



ASTT e-News, February, 2007

ASTT e-News is broadcast monthly 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 2007

Did you know that the median increase in salary for ASTTBC members in the last year was 4%? Or that members who graduated in 1997 have a median monthly salary of \$5,833 compared to \$4,813 for those who graduated five years later? Or that the median annual income for self-employed members is \$70,000?

The Member Compensation Survey 2007 is now posted on the ASTTBC web site (www.asttbc.org and click on the link on the home page). It is published so that members

of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia and their employers have the opportunity to compare job responsibility, experience and other factors with the salary ranges reported by the Association.

This is the first time that compensation information has been included for ASTTBC Technical Specialist certification programs. The Compensation Survey has been published by the Association since 1977.

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ASTTBC Meets With Vancouver Mayor

ASTTBC Executive Director & Registrar, John E Leech ASCT CAE, met with Mayor Sam Sullivan of the City of Vancouver at the beginning of February.

From a broad perspective they talked about recognition for technology professionals, particularly around the role of technologists, technicians and technical specialists registered with ASTTBC. The two leaders discussed the need for the City of Vancouver to develop a uniform recognition of ASTTBC registration by calling for registration as an ASCT or CTech in career ads and paying the annual dues of technologists and technicians employed by the City, as is done for many other professionals.

They also talked about ways that ASTTBC and its members can contribute to community programs with which members have a natural linkage due to their expertise. For example, ASTTBC has already been working with the SAFERhome Standards Society and could also encourage ASTTBC members to get involved with TETRA to assist people living with disabilities. The City could bring ASTTBC and its members into the loop when addressing environmental issues and climate change.

ASTTBC plans to rejuvenate its TechWORKS! program to promote careers in technology. A proclamation on National Technology Week is something the City of Vancouver could do that would increase the visibility of technology to citizens and to young people making career choices.

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House Inspector Regulation Update #1

Government is signaling that it is prepared to consider a new model that will serve consumers better when they are buying a home. It is being recognized there is a need for an enhanced regulatory model as well as more consumer awareness.

ASTTBC has provided professional regulation of house and property inspectors for more than a decade. For several years, the Association has been talking with government about one standard and a common regulatory framework to protect consumers and serve the public interest. ASTTBC believes all stakeholders need to be at the table to build a new model.

The need for change is a view shared by many consumers who are the ones most affected by the current situation where anyone can set up shop and sell their services as a house inspector.

"My experience as a consumer of home inspection services leads me to express in the strongest possible terms my opinion regarding the need for regulated standards in the home inspection industry." says Lorraine Bennett of West Vancouver. "In January 2003, my husband and I offered to purchase an 8 year old house in West Vancouver, subject to a satisfactory report by a building inspector. We retained **(editor's note: an inspector who was not certified by ASTTBC)** who spent approximately four hours inspecting the house and pronounced it, with a few minor provisos, 'a lovely home'. We purchased the property,

by far the largest single investment we had ever made. In February 2005, we began a process which would lead to the discovery of complete failure of the building envelope. It was necessary to deconstruct and to reconstruct the entire exterior of the house. On the basis of that home purchase, governments assess taxes which I am duty-bound to pay. Surely, it is the Province's duty to ensure that those who give the clean bill of health in this process are qualified to do so."

ASTTBC believes one step is a common platform and information base. With this in mind ASTTBC plans to send regular updates on key developments to interested groups.

ASTTBC representatives, including President Keith Switzer, ASCT; ASTTBC Council Director Darrin Heisler, ASCT; and Executive Director & Registrar John Leech, ASCT, CAE, met with Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General John Les in January. ASTTBC brought the minister up to date on ASTTBC professional certification and regulation. While other groups offer house and property certification, ASTTBC believes it is the one association with a legislated mandate and capacity to effectively serve the public interest when it comes to professional regulation of house inspectors. The delegation advised the minister that we believe that some form of 'licensing' is required to serve consumers best.

