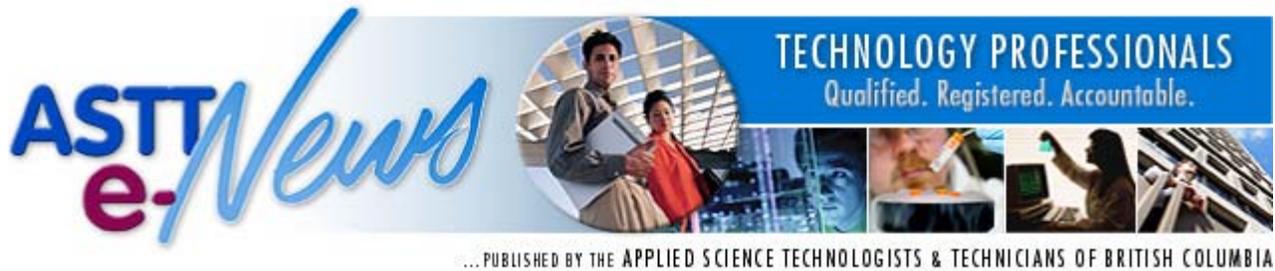


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**From:** ASTTBC News [noreply@asttbc.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 27, 2007 3:38 PM  
**Subject:** ASTT e-News, June, 2007



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## ASTT e-News, June, 2007

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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

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[AGM Focuses On Technology Careers](#)  
[ASTTBC Elects New President](#)  
[ASTTBC Awards - Call For Nominations](#)  
[Awards For Public Safety](#)  
[ASTTBC & FEAT Sponsor Career Camps For Girls](#)  
[New Policy For ASTTBC Logo](#)  
[Electronic Dues Notices Possible For 2008](#)  
[Retired Members Dues Set](#)  
[Members Contribute To HR Plan](#)  
[Technical Specialist Programs](#)  
[Modernization Strategy](#)  
[Industry Discusses Green Building Regulation](#)  
[Sustainability News From BC](#)  
[National Benchmarks Released For Consultation](#)  
[Foreign Qualifications Database](#)  
[Technical Volunteers Needed](#)  
[Re-Energizing Electrical & Gas Equipment After A Flood](#)  
[Architectural & Construction Newsletter Available](#)  
[Coming Events](#)

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### ASTTBC AGM Focuses On Technology Careers

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On May 25, ASTTBC held its 48th annual meeting since it was incorporated as SETBC in 1958. As well as looking at achievements for the year, approving the audited financial statements and electing a new Council, delegates had an opportunity to focus on technology careers.

The theme of this year's AGM was 'Technology Careers... it's TIME!'. Mayor Peter Fassbender, in bringing greetings from the City of Langley, said *"I have great respect for what technologists do at the City. I applaud you for communicating to young people and the public about career options. Technology as a profession offers tremendous opportunity"*.

Two topics emerged out of discussions at the AGM. The skills shortage and reaching out to young people was emphasized by both speakers and delegates alike. The second theme was the importance of professional regulation to protect the public interest.

More than 125 members, including 11 past presidents, attended. Members made the following observations:

1. It is the people in the technology spectrum who do the work that will be vital in addressing climate change
2. Reaching out to internationally trained professionals, as ASTTBC is doing through the new ASCT(Provisional) certification, is important
3. Those in industry who are not members of ASTTBC should be encouraged to seek registration
4. It is important to take into account on-the-job learning, not just academic training, when evaluating applications for registration ASTTBC needs to continue working on the visibility of the Association and of members
5. New disciplines of registration should be added to keep up with changing times.

Out-going President Keith Switzer, ASCT, said *"We are rapidly closing in on our 50th anniversary as the self-governing regulatory body for technologists, technicians and technical specialists in British Columbia. Looking back I can say with pride that the presidents who have gone before me have given our Association and our members five decades of great progress. Looking ahead, I can say that ASTTBC is poised and ready for the next 50 years."*

## ASTTBC Elects New President

[Top of page](#)

Darrin Heisler, ASCT, a technologist specializing in Geographic Information Systems, has been elected president of the Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC. His election comes at a crucial time as the province faces a shortage of skilled workers and as the demand for technologists, technicians and technical specialists continues to grow rapidly.

