



ASTT e-News, August 2009

ASTT e-News is broadcast to technologists, technicians, technical specialists and others. It contains the latest information about your profession and your association. Each issue is also posted to the ASTTBC web site.

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Member Compensation Survey Results On-line

The results are in. According to the Member Compensation Survey 2009, ASTTBC members continue to move up in pay and job responsibility. The median monthly salary from all respondents was: ASCT \$6,500; CTech \$6,166; and Graduate Technicians/Technologists \$4,166. Self-employed members with 8 years experience reported a median income of \$6,250 per month. Responsibility levels continue trending upward. For example, in 1991 the average point score of respondents was 396, by 2009 it has risen to 477. For the first time, more than half of the respondents indicated they have at least some supervisory role. 63% of respondents indicated that their employer pays ASTTBC dues, up from 60% in 2007. The response rate was 14%; unchanged from 2007. To see the full Member Compensation Survey 2009 visit www.asttbc.org/services/publications/compensation_surveys.php

Roundtable On Technology Skills Shortage III

Save the date – October 14 2009

Leaders from industry, education, associations and other interested stakeholders will come together on October 14 to discuss current labour market circumstances and projections; learn of progress made since a united front was created to address technology skill shortages and the invisible nature of technology careers; and to formulate strategies for the next three years. This latest Roundtable will be hosted by ASTTBC and several partners. It follows on earlier work at the 2005 'Building Careers In Technology' conference and the 2007 'RTSSII' as well as on roundtables convened in Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna, Campbell River and Castlegar. Members and others

are encouraged to attend this important morning session at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver. Background information is available at www.asttbc.org/RTSS

A formal registration will be sent out in September. Please watch for it. If you do not receive it, please visit the home page of the ASTTBC web site at www.asttbc.org

Sponsorship Opportunities With ASTTBC

ASTTBC has two major events coming up that will provide great profile for partners and sponsor organizations.

The 'Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortage III' at the Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue on October 14 will bring together leaders from major corporations, small businesses, industry groups and professional associations, government and education. On November 7, ASTTBC's 'Awards & Recognition Celebration' gala will showcase outstanding individuals in the applied science community.

Depending on their level of participation, partners and sponsors will receive recognition at the events, and in lead-up advertising and post-event publications. As a bonus, recognition will be provided in National Technology Week 2009 feature advertising, with an estimated readership of 2.5 million.

Contact... Anne Sharp, Marketing Manager at ASTTBC at 604-734-7738 or asharp@asttbc.org

OnSite Wastewater Newsletter Started

A new newsletter has been launched for ROWP practitioners. The goals of the newsletter are to provide relevant industry news, to help members keep up to date with standards, and to enhance professionalism within the sector.

Comments...

- *"We appreciate your efforts to keep your members current and aware of some of the more difficult issues arising in the field. I believe this type of approach will foster more learning among practitioners and ultimately lead to improved program delivery."* **Mike Zemanek, Director, Healthy Community Environments, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport**
- *"The first issue provides a clear base for all ROWP's to identify with. Things are categorized for simplicity, and a factual assessment in time."* **Ross Taylor, ASCT, ROWP.**
- *"Very nice ROWP news bulletin. A very good service to industry. I'm very glad to see the bulletin and the changes/programs you have spearheaded."* **Jim Andersen, ROWP**

For information on the OWRP bulletins, please contact Ron Hein, ROWP, Manager, Onsite Wastewater Registration at rhein@asttbc.org

TechPRO Boosts Your Profile

The TechPRO section of ASTTBC's web site provides great career information for aspiring technologists, technicians and technical specialists. TechPRO listings allow you to 'catch up' with former colleagues and find out who is working in your community. Posting your profile provides another way for self-employed practitioners to get their names in front of visitors to the ASTTBC web site. ASTTBC members... if you have not yet posted your career story, please do it today! To load your information go to www.techprofile.ca

Note: **Why not visit TechPRO to see the posts of your colleagues** – this month's 'editor's pick' is Norm Ryder, ASCT. Click on www.techprofile.ca/techprofile.php?4a6e400a

Letters of Assurance Input Sought

The Building and Safety Policy Branch is seeking public input on three proposals for changes to Provincial building regulations. The Branch is planning to update the Building Code's 'Letters of