The minister asked the ASTTBC representatives how the Association would handle the transition to a new regulatory framework. Several steps are required: bring all key stakeholders to the table; agree on the requirements for professional regulation; insure that all those offering services would continue to be able to practice and be given time to reach the new requirements for professional registration; set a target date by which time all practitioners would have to meet the established standard (3 years suggested); define the need for BCIT and the colleges to cooperate toward offering province-wide training; bring all practitioners to the table to cooperatively make the new system work; and develop a strategy to enhance consumer awareness. ASTTBC agreed to draft a regulatory proposal and submit it to the minister.

If you have any questions or wish to provide input for consideration in the next update, please contact John Leech, ASCT, CAE at jleech@asttbc.org.

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CPD Program About To Be Launched

At the September 2006 meeting, ASTTBC Council approved in principle a proposed Continuing Professional Development Program and asked that it be sent to members for comment. Responses can be summarized as follows:

1. continuing professional development is important
2. a program to recognize members' efforts to continue their professional development would be appreciated
3. suitable activities are more difficult to access outside the lower mainland
4. questions were posed as to specific activities that did not fit clearly into the list and how to credit them and about the voluntary nature of the program
5. the comment was made that "if and when ASTTBC registration becomes mandatory for certain jobs or positions, that consideration may need to be given to requiring those members to fully subscribe to the CPD program and have their logs reviewed on a regular basis".

In February, 2007 ASTTBC Council will consider this input and decide about the launch of the program.

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Guides to Professional Practice

ASTTBC continues to press for a clear understanding on the scope of independent practice for the technology professionals registered with the Association. To help define the scope, ASTTBC is developing 'Guides to Professional Practice'. Council will review a draft document at in February. A scoping document was earlier debated by Council in November, 2006.

Since then, staff has consulted with legal counsel and crafted a new model for Council to consider. It is anticipated a draft will be released soon with an invitation for comment by members, government and other associations.

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Limited Licensee Designation

A new designation for the Limited Licence was created and approved by the Council of the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC in September, 2006. ASTTBC technologists who are also registered for the Limited Licence through APEGBC are entitled to use the new designation of Engineering or Geoscience Licensee (Eng.L./Geo.L.). Currently 26 ASTTBC-registered technologists hold a Limited Licence.

For information on the Limited License program, visit <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/req/LimitedLicence.html>

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BCSA Seeks Experts For Technology Committees

Several Technology Committees assist the BC Safety Authority in delivering high quality safety services to the residents of British Columbia. The Committees cover: amusement devices, recreational railways and passenger ropeways; boiler, pressure vessel and refrigeration; electrical; elevating devices; and gas. An application form for professionals wishing to serve on one of these committees is available at <http://www.safetyauthority.ca/files/TC%20Application%20Form0107.pdf>.

For additional information contact:
Courtney Hendricson
Leader, Partnerships & Advisory Services
British Columbia Safety Authority
(604) 660-6241
Courtney.Hendricson@safetyauthority.ca

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Northern BC Members Surveyed

In an effort to introduce some construction technology courses in Northern BC, ASTTBC, in cooperation with the College of New Caledonia in Prince George, sent out a short survey to nearly 500 members. The goals were to identify potential training requirements for members in the north, and to gather information that will help ASTTBC meet the needs of northern communities.

Heather Andreychuk, ASCT, who works in Prince George has volunteered to compile the survey. Results will be distributed electronically or printed in the next issue of ASTT News.

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Mining Discipline Given Visibility

ASTTBC produced an ad promoting technologists and technicians in the mining industry that ran in conjunction with the Minerals North Conference. A black & white version was placed in

northern newspapers and a full-colour version was distributed by e-mail.

This is just one of a series of advertisements the Association has been running to help build public and employer awareness of the vital role played by ASTTBC members.

For further information, visit www.asttbc.org or watch for the printed Spring, 2007 issue of ASTT News.

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Foreign Credential Recognition

The Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists announced the launch of a quarterly newsletter addressing foreign credential recognition issues and the International Qualifications Database. The new newsletter is intended to provide registrars and certification board members with a quarterly update on education systems, credentials, courses and institute names, as they apply to foreign applicants.