During his term as President, he sees ASTTBC focusing on three key goals. *"Our Association needs to be more visible, and technologists and technicians need to be recognized for the professionals they are,"* he says. *"And I think it is crucial ASTTBC does all we can to make young people more aware of the great careers in the applied sciences."*

Darrin Heisler is the owner of West Coast Image and Analysis based in Maple Ridge. As an Applied Science Technologist, he works on projects ranging from predicting the downstream run-off from mountain rainfall, to analyzing where to build new neighborhoods based on environmental and community values.

The new ASTTBC president believes technology professionals have a key role in sustainability. *"Technology is evolving from a purely technical approach to 'green' technology,"* he says. *"That requires a broader understanding of environmental issues as well as keeping up with the latest technology tools."*

ASTTBC is a professional association representing some 9,000 technology professionals working across BC. Originally formed in 1958, the mission of ASTTBC is to serve the public by regulating and supporting technology professionals' commitment to a safe, healthy, and sustainable society and environment.

### **2006/2007 ASTTBC Council**

Darrin Heisler, ASCT, President  
Doug Carter, CTech, Vice President  
Bill MacPherson, ASCT, Secretary Treasurer  
Keith Switzer, ASCT, Past President  
Council Directors  
Nancy Fowler, ASCT  
Prakash Joshi, ASCT,EngL  
Ken Lee, ASCT  
John McNeill, CTech  
Dave Rutherford, ASCT, BCLS, CLS  
Janet Scott, ASCT  
Bruce Stevens, ASCT  
Keith Trulson, ASCT, EngL  
Graham Wickham, ASCT  
Public Representatives  
Jim Blake  
John Murphy

[Top of page](#)

## **ASTTBC Awards - Call For Nominations**

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As part of the ASTTBC's new career awareness initiative, the Association is now accepting 2007 Award Nominations on-line until August 15. Please visit the web site at [www.asttbc.com/about/awards/nominations.php](http://www.asttbc.com/about/awards/nominations.php) for information and to nominate a well-deserving person. Nominations will be accepted for members of the Association and some awards are also available to non-members. Please check the link to 'Descriptions and Qualifications'. *If you require any assistance or have questions regarding your nomination, please e-mail Cindy Aitken, Manager, Events at [caitken@asttbc.org](mailto:caitken@asttbc.org)*

[Top of page](#)

## **ASTTBC To Sponsor Lieutenant Governor's Awards For Public Safety**

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ASTTBC will be recognized as a sponsor for the BC Safety Authority's 'Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Public Safety' for 2007. The awards were launched in 2005 with the first two presentations being held at Government House in Victoria. This year, the BC Safety Authority awards ceremony will be held at the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre on November 21. Other sponsors include: Alcan, Terasen Gas/FortisBC, Chevron Canada Limited, Canadian Standards Association, Electrical Contractors Association of BC, Teck Cominco Ltd. and WorkSafeBC.

[Top of page](#)

## **ASTTBC & FEAT Sponsor Career Camps For Girls**

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GETT Camps (Girls Exploring Trades and Technologies) are summer camps than have run in BC since 1995. The purpose of the camps is to introduce girls in Grade 6, 7 & 8 to trades and technologies through a practical hands-on project and career awareness. This is accomplished

by the building of a push wooden go-cart. Along with the building of the go-cart, the girls are introduced to the importance and relevance of trades and technology careers through career games, role-models and tours of industry. GETT Camps are held on the BCIT campus. ASTTBC, and its charitable foundation, the Foundation for Education & Advancement in Technology, have each provided \$1,000 in sponsorship for this year's GETT Camps. The camps run from July 23 - 27, and from July 30 - August 3, 2007. *For information contact Anabelle Paxton, GETT Camp Program Coordinator, ph: 604-255-4565; e-mail [apaxton@shaw.ca](mailto:apaxton@shaw.ca)*

[Top of page](#)

## **New Policy For ASTTBC Logo**

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The ASTTBC logo may be used by ASTTBC certified members as a way of showing pride in their ASTTBC professional certification. Certified members may incorporate the logo in their communications and marketing, subject to certain requirements. ASTTBC Council recently approved a new policy for logo use that further clarifies who may use the logo and how. For information visit [www.asttbc.com/practice/standards/logo\\_usage.php](http://www.asttbc.com/practice/standards/logo_usage.php)

