



ASTT e-News, November, 2007

Dear Member,

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 Survey Underway

Deadline November 30 2007. ASTTBC is conducting a survey to measure how well the Association is doing, and to find out what members feel ASTTBC should focus on going forward. Great prizes will be drawn from the responses received, including a ski trip to Whistler or a weekend Victoria get-away package. Survey results will be posted on the ASTTBC web site and highlights will be published in ASTT News.

www.asttbc.com/ms07

First Nations Science Celebration – ASTTBC A Sponsor

ASTTBC will be one of the sponsors for the Community Science Celebration to be held on **December 1 2007** at the Chemainus First Nation Community Centre. The Snuneymuxw and Chemainus First Nations bands are organizing the event in partnership with Science World and the Mid-Island Science, Technology and Innovation Council. Other

bands are interested in participating. The Community Science Celebration will blend cultural teachings with innovation. The goal is to encourage children to see value in science studies and consider science and technology career options.

ASTTBC has committed funding and prizes and will set up the Association's display booth. *"This is the first event of its kind on the Island and is a great opportunity to showcase technology education and careers,"* said Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT, CAE.

For more information contact Paris Gaudet at (250) 753-8324; pgaudet@mistic.bc.ca. ASTTBC members are encouraged to volunteer for the event. Contact jleech@asttbc.org

ASTTBC Calls On First Nations Members

ASTTBC Council affirmed that engaging First Nations, especially encouraging young people to consider a career in technology, should be a focus for the Association. Executive Director & Registrar John Leech, ASCT, CAE, in proposing the policy statement to ASTTBC Council said, *"In that ASTTBC has signaled an intent to provide leadership in promoting and advancing technology education and careers, it is appropriate for ASTTBC to take on a leadership role in enhancing technology careers with the First Nations communities throughout BC."*

ASTTBC has an interest in identifying and linking with First Nations members. If you are First Nations please e-mail the ASTTBC Executive Director at jleech@asttbc.org.

(Editor's Note: See also article in this newsletter re Chemainus Community Science Celebration)

Professional Legislative Models Considered By Council

On September 27 2007, ASTTBC Council approved a statement on legislative models that ASTTBC will consider as the Association seeks changes to the current regulatory model. The statement outlines the forms of professional regulation the Association believes will best serve the public interest, ensure self-regulation and governance for ASTTBC-registered professionals by technologists, technicians and technical specialists, meet the intent of the Trade, Investment And Labour Mobility Agreement between the governments of BC and Alberta and generally align with professional legislation enacted in other provinces. Broadly speaking, the approaches to legislation that ASTTBC would be prepared to consider can be described as:

- Umbrella Legislation
- Two (or more) Acts with exemption plus joint board
- One Act – Two (or more) Associations

For details visit www.asttbc.com/about/docs/PLModels.pdf

ASTTBC Calls For Immediate Changes To The Architects Act

ASTTBC Council came out with a definitive statement as to expectations for future legislation relating to ASTTBC members providing services in architectural / building design. Stating that the Architects Act is 'broken' and in serious need of being updated, Council approved the following possible solutions:

- i. Exemption in the Architects Act which references practice by ASTTBC members.
Legislate a Joint Board to address practice issues and practice overlap.
- ii. One Act – Two Associations (similar to the Alberta model).

ASTTBC has been working for decades to raise the profile and get government's interest and agreement to make changes to the most restrictive piece of architectural practice legislation in Canada. The BC Architects Act restricts practice to 470 sq m gross area. *"It is an uphill journey to get legislative changes, as governments have so many other critical issues on their plate. But this cannot be ignored any longer,"* said ASTTBC Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT, CAE. The good news is that Minister of Advanced Education,

Murray Coell, has promised to work on changes to the statute. The concern is that of timing, as in recent meetings with the Minister it seems there will be no major legislative changes for the next year and possibly two or more.