Assurance'. The update responds to industry requests and supports the Modernization Strategy's shift toward more clearly defined responsibilities and accountabilities. The Branch is also looking for input on proposed changes regarding high-efficiency toilets in new construction and solar hot-water-ready construction for new single family houses. You are invited to comment on these proposals through the public review until September 14, 2009. www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/consultation

HPO No Longer Accepting Applications For Reconstruction Program

The Province announced that as of July 31 2009, the Homeowner Protection Office will no longer accept new applications for the Reconstruction Program. In order to close out the Program, all applications that were received prior to 4:30PM on July 31 2009 will be reviewed by project on a first-come first-received basis. Those applicants that are eligible will be offered a no-interest repair loan provided that the building permit for their building envelope renovation is obtained by January 31, 2010. The Reconstruction Fee of \$750 per multi-unit building constructed for sale in the coastal climatic zone remains in place to continue to fund the Reconstruction Program. All other purposes and requirements of the Homeowner Protection Act such as builder licensing and home warranty insurance will remain in force, and relevant HPO programs and services will continue. Visit the What's New page of the HPO website at www.hpo.bc.ca/About/New.php

Misconceptions Hinder Women's Pursuit Of Technology Careers

***Editor's note:** reprinted courtesy of Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta*

While many young women will soon head back to school to pursue a post-secondary education, not enough of them will consider a career in the lucrative and in-demand profession of applied science and engineering technology. Yet changing this trend is crucial to industries reliant on technology workers and currently facing labour shortages which will worsen as baby boomers retire over the next 10 to 15 years. Women represent a vital but underutilized labour force.

According to the Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta only 10.5 per cent of its membership is female. The Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC recently conducted a survey on women in technology and assessed a similarly low proportion of female members at only nine per cent. In the 2009 Engineering and Technology Labour Market Study, Engineers Canada and Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists identified imbalances in the engineering and technology labour market, and recommended ensuring labour supply by specifically addressing the gender imbalance.

Liz McDonald, CET, an Edmonton-based certified engineering technologist with more than 15 years' experience and a current focus on environmental regulatory affairs, believes that educating girls about this exciting career path while they are still in high school is vital.

"It's important to educate young women about the opportunities that exist in the technical field at a time when they're starting to make those decisions that will impact their future career paths. A science background can open the door to many exciting and rewarding careers in this field. The challenge is to raise awareness of the kinds of careers that are out there. I feel that women currently working in this field can play an effective role in this as well as in sharing the sense of pride and accomplishment that comes with a technical career," said McDonald.

Nancy Fowler, ASCT, of Parksville, BC is an applied science technologist and a veteran of this male-dominated profession, having spent 30 years in the field. Her entrée into the technology profession was encouraged by her father who nurtured her interest in electronics from a young age. She was the only woman in her two-year electronics technology program in the 1970s and found both school and the early years of her career a proving ground for her abilities.

"One of my first instructors had a negative attitude toward me and gave me assignments that were not at the same level as my classmates, even though I'd been a top honors student in high school. But once he realized I was bright and capable and serious about being there, he started treating

me as an equal. I had that same experience in every job I had for the next several years," said Fowler.

Both Fowler and McDonald agree that this rewarding career may lack appeal for young women who may be intimidated by the physical environment and 'old boys club' culture that continues to exist within some occupations and/or work sites. Good mentors and instructors and a passion for their work enabled them to thrive, but getting a new generation of young women into this field continues to be a challenge.

"Recognizing that more needs to be done to support young women in establishing a career in technology, ASET has identified this as a priority in our strategic planning. Staff resources have been dedicated to discerning how best to proceed, and ASET has openly advocated for programs from government and employers to encourage and support women to enter the ASET professions," said ASET CEO Barry Cavanaugh.

"Supportive efforts to assist with the challenges faced by women entering the technology field would be to provide opportunities for them to network, and to open up a discussion forum and establish a mentoring program. A request to industry would be the provision of respectful workplace training to ensure equal treatment of all staff," said ASTTBC Executive Director John Leech, ASCT, CAE.

"There are outstanding career options with interesting work and great compensation open to women in the professions represented by ASET, ASTTBC and similar organizations. It is in the interest of Albertans, British Columbians and Canadians overall to see a change in the levels of women in these fields," added Cavanaugh.