[Top of page](#)

## **Electronic Dues Notices Possible For 2008**

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ASTTBC is investigating 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. What do you think? *Please send any comments on e-billing for annual dues to Nicky Malli, Manager, Finance & Administration at [nmalli@asttbc.org](mailto:nmalli@asttbc.org)*

[Top of page](#)

## **Retired Members Dues Set**

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Council has adopted a new policy for dues for retired members. It balances the reduced income of retired members and the cost to the Association of providing services. In response to concerns voiced by some retired members, a task force was set up earlier in the year. The task force, which included ASTTBC's Secretary Treasurer and one of the public representatives on ASTTBC Council, looked at comparative information on other associations offering a similar level of benefits and services. Under the new policy, the dues rate for retired members will be approximately one-half that of regular members. An additional discount after 25 years of membership will be available. The policy, and an application form for those eligible for retired rates, will be posted on the ASTTBC web site. The new policy for retired members takes effect with the 2008 dues.

[Top of page](#)

## **Members Contribute To HR Plan**

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ASTTBC is developing a human resources plan for BC as pertains to the work of our members generally. Members were asked for examples and anecdotes that show the impact of Technologists, Technicians and Technical Specialists on BC's economy and for information that shows the impact of shortages of these practitioners. The findings were presented to Minister Colin Hansen on June 19 at a Technology Roundtable organized by ASTTBC. Some examples of member comments follow:

"I use the knowledge of my technical field on a daily basis on decisions related to electrical safety, electrical improvements, lighting quality, fire alarm and life safety issues."

"Technologists and Technicians are knowledgeable and skilled resources in refrigeration

companies maintaining and installing new refrigeration equipment, and protecting the environment from leaks of refrigerants."

"A growing area of technical expertise is the field of Environmental Sciences, where Technologists and Technicians support the work of engineers and scientists with field inspections, research, and project development."

"Safety Standards: ASTTBC practitioners provide on-site checks and balances that ensure compliance with safety legislation, technical standards and consumer product certification. We must attract qualified workers from around the globe; encourage international entrepreneurial investors; support safe and profitable construction, service and maintenance of facilities and consumer products."

"The competition among companies for Biomedical Engineering Tech's is very strong. Our next hiring phase is of major concern since we have in the West Division of 12 employees, two retiring next year and three in the next 5 to 7 years. The pressure will be on at that point and it is easy to see the economic loss that could occur if action is not taken to produce more qualified Techs in BC."

"As an owner and manager of a forest consulting company in BC I rely on Technologists and Technicians as the primary source of employees for my business. Over the past few years I have experienced a significant reduction in the number of Technologists and Technicians available for employment. A few months ago BCIT announced it is closing down its Forestry Program. There are currently only 5 post secondary education institutions training forest technologists and technicians in BC. The closing of BCIT will reduce BC's training capacity by over 20%. If the number of Technologists and Technicians continues to decrease, the ability for the forest industry to operate will be significantly reduced to the point where harvesting operations will be reduced. This will in turn have the effect of reducing provincial revenues through stumpage and other spin-off sources of revenue."

"The BC government Oil and Gas Commission employs Technologists in key regulatory positions. OGC Technologists are empowered to make discretionary decisions that directly effect oil and gas production in the province, an industry that contributes over \$2 billion dollars in direct government revenue. The ability to attract and retain qualified technical staff has been a key concern of the OGC, as it recognizes that knowledgeable staff are key to effective resource management. BC competes with employers in Alberta, and worldwide, for people with these skill sets. Understaffing of technical positions would result in a direct loss of oil and gas royalty revenue to the province."

"Technologists and Technicians are the primary structure inspectors for the Ministry of Transportation. They are responsible for the inspections of over 4600 structures throughout the province for the traveling public's safety and appropriate maintenance, replacement and new construction activities. Most of the Bridge Area Managers are graduates of a Civil and Structural Technology Program and have a significant amount of experience and related training to under take the Provinces needs. There are only 23 Bridge Area Managers for the whole province and that puts tremendous workloads and time on the road inspecting conditions and maintenance works. There is a need for trained people to work for the Provincial Government."