ASTTBC has suggested to the Minister that the change needed to recognize and deal with the ASTTBC issue can be achieved by way of an exemption in the Architects Act, a fairly simple amendment. *"The Saskatchewan Architects Act has an exemption for technologists and technicians and could serve as a model going forward in BC"*, said John Leech. *"Highly qualified technologists and technicians face increasing challenges as they seek approval for their designs. This is a gross waste of human capital... hardly something we can afford during these times of labour shortages."*

In addition to the outdated Architects Act, ASTTBC points to some key 'trouble spots': (a) AIBC has failed to effectively police their statute for decades, especially as applies to Part 9 (3 story 600 sq m footprint) building designs. ASTTBC members used to get cease and desist letters (a practice that is not common these days), yet AIBC has failed to prosecute one violation of their statute; (b) the BC Building Code does not require a 'Registered professional' (PEng or MAIBC) to assume responsibility for a Part 9 design; and (c) many municipal authorities allow ASTTBC members to design Part 9 buildings. Given the current shortage of skilled workers and the long-overdue need to fairly and responsibly include and recognize all those designing buildings, it is time to get on with the legislative changes to the Architects Act.

Minister Murray Coell Meets With ASTTBC

ASTTBC Council member John McNeill, CTech and ASTTBC's Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT CAE, met in September with the Minister to talk about key issues of interest to ASTTBC. Topics included the need to enhance the profile of technology education and careers in BC and to address some of the shortcomings of the current professional regulatory framework. In particular ASTTBC pointed to the Architects Act, asking that government make it a priority to change the legislation. ASTTBC proposed an exemption in the Architects Act as one possible solution to current restrictions that preclude ASTTBC-registered designers from practicing to their full potential. ASTTBC also talked with the Minister about the discussions between ASTTBC and APEGBC on a process to explore other models for professional regulation, noting the changes to the Engineers Act in Alberta which created the 'Professional Technologist' and provide for defined scope of practice for the PTech. ASTTBC also pointed to the model in Manitoba where the Engineers Act provides an exemption for technologists and technicians and establishes a joint board to deal with practice issues.

Minister Coell, in addition to his duties in advanced education, has responsibility for the ASTT Act, the Engineers and geoscientists Act and the Architects Act.

Minister Mike de Jong Meets ASTTBC

President Darrin Heisler, ASCT and Executive Director & Registrar John Leech, ASCT, CAE, met on November 1 with Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Mike de Jong. Darrin, John and the Minister discussed topics such as ASTTBC's linkages with the First Nations, especially as applies to technology education and careers. The Minister welcomed news that ASTTBC will take a more active role in engaging with First Nations members and other stakeholders to promote technology careers. President Darin Heisler indicated he found the meeting productive and the Minister very welcoming.

"We also talked with the Minister about the need to change the age-old restrictive Architects Act, recommending that an exemption be included for ASTTBC-registered members, especially those providing building design services," said John Leech. The ASTTBC representatives also talked about efforts to re-engage with APEGBC on possible legislative changes as applies to engineering and geoscience technology. The Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility agreement and the urgent need to promote technology education and careers were other key topics covered during the 45 minute meeting.

ASTTBC Seeks Recognition in WorkSafe Regulations

WorkSafe Occupational Health and Safety Regulations make specific reference to certain professionals as being able to carry out and assume professional responsibility for certain works and services. To this point ASTTBC is not included or referenced. ASTTBC is working with WorkSafe staff to identify sections of the Regulations where ASTTBC members should appropriately be included. This initiative will take time. Watch ASTT e-News for developments. In the meantime, members who wish to identify areas where ASTTBC professionals should be included, are invited to e-mail the Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT, CAE, at jleech@asttbc.org.

Construction Safety Officer Certification Program

ASTTBC has engaged the services of Bruce Stevens, ASCT to assist in renewing ASTTBC's involvement with certification as a Trades Safety Coordinator (TSC) and Construction Safety Officer (CSO). If you have any suggestions and/or wish to get involved in some way please e-mail techinfo@asttbc.org and identify 'Construction Safety' in the Subject Line.

ASTTBC Gets Government Funding For IEP Program

The Ministry of Economic Development has approved funding to assist ASTTBC with a program to increase access to regulated professions. In a letter to ASTTBC, Minister Colin Hansen wrote *"The Ministry of Economic Development has now completed the review for the regulator projects. We received many innovative proposals and we are pleased to inform you that your proposal has been selected to receive funding in the amount of \$25,000"*.