The International Qualifications Database is becoming a significant instrument in evaluating credentials of foreign-educated technology professionals. The IQDB database now contains 1790 programs, and 1778 assessed programs with credentials, covering 41 countries.

Courses and course lists will continue to be added when available. Entries have been verified for authenticity.

Certification bodies still need to be on guard for fake diplomas. A current Internet offering offers BA, BSc MA MSc MBA and PhD degrees within two weeks without any study. The IQDB database now contains a list of 150 fake colleges and 60 institutions that run unauthorized courses. The IQDB is maintaining a file for all fake credentials that may look genuine at first glance.

Ron Green, ASCT, a Past President of ASTTBC was instrumental in compiling the material for the newsletter and for spear-heading the development of the database.

For further information contact Yaroslaw Zajac, Executive Director/Directeur general, Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists tel: (613) 238-8123 ext. 226 or e-mail yzajac@CCTT.ca

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New Book Helps Grads Find Jobs

The 2007 edition of 'How to Find Work in the 21st Century' that is currently in use at over 200 colleges, universities and secondary schools, has just been released. It shows grads how to find meaningful work.

Details at: <http://www.trafford.com/00-0131>.

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TechCanada Roundtable

ASTTBC is taking a lead role in arranging a special meeting in Ottawa to consider key issues facing technology education and careers. Funding for the TechCanada Roundtable is being provided by the federal government.

About 50 leaders in education, industry, government and professional associations from across Canada will participate. TELUS Vice President, Josh Blair, P.Eng, an industry spokesperson at ASTTBC's Technology Careers Conference in British Columbia in 2005, will be a keynote speaker at the upcoming Ottawa roundtable. Also attending from BC will be Tom Roemer, Associate Dean at Okanagan College and Chair of the BC Deans of

Technology; Al Gorley, RPF, representing the Ministry of Forests and Range; and Jerome Marburg, Registrar, with the Association of BC Forest Professionals. John Leech, ASCT, CAE, ASTTBC Executive Director & Registrar, will moderate the one day roundtable. "This is a great opportunity to identify and tackle issues such as declining enrollments and the invisible nature of technology careers." he says. "I anticipate great dialogue and expect we will come away with an action plan to address the issues".

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Okanagan College Associate Dean Meets ASTTBC Staff

Tom Roemer, Associate Dean at Okanagan College, met ASTTBC staff recently about initiatives like ASTTBC's sponsorship of the Spaghetti Bridge contest and jointly promoting technology careers, and issues such as enhancing the profile of technologists and technicians and declining enrollments in college programs. Tom is the current Chair of the BC Deans of Technology.

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Spaghetti Bridge Contest Gets ASTTBC And SNC-Lavalin Support

On March 2 the Okanagan College campus in Kelowna will be filled with yells of triumph and sighs of despair as contestants in the 2007 Spaghetti Bridge Contest see just how much weight their designs can hold.

The annual event draws competitors from around the world and throughout the region. Last year two students from Budapest Polytechnic won by constructing a bridge weighing 972.5 grams that held nearly 227 kilograms before breaking. The record was set in 2004 at 257.33 kilograms. The competition is open to all age groups. Elementary students will be building a highway overpass with their allotment of spaghetti.

The Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC is sponsoring individual and team awards this year in both the Secondary School and Post Secondary categories. Okanagan College and ASTTBC are looking into the idea of expanding the Spaghetti Bridge Contest with regional competitions around the province during National Technology Week which is held in November each year.

ASTTBC's charitable foundation, the Foundation For Education & Advancement In Technology has been a supporter of the Spaghetti Bridge Contest for most of the past decade. "Action events like this one really catch the students interest." says FEAT Executive Director, Ted Nodwell, CAE.

SNC-Lavalin Inc., the Canadian engineering and construction company designing and building the new William R. Bennett Bridge across Okanagan Lake, is providing prizes in the heavyweight competition, as well as contest funding and student scholarships. "It's crucial to encourage future generations of young engineers to pursue studies in our exciting field of work." says Jim Burke, Senior Vice President and General Manager of SNC-Lavalin's Transportation Division.