"During the sixties when BC was going through a boom building hydro electric projects, there was a severe shortage of technical people so BC Hydro had to train people for specific tasks for these projects. Once the technical institutions began to train technologists, and the technical professional societies formed to certify these qualified people, the technical skilled workforce quickly improved. If things continue on their current path BC and Canada could revert back to the situation we saw in the sixties."

"We are, even today, feeling the pinch from a shortage of these technical practitioners due to the upswing in infrastructure investment and the current pace of the BC economy. We must protect our investment dollars. The knowledge base provided by Technologists, Technicians and Technical Specialists to the province and municipalities as infrastructure owners ensures they remain 'knowledgeable owners'."

[Top of page](#)

## Technical Specialist Programs

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ASTTBC provides registration in nine different Technical Specialist programs. Some of these are mandatory, some not. In programs where it is felt that adding a requirement for licensing would better protect the public interest, ASTTBC is working to convince government of the need for enabling legislation or regulation, and for a consistent approach. The following examples illustrate the different approaches currently in BC:

House or Property Inspection – currently an unregulated area of practice in the province of British Columbia. It is not 'mandatory' to have certification and registration to provide these services.

Construction Safety Officer or Trades Safety Coordinator - the industry is not regulated.

Fire Protection Technicians - regulated by municipal bylaw in the following municipalities; Vancouver City, North Vancouver District and City, District of Squamish, Chilliwack, Richmond, District of Sechelt, Courtenay, Whistler, Abbotsford and Surrey. Practice in these municipalities requires ASTTBC certification and registration. All other areas of the province are unregulated and do not require ASTTBC certification.

Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioners - design, installation and maintenance of septic and onsite sewage systems is regulated province-wide and registration with ASTTBC as an ROWP is required.

[Top of page](#)

## Modernization Strategy

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In January 2006, the provincial government initiated a Modernization Strategy to respond to the need for change in the building regulatory system – the system for achieving safety in the design, construction and occupancy of buildings. Information regarding the Modernization Strategy is available on the web site for the Office of Housing & Construction Standards. The branch updates the website periodically. For information go to [www.housing.gov.bc.ca/modernization](http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/modernization)

*If you have comments you wish to send to ASTTBC please email [techinfo@asttbc.org](mailto:techinfo@asttbc.org) and put 'Modernization' in the subject line.*

[Top of page](#)

## Industry Discusses Green Building Regulation

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Forty-three industry representatives met with government in May to discuss priorities, challenges, and visions for moving forward with the development of a Green Building Regulation. ASTTBC was represented by Michelle Bast, ASCT, a technologist with O'Connor Associates Environmental Inc. The day-long session was hosted by the Office of Housing and Construction Standards. Jeff Vasey of the OHCS set out the major goals of the day:

- To build on industry expertise when considering what a GBR might look like
- To understand industry needs with respect to green building regulation
- To be in the best position to balance interests with respect to green building regulation

This was an exploratory session, aimed at hearing the ideas and approaches of industry representatives; hearing about what is and is not within scope of a GBR, and how voluntary and regulatory approaches might work together to achieve green goals. Watch ASTT News or ASTT e-News for further developments.

[Top of page](#)

## Sustainability News From BC

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May 28 to June 3, 2007 was 'Bike To Work Week'. Commuters across the GVRD conserved 33 tonnes of carbon dioxide by choosing a bicycle over a single passenger automobile. Check out other results at [www.vacc.bc.ca/biketowork](http://www.vacc.bc.ca/biketowork)

British Columbia and California have signed a memorandum of understanding that sets out joint action on climate change and Pacific Ocean conservation. The MOU on Pacific Coast Collaboration to Protect our Shared Climate and Ocean commits B.C. and California to:

Work together to cap and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

Collaborate on the innovation and implementation of clean technologies;

Join with other jurisdictions to build a hydrogen highway from British Columbia to Baja California;

Sharing information about coastal and ocean resources and health

Collaborating on best practices for the development, monitoring and management of marine protection areas;

Synchronizing of environmental protection at Pacific ports; and

Cultivating stronger relations between existing sea-floor observatories such as NEPTUNE, VENUS and MARS (Saanich Inlet, Juan de Fuca tectonic plate and Monterey Bay, respectively).

