



ASTT e-News, July, 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.

Table Of Contents

[Guides To Professional Practice - Input Requested](#)
[ASTTBC Introduces Tech Awards For Women](#)
[TechPRO Web Site - Win An iPod!](#)
[Minister Attends ASTTBC Technology Roundtable](#)
[ASTTBC Roundtable Garner Press Coverage](#)
[Press Releases Recognize Volunteers](#)
[Ad Campaign Continues](#)
[ASTTBC Creates TechGREEN](#)
[ASTTBC To Sponsor MISTIC Award](#)
[Membership By The Numbers](#)
[Electronic Dues Notices In 2008](#)
[Building Envelope Guide For Houses](#)
[Occupational Health & Safety Regulations](#)
[Enhancing Labour Mobility](#)
[New Regulatory Model Coming To Alberta](#)
[Looking for a Home Inspector?](#)
[Playland Passes](#)
[Coming Events](#)

Guides to Professional Practice - Input Requested

ASTTBC is developing Guides to Professional Practice as part of the Association's responsibility under the ASTT Act and Regulations to clearly outline the scope of members' independent practice. ASTTBC Council has approved in principle five draft Guides: Biomedical Engineering Technology Services; Electrical Technology Services for Building Projects; Electronics Technology Services; Geomatics Technology Services; and, Mechanical Technology Services for Building Projects. All five drafts are now [available for comment](#) by

members and other interested stakeholders. Please send your comments by September 28, 2007 via email as follows:

Biomedical biomedical@asttbc.org
Electrical electrical@asttbc.org
Electronics electronics@asttbc.org
Geomatics geomatics@asttbc.org
Mechanical mechanical@asttbc.org

Comments can also be mailed to: ASTTBC, 10767 - 148 Street, Surrey, BC V3R 0S4. Comments will be compiled and a report with recommendations will be presented to ASTTBC Council for consideration. ASTTBC will not respond to the comments received unless there is a perceived need for further follow up.

ASTTBC Introduces Tech Awards For Women

[Top of page](#)

ASTTBC is introducing two new technology awards for women. The first, the 'Employer Award For Career Enhancement and Success of Women as Technology Professionals' recognizes an employer for creating a work environment that accommodates the career success of women technology professionals. The second, the 'Professional Leadership Award For Women in Technology' honours a woman who is an ASTTBC member, has distinguished herself in her field of technology and has demonstrated leadership within the Association or local community by serving as a role model and promoting careers in technology. **All submissions must be received by August 15th, 2007.**

TechPRO Web Site Now Up - Win An iPod!

[Top of page](#)

How many times have you heard: "You're a technologist / technician / technical specialist?; What do you do?"; "AScT or CTech - what's that?"; "You're a technologist? Oh, you're in computers, right?"

Here's your chance to set the record straight and help those considering a career in technology. Go to ASTTBC's TechPROfiles on the ASTTBC web site and let people know who you are and what you do! TechPRO is your new online member directory and we're excited to let you know about it. Here's why:

1. Recognizes ASTTBC's talented membership
2. Highlights role models for youth
3. Promotes great careers in technology to children, parents and others
4. Raises the public awareness of who ASTTBC technologists, technicians, and technical specialists are and the important roles you play in everyday life.

Create your own profile on TechPRO. When you get to the site you will find several members who have already posted their profiles so you can follow their examples. Here's how.

1. Go to the Member Login page at <http://www.techprofile.ca/>.
2. You need your ASTTBC registration number and your date of birth. The instructions will guide you through the entry
3. We suggest you create a Word document for the information in each section on the site and then cut and paste it into the web site. Each section has a maximum character count, so to count how much you have written (in MS Word go to Tools, Word Count,

and you will see your character count)

Please also post a photo, it helps to put a face to the name, and there are instructions for loading that too. ***DON'T FORGET. . . add your profile to the site by AUGUST 15, 2007, to be entered in for a draw to win a new BLACK 30GB i-Pod!***

We look forward to seeing you online!

PS - we appreciate any comments or suggestions; please send them to techprofile@asttbc.org

Economic Development Minister Attends ASTTBC Technology Roundtable

[Top of page](#)

The Honourable Colin Hansen, Minister of Economic Development, met with 33 select industry leaders in Vancouver on June 19, 2007, to discuss the current technology skills shortage. The half-day 'Roundtable On The Technology Skills Shortage - An Industry Call to Action' was hosted by ASTTBC and chaired by Josh Blair, PEng, Senior Vice President, TELUS.

The minister pointed out that BC is now recording the lowest unemployment rates ever and has created 370,000 new jobs since 2001, a 20% increase that is double China's job creation rate. He indicated that the Province is looking at educating technicians and technologists of the future with more on-line learning, and at working with regulatory bodies on how to speed up the foreign credentialing process. Minister Hansen wanted to hear firsthand the conversation industry was having regarding addressing the shrinking labour pool and what actions are required to ensure BC has the needed skilled technology workers for today and in the years ahead.