Rules & Regulations are available at: <http://technologies.okanagan.bc.ca/bridge/>

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Forestry Programs Cut At BCIT

The BC Institute of Technology has decided to close its two forestry programs due to low enrolment. Forest professionals manage all aspects of the forest including fish, wildlife, soils and forest health issues such as the mountain pine beetle outbreak.

ASTTBC Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT, CAE, expressed concern over the decision. "I am certain BCIT gave a lot of thought to cutting the Forest Technologist and Forest Technician programs. What concerns me is the apparent lack of program rationalization province-wide" he says. "The Forest Technologist program at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George is also hanging on by its teeth".

In a recent statement, the Association of BC Forest Professionals declared that the public relies on BCIT and the other forest technology schools in the province for the high-calibre graduates they produce each year to take care of the forests. The employment rate for forest technology programs is 100% and the demand for trained forest professionals is going to grow as the workforce ages. "When you work in forestry you have the opportunity to make a difference for future generations." says ABCFP's president Bob Craven, a BCIT alumni. "Unfortunately, young people are not getting this message and are not choosing to go into forestry programs."

Strategic leadership by the BC government is required to provide province-wide direction for technology education. Until then, institutes and colleges will continue to make decisions without full consideration of provincial needs. Looking at future demand for graduates should be the driver for keeping the programs going, not current enrollments.

The ASTTBC Executive Director met with Chief Forester, Jim Snetsinger, and will be meeting with BCIT President Tony Knowles in mid-February, to discuss the issue. ASTTBC Council members Jim Blake and Doug Carter, CTech as well as ASTTBC Community Representative Colin Dix, ASCT... all based in Prince George... are keenly interested in the future of technology programs at the College of New Caledonia.

While Malaspina University-College, Selkirk College and the College of New Caledonia still offer forest technology programs, BCIT was the only one in the highly populated Lower Mainland.

In addition to the recent BCIT forestry announcement, there have been cuts or reductions in technology programs in other disciplines in recent years at Kwantlen University College, Thompson River University, College of New Caledonia, Northern Lights College and North West College. At a time of a coming skills shortage, a crisis in technology education appears to be building.

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Mechanical Engineering Co-op Students Available

Students from the Camosun College Technology Co-op programs are eagerly prepared to participate in Co-op Education for the March to June, 2007 work term.

Students are trained in:

1. Drafting and CAD: preparing working engineering drawings using AutoCAD and Inventor; converting hand drawings to CAD drawings.
2. Fabrication and Machine Shop: programming and operating CNC lathe and machining centre; calibrating mechanical components; preparing parts for CNC fabrication; using hand and machine tools.
3. Design: applying the fundamentals of fluid mechanics, pneumatics, hydraulics, statics, strength of materials and dynamics in the design of machines and mechanical components; using electrical and electronics fundamentals in industrial circuit design.
4. Administrative: writing reports and technical communications; selecting components; procuring parts; managing projects, applying quality assurance procedures.

If you need a student for the March work-term, post a job online at

<http://www.camosun.bc.ca/coop/jobpost.php> or contact

John Horn
Employment Facilitator Co-operative Education & Student Employment
(Technologies)
Camosun College
Phone: 250-370-4185
E-mail: horn@camosun.bc.ca

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Vancouver Island Members Can Connect With Students

There will be a Scientists and Innovators in the Schools workshop on February 21, 2007 at North Island College in Campbell River. The goal of the workshop is to teach volunteers new and exciting ways to bring science and technology alive in the classroom. Notice of the workshops was electronically broadcast to 429 members of ASTTBC, residing in the mid and upper Vancouver Island.

For more information on the SIS program visit www.scienceworld.ca/sis
To register for the workshop, please contact Jennifer at 1-800-363-1611 or jscott@scienceworld.ca

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BIG Little Science Centre Seeks Support

In its seven years of existence, the BIG Little Science Centre in Kamloops has grown from a one-room 'fun place to visit' into a Science Education Centre of Excellence. Recently, two primary sources of funding have been cut back, putting the Centre in a financial crunch.

