

REGISTRAR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

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1. GENERAL

The statistical data on the membership at the end of 2007 is shown on the attached charts and graphs. The good news is that membership total net growth is 4.5% and AScT and CTech numbers are at an all time high. While we have experienced a decline in recent years in Associate and Graduate Technologist/Technician categories, this has been more than offset with an increase to student members of 76%. This should translate into increased Grad Tech numbers in the future. It is interesting to note that Ontario is experiencing a similar trend in the reduction of Associates and Graduate Techs, resulting in a near zero growth for 2007.

Our technical specialist certification group numbers remain constant with a modest growth for 2007. The initial influx to the Onsite Wastewater Registration Program has now subsided, as a result of registering the vast majority of industry practitioners since the start of the program in 2005. Increased efforts have been made in our Construction Safety Discipline to revitalize the program and gain back the declining numbers that have occurred over the last several years. Timber Cruiser membership numbers have also dropped, as we are feeling the impact of the defined practice opportunities for RFTs under the Forest Professionals Act.

2. PROFESSIONALISM

Risk Management

In December, nearly 50 people attended a Risk Management Seminar on Contracts at Okanagan College in Kelowna. The seminar was presented by an individual whose practice focuses on assisting clients to resolve professional liability and construction disputes, including builders' liens issues. A detailed rendition was provided of key components of contracts and how entering well-written contracts can help reduce risk. Special thanks go to the staff and Construction Law students at Okanagan College for their support and assistance.

The Risk Management Seminar on Contracts is being planned for Victoria, Prince George and the Lower Mainland in about the March or April time frame. In the fall, another series of Risk Management Seminars is being planned to be provided for the Interior, up North, on the Island and in the Lower Mainland.

A continuing professional development certificate will be awarded to the attendees of the Risk Management Seminar in Kelowna and for all future seminars or workshops provided by ASTTBC.

Electronic Stamp

A request has been made to ASTTBC to develop and provide members with access to an electronic stamp. Providing the stamp in this format brings into question many complex issues. All stamps issued to members are the property of ASTTBC and as such can be recovered from individuals who, for various reasons, may no longer be registered with the Association. As a physical piece of hardware, retrieval of the stamp can assure that there would be no future security or abuse issues, thus protecting the public interest. With an e-version stamp, there is nothing meaningful that can be retrieved and thus security and possible abuse may become issues. Also to be considered are the legal ramifications of stamps applied in this format and exposure of a member's electronic signature to identity theft. This request will be reviewed by staff.

3. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

A great deal of change is currently being contemplated for operational areas of Registrations related to process and possible new initiatives. Currently ASTTBC Registrations is in the planning stages for implementation of the National Technology Benchmarks (replaces the old CTS system for academic evaluation and assessment) to align ourselves with CCTT/CTAB and the other CMs.

This outcome based assessment process will impact all areas of Registrations and will provide ASTTBC with many opportunities in other areas related to experiential learning assessment and evaluation, as we move from the current inflexible prescriptive process to a more subjective one.

There are currently many other related Registrations study projects underway. The Registration, Renewal and Innovation Plan (RRIP) project is attached with an introduction letter and project outline. RRIP has representation from Council, staff, the Board of Examiners and Practice Review Board. In addition to RRIP, other initiatives include a Professional Practice Examinations Review, a Peer Review & Practice Audit Study and the Process & Use of Interviews for Certification.

These individual initiatives will be coordinated by the Registrations Summit Group so that there are not conflicts resulting from any overlaps and to take best advantage from the work being carried out in all areas. The Registrations Summit group is comprised of the Executive Director, Associate Registrar, Manager –Technology Careers and Manager – Internationally Educated Professionals Program.

Removing Barriers

The review of Registrations processes and studies into new possible initiatives is partly motivated by Government's requirement that all professional associations ensure that there are no unreasonable barriers or biases to immigrants, or others, wanting to have their competences recognized by certification and registration. Government also demands that the process be transparent and accountable. Please review the ASET article attached to this report and note that many of their new registration policies and processes were adopted from ASTTBC.

In Ontario and Manitoba, new legislation has been enacted which sets up a Government agency to audit the professional associations' certification and registration standards and processes. This agency will also handle appeals from unsuccessful applicants. Please refer to the attached WEB page. The Fairness Commissioner in Ontario is seen by OACETT as being a very big thing. OACETT will be required to prepare a report for Government every three years and will have to hire an auditing firm for this purpose. OACETT expects that they may have to cover costs which could be as high as \$60K, dependant on the number of appeals. It has also meant that OACETT has had to change some of its procedures so that more data is captured for reporting.

On the ASTTBC membership statistics you may note that over the last few years we have had as few as 3 Appeals and as many as 22. Under the Ontario model, we would have to defend the Board of Examiners decision for these Appeals with Government. At this point in time we are not aware of any similar legislation being contemplated for British Columbia, but we are being proactive to ensure our certification and registration policies and processes are fair, objective, transparent and impartial.