Representing approximately 17,000 technicians and technologists across Alberta, ASET provides its members the certification that top employers demand. ASET members play an integral role in driving the Alberta economy and their innovation is one reason why the province maintains its competitive advantage. ASET members represent a wide range of sectors including avionics, biomedical, chemical, computers, electrical, environmental, geological, instrumentation, oil and gas, and telecommunications. www.aset.ab.ca

Representing approximately 9,000 BC technology professionals, ASTTBC's mission is to serve the public by regulating and supporting technology professionals' commitment to a safe, healthy, and sustainable society and environment. www.asttbc.org

Nancy Fowler, ASCT, Promotes Women in Technology

A long-time member of ASTTBC, Nancy Fowler, ASCT, is leading the 'BC Women in Technology' initiative. Nancy recently retired from TELUS (for her TechPROfile go to <http://www.techprofile.ca/techprofile.php?463f77e9>). She has twice served as a member of ASTTBC Council, and recently led the ASTTBC survey of female technologists and technicians (<http://www.asttbc.com/careers/wit/witsurvey.php>)

"Our Association is taking a lead in learning more about women in technology and in promoting applied science technology careers", said ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech, ASCT, CAE.

"ASTTBC is also partnering with our Alberta counterpart, the Association of Science, Engineering and Technology Professionals of Alberta through a media relations campaign led by ASET and in this way reach a broader audience." (see separate article)

The first interview in the media campaign was on the 'Newsline PM Show' with Victoria's CFX 1070 radio station. Nancy is a great ambassador for technology professionals in BC according to Michele Penz of Calico Communications. *"She did a fantastic job and is a real natural at this. I couldn't have asked for a better result. We even got more time on air than originally expected,"* said Michele.

Recently Nancy Fowler, ASCT, was profiled on the KAA-BOOM web site for boomers and employers (<http://www.kaa-boom.com/node/12>). KAA-BOOM director Barbara Jaworski was the keynote speaker at ASTTBC's Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortages II held in September 2007.

ASTTBC To Sponsor Conference For Young Women

The 'Quantum Leaps' conference for young women will be held on October 22 2009. ASTTBC is a sponsor of the event.

Hosted by the Kootenay Association for Science & Technology, the conference will focus on career development. It will highlight the importance of continuing science and technology courses in secondary and post secondary schools to ensure a wide range of career opportunities for female students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. Despite the fact that girls are on par with boys in math and science proficiency scores, females continue to be under-represented in science, technology, engineering, and math careers. This conference is not only for female students who excel in math and science and may be already committed to a scientific career, but it is also geared towards students that may be considering dropping science and math as they do not see its importance and practical application in their future. 'Quantum Leaps' is for female high school students, high school counselors and interested parents from the West Kootenay Boundary regions.

kast.com/?q=node/1643

ASTTBC Supports Student's Memorial

In July ASTTBC joined with BOABC and Selkirk Truss in making a donation to the Caitlynd Piderman Memorial Scholarship Fund. *"Words cannot express my true feelings about the generous donation made by the Building Officials Association of BC and a huge special thanks to Selkirk Truss and to the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC for their donations,"* said Jack Piderman. *"It goes a long way in fulfilling a grieving father's wish that his daughter's name will live forever by continuing to give to the students in the area help to furthering their education."*

Co-op Students Available For Fall Term

Camosun College Co-operative Education invites you to interview and hire senior second year Mechanical Engineering Technology students (plus some pre-bridge grads) for the upcoming work term: September 28 2009 to March 19, 2010. As a result of their academic preparation for this six month work term, Camosun Co-op students will be able to contribute knowledge and skills appropriate to your business in many areas. As an aside, Camosun College's Co-operative Education and Student Employment has launched its department newsletter, which keeps you up to date with co-op activities

Contact Nan Judd, Technologies Employment Facilitator. Phone: 250 370- 4185

juddn@camosun.bc.ca

Career Calendar For 25,000 Classrooms

2010 will mark the 3rd edition of the Great Canadian Technology Career Calendar. The calendar provides students with a roadmap to dynamic technology careers and amazing Canadian inventions and technologies. Produced by the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists as part of the National Technology Week program, the calendar has become a teaching aid for grades 7-10 in over 25,000 classrooms across Canada. It features a different Canadian product, invention or technology each month along with a Tech Challenge question related to that product/technology. The goal is to raise awareness of technology career opportunities for Canada's youth and to celebrate the contributions Canada has made in the realm of technology. www.cctt.ca