The Centre has more than 130 hands-on displays for young people and provides lessons on topics from the new BC science curriculum, such as simple machines, chemistry, aquatic insects, magnetism and electricity. A special demonstration room is designated for Light and Colour, a topic dealt with in the curriculum in Grades 4 and 8 and in Physics 11.

"Over 30,000 satisfied customers can't be wrong" says Executive Director Gord Stewart. "The BIG Little Science Centre is a wonderful true hands-on place for young people to visit in Kamloops, and we have the letters and photos to prove it."

The BIG Little Science Centre is concentrating on fundraising and partnership development in order to remain operational. The Centre is talking with ASTTBC to see how the Association or its members might be involved.

For information, visit www.biglittlesciencecentre.org

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Reaching Out To Elementary Students

Parents of children at Westsyde Elementary School in Kamloops are developing a proposal to have their school provide a science and technology focus. "We want to show our children that careers in science, technology and trades are challenging and rewarding." says Lyle Killough, ASCT. "This is an opportunity to expose children to science and technology at an early age. And an enhanced understanding of the natural and physical world, and a greater comprehension of how environmental systems function and react to human activities will increase their capability as global citizens regardless of ultimate career choice."

ASTTBC has sent a letter of support to appropriate MLA's for the proposed science and

technology elementary school. "There is an urgent need to attract greater numbers of students into technology education, leading to rewarding careers as technologists and technicians." says Jason Jung, ASCT, Manager, Technology Careers at ASTTBC. "Enrollments at various post-secondary colleges and institutes, including TRU, are suffering, yet the demand in technology, as with the trades, is high."

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Business Opportunity In Central BC

An ASTTBC member in the construction industry in south central BC is looking for another member with entrepreneurial spirit to join the company as a junior manager. The goal would be to earn shares over time with eventual goal of partial or total purchase of the company which had revenue more than \$2,000,000 in 2006.

Reply in confidence to techinfo@asttbc.org with the Subject Line of your e-mail marked South Central BC Business. ASTTBC is providing this service only as a convenience to members and assumes no responsibility or involvement beyond forwarding initial expressions of interest received.

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Funding Available For Soil And Water Sustainability

Sustainable Technologies Development Canada has announced its next call for funding applications (Statements of Interest) from soil and water solution developers. Since its inception, SDTC has supported the development and demonstration of technologies with potential to improve air quality and reduce the effects of climate change. In 2004, the Federal government expanded the Foundation's mandate to include soil and water technologies including those designed to prevent, treat or contain contamination that exceeds standards and to enhance land use and increase land value (e.g., through brownfield redevelopment).

Support provided by SDTC can help bridge funding gaps in the innovation chain and help prepare clean technologies for adoption in later-stage programs such as the Green Municipal Fund of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The deadline for submission of applications is March 14, 2007.
For further information visit <http://www.sdtc.ca/en/soilandwater.htm>.

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Sustainability Now Newsletter

The Winter 2007 edition of Sustainability Now is now available on-line at <http://www.apeq.bc.ca/aboutus/sustainability/documents/2007Winter.pdf>

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Site Remediation Guideline Updated

The Environmental Management Branch of the Ministry of Environment recently revised the draft technical guidance document, "Site Investigations and Remediation and the Local Government Permit Process", dated November 26, 1997. It is now entitled Administrative Guidance #6, "Independent Remediation Where Local Government Permits are Required", dated September 2006. This updated guidance describes a mechanism for releasing municipal permit applications when a company wishes to use independent remediation for a proposed site upgrade. It is posted at: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/contam_sites/guidance

Please note that a draft ministry site profile processing procedure has been posted on the Land Remediation web site for public comment at:
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/contam_sites/draft_documents

The ministry recently created an e-mail address specifically for site profile inquiries. Any questions or comments regarding the site profile process, including Schedules 1 and 2 of the Contaminated Sites Regulation, should be sent to siteprofiles@gov.bc.ca.

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ASTTBC Staff Update

Need to contact the ASTTBC staff? Here is an updated list with updated job titles. For telephone locals or e-mail addresses please visit the web site at www.asttbc.org.