4. BOARD REPORTS

Board of Examiners

As mentioned previously, the implementation of the National Technology Benchmarks (NTB) will be a major project for the Board of Examiners and File Reviewers in 2008. ASTTBC continues to support CCTT and COR as the final versions of discipline outcome statements and indicators of performance are finalized. Please refer to the attached CCTT news brief.

ASTTBC continues to utilize and support CCTT's International Qualifications Data Base (IQDB). The attached notice declares that the IQDB News Update will now be reported on the first Tuesday of every month.

As indicated in the 2008 report for committee volunteer appointments by Council, the Board of Examiners has added three new volunteers for approval and had one resignation. The new volunteers served as File Reviewers, have attended Board meetings on a regular basis and are keen to participate at that level. This brings the BoE member numbers up to 18 which is sufficient to handle the current work loading. Note that we also have an additional 13 members who serve as File Reviewers only.

Practice Review Board

As you will see from the Summary Chart below, 2007 was a very busy year for the Board. A major update report on case histories from the last Report in 2006 to September 2007 is attached and has been posted to the ASTTBC WEB Site. Members have been notified of this posting through e-NEWS. In addition, the details of the Appeal case that Council dealt with in the fall of 2007 has also been reported and posted on the WEB and notification made through e-NEWS. This report is also attached for Council information.

COMPLAINTS STATISTICS	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Technologist/Technician complaints								
Unauthorized use of ASCT, CTech, CET		1	2	3	8	1	4	8
Ethics/logo/procedural etc.			2		3	1		1
Inquiry – no action			1					
Special Certification Complaints								
Property Insp. Title/logo		6	5	12	5	2	4	5
Property Insp. Ethics/other		5	2	2	3	2	2	1
Fire Prot. Title/logo		2			2			
Fire Prot. Ethics/other		9	15	7	10	12	5	6
Timber Cruiser Title/logo			1					
Timber Cruiser Ethics/other				2	1			
Onsite Waste. Title/logo			1	1				
Onsite Waste. Ethics/other		18	18					
All other Spec. Cert .groups – Title/logo		1						
All other Spec. Cert. groups - Ethics/other			2					
FILES CLOSED TO-DATE		42	49	27	32	18	15	21

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

COMPLAINT OUTCOME	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Cease & Desist - ethics/logo/titles – complied		11	11	15	15	3	8	14
Ethics Complaint - censure applied		12	11	4	5	6	4	4
Ethics Complaint - no breach of code found		14	9	7	11	9	3	3
Ethics Complaint withdrawn		1	2	1	1			
Title/logo inquiry – no action taken by PRB		1	16					
Complaint in abeyance (membership cancelled) *(CP)		3						
TOTAL COMPLAINTS		42	49	27	32	18	15	21
TYPE OF ACTION INVOLVED		2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Disciplinary Hearing held		1 *		1		5		
Special Investigative Meeting held			2				2	1
Stipulated Order accepted		1	9					
Stipulated Order rejected			1					
Appeal to PRB upheld						1		
Appeal to PRB denied								
Appeal to ASTTBC Council upheld		1 *		1				
Appeal to ASTTBC Council denied				1				
Title/Logo/Stamp/Inquiry – no action by PRB		2	3					

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

COMPLAINTS IN PROGRESS	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Ethics Investigation in progress	16	16	13	13				
Cease & Desist order in progress	4	4	3	1				
Cease & Desist order in progress – CET				1				
Ethics or Title/Logo/Stamp; Inquiry/Misc.								

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

Due to the volume of onsite wastewater practitioner complaints, the Practice Review Board has added one new volunteer for approval, as indicated in the 2008 report for committee volunteer appointments by Council. This new volunteer has industry recognized expertise and, until recently, had previously served on the Onsite Wastewater Registration Board since its inception. His extensive onsite wastewater experience will be a valuable resource during investigations, since these cases tend to be very complex.

Trade Marks (Titles)

We had some interesting cases this year that required action to protect our titles and trade marks through cease and desist orders. One case involved a major retailer who was using the term 'certified technicians' when advertising support services for their products. In British Columbia this term is protected by the ASTT Act. The retailer has agreed to abide to our cease and desist request.

In a related matter, ASTTBC was accused with violation of copyright by a major image house in the US. The matter involved three images that appeared on one of the ASTTBC controlled WEB Sites. The copyright violation was confirmed and the offending images removed. ASTTBC is currently negotiating compensation for the inadvertent and innocent use of these images. This situation has reinforced with staff the need to verify license for use of all materials that appear on any of the WEB Site for which ASTTBC is responsible.