Environment Canada's early reports indicate that BC's greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 2.4% even though BC's economy has risen by 3.7%.

[Top of page](#)

## National Benchmarks Released For Consultation

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The Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists and the National Council of Deans of Technology have released a draft of Canada's new National Technology Benchmarks for stakeholder consultation. The current timetable calls for final endorsement of the consultation document by October 31, 2007, with regional training sessions and translation to follow at the beginning of 2008. *Copies of the consultation document are available on-line at: [ntb.cctt.ca](http://ntb.cctt.ca)*

[Top of page](#)

## Foreign Qualifications Database

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Ron Green, ASCT, a past president of ASTTBC, is working on a contract for the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists that involves the design of a database of foreign qualifications in technology. The database holds around 2000 entries of courses and diplomas from some 60 countries and also contains a large number of detailed course lists. *"Hopefully this will help the transition/certification of foreign technicians in Canada,"* says Ron Green. *"Eventually we hope to make the database available to companies to check qualifications of job applicants. At the moment it is only available to Registrars of organizations like ASTTBC."* Ron is also working a project to facilitate the civilian employment of military technicians and trades people, including Red Seal equivalences.

[Top of page](#)

## Technical Volunteers Needed

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The Tetra Society of North America is an independent non-profit that provides custom assistive devices to people with disabilities. Engineers and technologists volunteer to invent solutions to day-to-day accessibility problems - to them it's both a challenge and a way of giving something back to society. Interested? *Check out the latest edition of 'Gizmo', the Tetra Society of North America newsletter at [www.tetrasociety.org/newsletters/Gizmo\\_Latest\\_Edition.pdf](http://www.tetrasociety.org/newsletters/Gizmo_Latest_Edition.pdf)*

[Top of page](#)

## Re-Energizing Electrical & Gas Equipment After A Flood

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The BC Safety Authority has published procedures for licensed contractors who re-commission gas and electrical equipment after flooding has occurred. If electrical, gas or heating equipment is subjected to flooding it may have been damaged making it inoperable or unsafe. For public safety it is important to have your area of occupancy declared safe to enter by the proper authorities. It is also important that the requirements of other health & safety protocols have also been met. Information Bulletin B -E3 G5 070608 2 outlines the requirements from the BCSA to restore service after a flooding incident. *Visit [www.safetyauthority.ca](http://www.safetyauthority.ca)*

[Top of page](#)

## Architectural & Construction Newsletter Available

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AEC Daily Online Learning is a free newsletter with information on building products, courses, events, articles and podcasts of interest to designers and contractors. *Contact [info@aecdaily.com](mailto:info@aecdaily.com)*

[Top of page](#)

## Coming Events

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**'2007 Georgie Awards'** sponsored by the Canadian Homebuilders Association of BC. Call For Entries on-line now. [www.chbabc.org](http://www.chbabc.org)

**BIG Little Science Centre** – Summer Science Camps, Kamloops. The camps run from July 16 – 20 and August 13 – 17, 2007. The morning is tentatively for kids ages 6 to 8 and the afternoons for 9 to 12+ year children. For more info contact (250) 554-BLSC or [Gord@blscs.org](mailto:Gord@blscs.org). [www.biglittlesciencecentre.org](http://www.biglittlesciencecentre.org)

**CanWest Horticulture Show**, September 12–13, 2007, Vancouver. CanWest is Western Canada's largest horticulture trade show representing nursery, floriculture and landscape supplies companies. [www.CanWestHortShow.com](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](mailto: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. [www.canadianbrownfields.ca](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. [www.apeg.bc.ca/ac2007/main.html](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/ac2007/main.html).

**Canadian Society for Chemical Technology** – 'Laboratory Safety course', October 29-30, 2007, Edmonton. [www.cheminst.ca/profdev](http://www.cheminst.ca/profdev)

**GLOBE 2008**, March 12 -14, 2008, Vancouver. Corporate sustainability and finance; energy and the environment; building better cities. [www.globe2008.ca](http://www.globe2008.ca)

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Top of page