"ASTTBC invited only employers and technology sector leaders to the table," says John Leech, AScT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar. *"Our goal was to ask industry leaders to talk about their issues with the Minister."* Matthew Watson, CEO of the BC Innovation Council remarked on the passion in the room on this issue and expressed a willingness to work with ASTTBC, government and industry.

Colin Hansen expressed appreciation to ASTTBC for arranging the meeting and outlined some areas where industry and ASTTBC can work with government to tackle the technology skills shortages. The information gathered at this roundtable will be compiled by ASTTBC. Another, larger roundtable will be held on October 31, 2007, at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver, BC. Details on this roundtable will be released as they become available.

ASTTBC Roundtable Gathers Press Coverage

[Top of page](#)

The 'Roundtable On The Technology Skills Shortage - An Industry Call to Action' that was hosted by ASTTBC helped bring the issues to the attention of media. The Journal of Commerce ran a lengthy article titled 'Technologists grapple with labour shortage' and Tri-City News published an article on the looming skills shortage.

Visit http://www.asttbc.com/services/docs/JOC_Article.pdf to read the articles.

Press Releases By ASTTBC Recognize Volunteers

[Top of page](#)

ASTTBC sends press releases to media around BC to put Association news in front of the public. Recent press releases include:

1. an interview with Darrin Heisler, AScT, incoming President of ASTTBC
2. the election of ASTTBC Council

3. the election of Bruce Allan, CHI, as President of the BC Institute of Property Inspectors and the BCIPI Board of Directors.

Ad Campaign Continues

[Top of page](#)

For examples of ASTTBC advertisements placed in BC Business Magazine and in Business In Vancouver in the summer of 2007, visit <http://www.asttbc.com/services/docs/ASTTBC.BCBM.Ad1.07HR.pdf>. These are the latest in ASTTBC's media awareness campaign to increase the profile of technologists,

ASTTBC Creates TechGREEN Program

[Top of page](#)

ASTTBC Council has approved 'TechGREEN', a new initiative to contribute to BC's sustainability. A special Task Force is being chaired by Michelle Bast, ASCT, B.I.T, of O'Connor Associates Environmental Inc. The first step for the group will be to define what the Association means by 'sustainability'. The Task Force is looking for a few volunteers to help with the work of this initiative. Most business will be handled via email and teleconferencing, so you can participate no matter where you live. If you wish to get involved please send a brief statement of your interest and brief note about your qualifications to TechGREEN@asttbc.org.

ASTTBC Will Sponsor MISTIC Award

[Top of page](#)

ASTTBC has committed to sponsor a technology leadership award and the published program for the Mid-Island Science, Technology and Innovation Council. *"As part of our effort to promote technology careers and technology professionals, ASTTBC is providing support for science and technology awards and programs throughout BC."* reports ASTTBC Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT, CAE. *"We started in Prince George and are now including Mid-Vancouver Island. We will continue to build support as our means allow."* John advises that MISTIC and ASTTBC are considering an agreement to outline areas of interest and to help the two achieve common goals. ASTTBC is already sending out MISTIC notices to ASTTBC members on Vancouver Island.

Membership By The Numbers

[Top of page](#)

Registration with ASTTBC continues to grow at a modest pace, with 338 new members and 69 new technical specialist registrants. ASCT is up 124; CTech another 45; Fire Protection is up in June to 622, a modest increase of 27 since December; and, Onsite Wastewater grew during the same period from 440 to 472.

Electronic Dues Notices Coming In 2008

[Top of page](#)

ASTTBC will be using electronic billing for annual dues commencing in 2008. Initially, this change would not include technical specialist groups. Members who have not provided ASTTBC with an e-mail address would continue to receive their annual dues notice by regular post. This change is in line with ASTTBC's goal of adopting e-business practices that benefit members and/or make the Association more efficient. Watch ASTT e-News for more details.

Building Envelope Guide For Houses

[Top of page](#)

The Homeowner Protection Office is selling a guide entitled 'Building Envelope Guide for

Houses - Part 9 Residential Construction'. This new, easy-to-use, guide provides practical information on the design and construction of the building envelope for new homes constructed in accordance with Part 9 of the 2006 British Columbia Building Code and the 2007 Vancouver Building By-law. Published by the HPO, the Guide was co-funded by the HPO and the Building Policy Branch, Office of Housing and Construction Standards. \$55 plus shipping & taxes.

Occupational Health & Safety Regulations

[Top of page](#)

WorkSafe BC regularly reviews sections of the Occupational Health & Safety Regulations. ASTTBC is once again asking that ASTTBC-registered technology professionals be fully and properly recognized and included. ASTTBC's request is consistent with our broad goal of ensuring all qualified practitioners are recognized, to better serve the public interest. ASTTBC will continue to ask regulatory authorities to move forward from out-dated restrictive regulation and 'enable' all qualified professionals.