SPECIAL CERTIFICATIONS UPDATE

Construction Safety

ASTTBC created the Construction Safety Officer (CSO) and Trades Safety Coordinator (TSC) Program (1996), in response to a City of Vancouver building bylaw, stipulating that all CSO and TSC working on Part 3, or greater, construction projects must be registered with a professional association – ASTTBC. Membership grew quickly, however when the City withdrew the ASTTBC registration requirement, membership dropped sharply and has continued to decline at a steady rate since 2000 to its current level of 147. Recognizing that the CSO program was at a crossroads, ASTTBC embarked on an initiative to examine the current status, determine challenges and opportunities and reach conclusions about the future of CSO within ASTTBC.

Working closely with and encouraging the CSO Panel, staff developed a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities and took full advantage to increase ASTTBC's visibility and proof of commitment by partnering with WorkSafeBC for the 2007 CSO Conference in Richmond.

Opportunity awaits; approximately 1000 trained CSOs and TSCs are employed in BC - prospective members, and annually some 500 new CSO and TSC are graduated by BCIT and the BC Safety Council. Working with a reenergized and focused CSO Panel, Bruce Stevens has been hired to facilitate a new CSO/TSC program and rebuild the membership. It will take time, effort and a continued commitment. It will also require, in the short term, the investment of funds in excess of the average per capita expenditure, compared to other programs and certification classifications. Kudos to Bruce's and the Panel's excellent work to date in moving this program forward.

Fire Protection

On December 31st, 2007, Larry Barker, RFPT, retired as ASTTBC's Manager, Fire Protection Registration. Larry was a key player in establishing the program and has been Manager for the past 12 years. The success of the Fire Protection Certification Program is a testament to Larry's hard work.

ASTTBC is pleased to introduce the new Manager, Brian Stegavig. Brian brings with him 35 years of fire service experience and he has also served on the Fire Protection Certification Board for several years. He recently retired as Deputy Fire Chief – Operations and Fire Prevention, from the District of North Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services. Brian's extensive knowledge and experience in the enforcement of municipal, provincial, and federal fire prevention codes and preparation of related bylaws will be an asset in carrying the Fire Protection Certification Program forward.

House and Property Inspection

Work is underway to have a new certification/registration policy for Certified House Inspectors (CHI) and Certified Property Inspectors (CPI). This policy development is being carried out in close liaison with the British Columbia Institute of Property Inspectors (BCIPI). A first draft of the policy has already been completed and is under review, with only minor changes expected. The policy's main restructuring is focused around the dropping of the Associate Inspector category and replacing it with a new CHI (Provisional). This Provisional member would be required to pass several practice audits during their first year of practice before full certification would be granted.

To ensure consistency with mentoring and auditing, ASTTBC is working closely with the BCIPI Board to have mentoring and auditing guidelines in place to support the new policy. Training requirements for mentors and auditors is also being developed, along with possible consideration to upgrading to the current standards of practice. It is hoped to have the new policy to Council for approval at the May meeting.

Onsite Wastewater

At the September 2007 meeting Council approved the following resolution.

3.3.1 Onsite Wastewater Registration Program Policy

Council received for information a Report on the Revised Onsite Wastewater Registration Program Policy and a copy of the OWRB Policy dated September 27, 2007.

07-58: *That the Onsite Wastewater Registration Program Policy and Appendices dated September 27, 2007 for registration and certification of ROWPs in categories for Type 1 and Type 2 systems be approved.*

FURTHER, that the certification and registration of ROWPs in the category of Type 3 Planner, with final approval only subject to comments received from the other stakeholders of the Sewerage Systems Leadership Council be approved in principle.

The approval 'in principle' of certification of ROWPs in the category of Type 3 Planner (equivalent to "professional" status under the Ministry of Health's Sewerage System Regulation (SSR)) was made to allow all stakeholders on the Sewerage Systems Leadership Council (SSLC) time to respond to the policy's contents. All SSLC members were provided the policy document shortly after Council's decision and asked for input. The following position was provided by the Ministry of Health through their representative on the SSLC:

"A Professional Engineer is an example of a person presently functioning under the SSR as a professional. But, with the SSR containing its own definition of 'professional', it is recognized that members of other professional associations may at some time come forward and be recognized accordingly. An example could be a member of ASTTBC, if through education or experience, is recognized as having adequate training in soil analysis and sewerage system construction and maintenance. This is possible as ASTTBC is considered to meet the criteria of Section 7(3)(b)(i) and (ii)." The Section of the SSR quoted refers to the definition of a 'professional' under the SSR.

Since no other comments were received from other stakeholders, such as APEGBC, Council will be provided with a report requesting full policy approval for the certification and registration of ROWPs in the category of Type 3 Planner.

A brochure created to explain to the public the SSR and ROWP practice is being developed and should be available before this spring's construction season begins.