TechLINKS

- **Funding For Technology Start-ups.** Nominations for funding awards from the BC Innovation Council are being accepted until September 21 2009. The BCIC Awards are designed to provide funding needed to support exceptional achievement in, or potential for, commercialization of technology in BC. The Awards will be presented at Connect '09 on October 19. Submission guidelines can be found at www.bcic.ca/connect
- **New Web-based Service Launched For The Home Building Industry.** A Victoria-based

design company has started PLAN2BUILD.com, an 'industry specific' website to help services, suppliers and home owners connect. The approach employed by PLAN2BUILD is designed to help all user groups find useful and relevant information for their building, renovating, repairing or decorating needs. www.plan2build.com

- **Cleaner Gasoline Regulation Amendment Intentions Paper.** The BC Ministry of Environment intends to amend the Cleaner Gasoline Regulation. The ministry's objectives and the proposed contents of the amendment are provided in a policy intentions paper for consultation. Comments are being solicited until September 28 2009. <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/cgra/index.htm>
- **Environmental Manual Updated.** The BC Environmental Laboratory Manual 2007 for the analysis of water, wastewater, sediment, biological materials and discrete ambient air samples, has been updated and revised. The new 2009 manual is available at: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/wamr/labsys/lab_meth_manual.html
- **New Assembly of First Nations Chief From BC.** Shawn Atleo is the first national leader of the Assembly of First Nations from British Columbia in 33 years. He became hereditary chief of the house of Glakishpiitl of the Ahousaht First Nation in 1999. He has a strong background in post-secondary education, having served as managing director of a private, aboriginal post-secondary training institute and being installed as the first chancellor of Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo. For more information visit fncc.asttbc.org/news.php

TechEVENTS

- **Building the Future**, September 22 2009, Vancouver. The BC Building Envelope Council is hosting a one-day conference that will look forward to new technologies and research at the leading edge of the construction industry. www.bcbec.com
- **ASHRAE Okanagan Trade Show**, September 30 2009, Kamloops. 'The Green Advantage' will feature a trade show plus technical sessions on photovoltaic technologies; the Green Dream Home joint project of CHBA and TRU Equilibrium; the Sustainable Housing Demonstration Initiative; and energy-efficient heating of hot water. www.ashrae.bc.ca
- **VRCA Awards of Excellence**, October 1 2009, Vancouver. The Vancouver Regional Construction Association will hold it's 21st Annual Awards of Excellence Dinner to celebrate excellence in construction. www.vrca.bc.ca
- **Roundtable On Technology Skills Shortage III**, October 14 2009, Vancouver. Leaders from industry, education, associations and other interested stakeholders will come together to discuss current labour market circumstances and projections; learn of progress made since a united front was created to address technology skill shortages and the invisible nature of technology careers; and to formulate strategies for the next three years. It follows on earlier work in 2005 and 2007 and a series of roundtables in Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna, Campbell River and Castlegar. A formal registration will be sent out in September, or visit the home page of the ASTTBC web site around mid September for more details. Hosted by ASTTBC and partners. www.asttbc.org
- **APEGBC 2009 Annual Conference & AGM**, October 15 – 17 2009, Victoria. Join professional engineers and geoscientists, government representatives, industry leaders and consultants in discussing sector-related issues as well as celebrate initiatives made by APEGBC members. <https://secure.apeg.bc.ca/imisCustom/Events/EventsCalendar.aspx>
- **Transportation in a Climate of Change**, October 18 – 21 2009, Vancouver. The Transportation Association of Canada conference and exhibition promises to be Canada's largest annual gathering of transportation professionals. www.tac-atc.ca/english/annualconference/
- **Connect '09**, October 19 2009, Vancouver. Hosted by the BC Innovation Council, Connect '09 is a premier event for technology start-ups. Submissions are also now being accepted until September 21 for the BCIC Awards, which will be presented at Connect '09. www.b cic.ca/connect
- **ASTTBC Awards & Recognition Celebration**, November 7 2009, Vancouver. This gala recognizes award winners in technology, thanks the Association's many volunteers, and provides an evening of entertainment. It coincides with National Technology Week. Watch for details in the fall. www.asttbc.org

Note: For links to seminars listed on the web sites of other associations, visit www.asttbc.org/services/cpd/seminars.php