Enhancing Labour Mobility

[Top of page](#)

To ensure Canada remains competitive, governments must remove barriers that discourage Canadians from working or from moving to where jobs are. This view is shared by many industry and government leaders. *"It will be increasingly important that our economy uses the labour that is available in the most efficient way."* Bank of Canada Governor David Dodge said at a recent news conference. *"To begin with, it means that we must remove any unnecessary barriers, either to labour force participation or to labour mobility,"* he added.

ASTTBC believes governments and professional associations must also work toward legislation which enables, rather than restricts, all qualified workers. *"ASTTBC's decades-old effort to achieve fully defined rights to professional practice is an essential component to improving productivity and addressing the labour shortage."* says John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar of ASTTBC. *"Our message is clearly on track with those of other leaders concerned about finding effective means to address the shortage."*

Alberta and BC have signed a Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement. The goal of TILMA is to harmonize approaches in both provinces. So far, TILMA has not been adopted by the other provinces. *"When are we going to decide that the free movement of goods and people and services is something that's part of what a national identity should be?"* said BC Premier Gordon Campbell at the annual Western Premiers' Conference. While other premiers agree with the spirit of TILMA, some questioned the agreement's ability to arbitrate disputes between jurisdictions and with professional organizations.

The danger to professional associations in not coming to an agreement among themselves on a consistent nation-wide approach, is that governments may eventually impose legislative changes on how the professions are regulated.

New Regulatory Model Coming To Alberta

[Top of page](#)

In early 2006, the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta and the Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta held discussions with the government of Alberta about how engineering and technology should be regulated. APEGGA and ASET subsequently developed a Memorandum of Understanding that was approved by both memberships. The MOU opened the door to a 'One Act, Two Association' model, however amendments to the EGPA Act were required. These

amendments have now passed third reading in the Alberta Legislature and received Royal Assent. APEGGA and ASET can now embark on a new era of technologist regulation. Watch ASTT e-News for developments or visit www.aset.ab.ca

Looking for a Home Inspector?

[Top of page](#)

The British Columbia Institute of Property Inspectors is an institute established under the umbrella of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC, to represent the professionally certified house and property inspectors in British Columbia.

To find out more, or to contact an inspector, visit <http://www.bcipi.net/> today!

Playland Passes

[Top of page](#)

ASTTBC members can now save on select PNE events including Playland, PNE, Fright Nights and others! Playland one day PlayPasses include admission, unlimited access to over 30 exciting rides and attractions including mini golf, rock climbing and six tokens to the Electric City Arcade!

To purchase tickets online visit: www.pne.ca/groupsales. Select the event of your choice; enter the following promotional code: 07ASTTBC; then follow the instructions to finalize your purchase.

Coming Events

[Top of page](#)

Stormwater Management Analysis, August 16, 2007, Castlegar. APEGBC. <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/>

HVAC Systems: Overview & Design Issues for Sustainable Buildings, August 23, 2007, Fort St. John. APEGBC. <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/>

Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogues, commencing Sept 5, 2007, Vancouver and lower mainland locations. GVRD. <http://www.gvrd.bc.ca/>

Building Envelope Principles, Sept 7, 2007. AIBC. <http://www.aibc.ca/>

CanWest Horticulture Show, September 12-13, 2007, Vancouver. CanWest is Western Canada's largest horticulture trade show representing nursery, floriculture and landscape supplies companies. <http://www.canwesthortshow.com/>

IAQ and Housing Durability, October 10-12, 2007, Richmond. Day 1 IAQ and Housing; Day 2 Troubleshooting; Day 3 Mold Assessment. Attend 1, 2, or all 3 days. SPECIAL OFFER FOR ASTTBC AND BCIPI MEMBERS ONLY. REGISTER BY JULY 20 AND SAVE. For information phone Julie Levi (800) 785-4110; e-mail info@iaqresourcescanada.com

Canadian Brownfields Conference, October, 18-19 2007, Montreal. Focus on building sustainable cities and the potential of achieving economic and cultural growth through the redevelopment of brownfields. Themes will include political and technological innovation, municipal and private sector partnerships and international experiences to revitalize communities and restore urban cores. <http://www.canadianbrownfields.ca/>

APEGBC 2007 Annual Conference & AGM, October 25 - 27, 2007, Whistler. Program

includes two days of professional development, combining industry-leading technical and business sessions. A trade exhibition and social events provide an opportunity to network with colleagues and suppliers. <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/ac2007/main.html>.

Laboratory Safety Course, October 29-30, 2007, Edmonton. Canadian Society for Chemical Technology www.cheminst.ca/profdev

ASTTBC Awards & Recognition Celebration - November 3, 2007, Pan Pacific Hotel, Vancouver. Watch for details in ASTT e-News and by broadcast email.

GLOBE 2008, March 12 -14, 2008, Vancouver. Corporate sustainability and finance; energy and the environment; building better cities. <http://www.globe2008.ca/>
