LG's office about implementing an Award for Excellence in Applied Science Technology. Interest is favourable however timing for launch in 2007 is not. We hope to launch during NTW 2008 which dovetails with ASTTBC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### Members and Others In The News

**PRAKASH JOSHI, AScT involved with reconciliation efforts.** On Canada Day Prakash was involved with events that brought attention to the need for reconciliation. (See attachments 5-16 to 5-18)

**PRAKASH JOSHI, ASCT as an ‘internationalist’.** Prakash was written up in New River Free Press International. Prakash met with the Dalai Lama and Dr David Suzuki. (See attachments 5-19 & 5-20)

**KEVIN WITZKE, ASCT responds** to ASTTBC’s Professional Achievement Award. Kevin has been a valued member of ASTTBC for over 20 years. He and colleagues were recognized by CEBC at their 2006 awards celebration for work on the Myra Canyon trestles. (See attachment 5-21)

**HUGH DOBBIE, ASCT acknowledged** in ‘Details’ magazine for receiving ASTTBC’s Dick Littledale Award. (See attachment 5-22)

**ZAMBIA Association of Technicians and Technologists** moves ahead on professional legislation. With support from ASTTBC, Benny Musonda has been engaged in a special initiative to change the Engineers Act in Zambia. See attached report from Benny Musonda. (See attachment 5-23)

**GOAL #6 – MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT – DECEMBER 2006.** On track with the 2006 Budget, but final numbers not available until after the adjustments by the auditor.

**MEMBER RETENTION.** ASTTBC constantly works to attract and retain members. Without ‘restricted practice’ ASTTBC must work hard to demonstrate value in seeking and achieving professional registration. In 2006 we enhanced efforts, with positive results.

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>Oct. 21/05 Struck Members</b>	<b>Oct. 24/06 Cancelled Members</b>	<b>Actual Cancellation % Change</b>
<b>TL</b>	180	126	-30.00%
<b>TN</b>	75	70	-6.67%
<b>GL</b>	303	264	-12.87%
<b>GN</b>	8	9	12.50%
<b>AS</b>	111	92	-17.12%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>-17.13%</b>