The application was spear-headed by Geoff Sale, ASCT, Manager, Internationally Educated Professionals Program. *"ASTTBC has been very open over the years to engaging immigrants,"* he said. *"I am certain ASTTBC will have better processes and services in place as a result of this government funding."*

John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar agreed. *"This a significant contribution from the government and is a great support toward ASTTBC helping internationally educated professionals entering Canada,"* he says. *"We appreciate the leadership provided by Minister Hansen and will use these funds to develop a model of the 'engineering team in Canada' as well as other initiatives that will assist IEPs integrate into the workplace in BC."*

ASTTBC Hosts Roundtable On Skills Shortage

On October 31 2007, ASTTBC served as a catalyst for change by hosting the 'Roundtable On Technology Skills Shortage II'. The roundtable at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver brought together a spectrum of industry, educators, associations and others.

Ironically, as demand for technology professionals is rising, the number of young people enrolling in many technology programs is declining. Part of the equation is tied to fewer youth taking math and science in school, a trend especially marked in young women. Another irony is that the biggest hope for many employers to have enough talented workers is to keep the experienced 'baby boomers' already on their payroll. This will require more flexibility in working arrangements and retirement rules.

"Congratulations on your big step forward during National Technology Week," wrote Candy Hodson, Senior Vice President Marketing for Black Press. *"We were honoured to have partnered in this successful project and look forward to growing our relationship..."*. As to next steps, John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar stated that ASTTBC will work with industry, education, government and other stakeholders to create the Technology Education and Careers Council. *"We expect this group will play a primary role in advocating and providing guidance for those taking, offering or funding technology education,"* he said. *"TECC will help coordinate efforts and foster collaboration to assure the effective use of resources."*

Joydip Das, a member of the executive committee of the Bangladeshi Engineers and Applied Scientists in British Columbia said *"Thanks to the organizing team it was a wonderful roundtable session. Let us know if our organization can contribute in any way in your efforts."*

To see a webcast of the event, or for more information, visit www.asttbc.org/RTSS

Awards & Recognition Celebration Wraps Up 2007

ASTTBC's Awards & Recognition Celebration is a chance to thank its volunteers for their service and to bestow awards on members and non-members who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in applied science technology. This year the annual gala was held during the first week of November to line up with National Technology Week.

Volunteers play a key part in the success of ASTTBC according to President Darrin Heisler, AScT. *"Our Association has come a long way over the years, and we couldn't have done it without volunteers"* he stated in addressing 225 guests.

Here are comments from a few of those who attended:

"Thank you again for the bursary and the wonderful evening. I had a fantastic time, and it was enlightening to see an association of technologists and technicians in action. Thank you for that experience!"

Jordan Lewis, FEAT / TD Meloche Monnex bursary recipient

"Thanks again for having Nevin and me as your guests, we both had a great time. Thanks for all you do."

Matthew Watson, CEO, BC Innovation Council

"I spoke with Brian afterwards and he is very appreciative of the recognition." (Honorary Membership awarded to Brian Canfield, Chairman of the Board, TELUS)

Josh Blair, P.Eng., Vice President HR Strategies, TELUS

"Congratulations on a most successful gala. Barbara and I really enjoyed the evening. I had a good talk with Jason Jung (ASTTBC's Manager, Technology Careers) about TechWorks."

Sandy M. Wohl, Provincial Secretary,
BC Science Teachers' Association

"I was very impressed by the welcome I received by the staff and guests ... and by the flowing conversations I had with the members of our table and the random strangers I met during the silent auction."

Jennifer Rose

"I just wanted to say what a great event you put on! I could tell everyone was thrilled to be there. Pat yourself on the back, you deserve it."

Debbie Walker, President, Translucent

"I was impressed by ... the value of organizations such as BCIT and ASTTBC and their collaboration for the province. Both personally and professionally, as a member of ASTTBC Council and as an employer of technicians, technologists, and professional engineers, I appreciate that we have the brightest and the best students who will ensure we sustain and exceed the highest standards of professional practice in Canada."