ASTTBC:

John Leech, ASCT, CAE	<i>Executive Director & Registrar</i>
John Shortreid, ASCT, CLS	<i>Associate Registrar</i>
Nicky Malli	<i>Manager, Finance & Administration</i>
Jason Jung, ASCT	<i>Manager, Technology Careers</i>
Geoff Sale, ASCT	<i>Manager, Internationally Educated Professionals Program</i>
Cindy Aitken	<i>Manager, Events</i>
Ted Nodwell, CAE	<i>Manager, Communications</i>
Richard Mayer, ASCT	<i>Manager, Corporate Identity</i>
Wendy Lawson	<i>Manager, Marketing</i>
Meg Janecki, ASCT	<i>Manager, e-Business</i>
Larry Barker, RFPT	<i>Manager, Fire Protection Registration</i>
Pat Larsson	<i>Sr Coordinator, Professional Regulation</i>
Amy Liu	<i>Coordinator, Registrations</i>
Kathy Rozek	<i>Coordinator, Technical Specialist Registrations</i>
Karen Taylor	<i>Coordinator, Operations</i>
Cheryl Blachuras	<i>Coordinator, Customer Service</i>
Rayna Smeltzer	<i>Coordinator, Publications</i>
Lumi Guias	<i>Coordinator, Finance & Bursaries</i>
Betty Bell	<i>Assistant, Administrative Services</i>

FEAT:

Ted Nodwell, CAE	<i>Executive Director, FEAT</i>
Wendy Lawson	<i>Manager, Operations, FEAT</i>
Cindy Aitken	<i>Administrator, FEAT</i>

Coming Events

ASTTBC Annual General Meeting

The ASTTBC AGM will be held on May 25, 2007. Come and hear about the goals and work of your association and take the opportunity to network with colleagues. Mark your calendar. Details to follow.

2010 Sustainable Business Opportunities Workshop

The 2010 Sustainable Business Opportunities Workshop will focus on sustainable business opportunities associated with upcoming 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver-Whistler, as well as Olympic events in 2008 in China and 2012 in London, England. Participants will receive a guide on how to take advantage of these opportunities. Staff from the 2010 Commerce Centre and from companies that are doing business with the Olympics will be on hand for one-on-one discussions for instant feedback on your sustainability ideas.

Wednesday, February 28, 2007, 9:00 - 12:30, with optional one-on-one interviews to 3:30 pm. Vancouver. Non-Members of BCEIA: \$ 45.00 BCEIA Members: \$35.00
For more information click on www.bceia.com

Contaminated Site Seminars/Workshops

Registration is now open for GeoEnviroLogic Professional Development's February seminars at UBC:

1. February 21: Contaminated Sites Overview: Investigation Design, Risk Assessment Principles, Remediation and Management Planning
2. February 22: Draft Revisions and Other Planned Changes to the Contaminated Site Regulatory Regime in BC
3. February 23: Current Practice and Ramifications of Revised Regulations to Implementing Risk-based Approaches at Contaminated Sites in BC

For more information and a direct link to online registration or to download a manual registration form, please go to www.geoenvirologic.ca

Vancouver Valuation Summit 2007

The Vancouver Valuation Summit ,March 2, 2007 will provide an opportunity to learn how sustainability factors can or might add tangible value to everyday business and investment transactions. This event, which is being organized by the GLOBE Foundation, will impact policy and regulatory trends for the coming decade, and influence the development of business, communities, society and their respective economies. Leaders from national and multinational companies with an interest in developing sustainability into valuation practices will be attending, with a particular emphasis from companies specializing in real estate appraisal, sales and marketing; construction, architecture and property development. For more information, visit www.vancouveraccord.org

Wood Solutions Fair

The Vancouver Wood Solutions Fair, sponsored by the Canadian Wood Council, is slated for March 13, 2007 from 7:45 am - 4 pm. Fifteen educational presentations and more than 30 exhibitors will be available to delegates. Free admission for registration by March 9.

For registration and event information visit www.woodsolutionsfair.com

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