John Murphy, ASTTBC Council Member (public representative)

"It was a pleasure to meet you on Saturday at the ASTTBC awards dinner. I look forward to hearing more about your organization in the future."

Brenda Corbett, President, BCIT Student Association

"It was a pleasure attending. We look forward to your next event celebrating your 50th year."

Louis Guay, LLB, Vice President Affinity Markets, TD Meloche Monnex

"Thank you for the invitation to your Awards gala. It was a very well put together event and

I am certainly looking forward to next year's."

Barbette I. Cejalvo, CAE, Executive Director, BC Electrical Association

TELUS Chairman Receives Honorary Membership In ASTTBC

Brian Canfield, Chairman of the Board, TELUS, has been recognized with Honorary Membership in ASTTBC. The presentation was made by Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT, CAE, at a TELUS Board meeting.

"I have spent over 50 years in the telecommunications industry and have deep roots with technology and the enabling characteristics that it provides," Brian Canfield said after the presentation. *"As a consequence of Honorary Membership in ASTTBC, the organization has particular meaning to me."*

ASTTBC honored volunteers and 2007 award recipients at the Association's Awards & Recognition Celebration on November 3. Congratulations to:

Professional Leadership Award for Women in Technology

Dena Vergamini, CTech

Crystal Wegner, ASCT, CCCA

Employer Award for the Enhancement of Career Success of Women as Technology Professionals

Morrison Hershfield Ltd.

Advanced Technology Award

Grant Lachmuth, ASCT

Professional Achievement Award

Richard Margetson, ASCT, CPWI

Lyle Killough, ASCT

Life Membership

Keith Switzer, ASCT

Honorary Membership

Brian Canfield

Gordon Gore

For information on all ASTTBC awards and for a nomination form for next year, visit www.asttbc.com/about/awards/nominations.php

National Technology Week Generates Buzz

National Technology Week is Canada's showcase of exciting career choices available in applied science and engineering technology. Held annually during the first week of November, National Technology Week offered a host of activities to help students, teachers and parents explore technical careers, particularly the different fields in which more than 50,000 certified technicians and technologists contribute to Canada's workforce.

This year, ASTTBC's Awards & Recognition Celebration was arranged to fall within National Technology Week. During the same week, ASTTBC also hosted a roundtable on technology careers at the Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver. At ASTTBC's request, the provincial government proclaimed National Technology Week in BC. Various media picked up on National Technology Week coverage. For example, a past president of ASTTBC, Dan Mooney, ASCT, manager of Roads and Construction Services for the City of Richmond, was interviewed for a newspaper article.

National Technology Week is coordinated by the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists, in partnership with the National Council of Deans of Technology and made possible with the generous support TD Meloche Monnex, ASTTBC's affinity partner for home insurance.

For information visit www.nationaltechnologyweek.ca

Members Can Make A Difference

The 2010 Olympic Winter Games will enthrall millions of people around the world. Less well known is the story behind the Paralympic Games.

In 2003, the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, was the first Organizing Committee to incorporate both Olympic and Paralympic in its official title as well as the first to have representation from the host country's National Paralympic Committee on its board of directors. Vancouver and Whistler are also the first host cities to fly the Olympic and Paralympic flags side by side. The Paralympic Games will run from March 12 – 21, 2010. Dena Coward, director of Paralympic Games said a key ingredient to the success of the Paralympic movement is raising awareness.

Mike Donnelly, ASCT, knows this first hand. Mike was a key organizer of the 2005 BC Disability Games in Nanaimo as Games President. Volunteer participation in the planning and operation of Provincial and Olympic venues for multi disability – multi sport events such as BC Disability Games and the upcoming Paralympics is crucial. *“Without the support of volunteers the games just don't happen,”* says Mike. *“The old saying, you get out of something what you put into it, could never be truer than when you are part of something so appreciated by the participants.”* With 2010 just around the corner, Mike Donnelly, ASCT, challenges members to step forward with their skills and knowledge to make these games the best ever.

Mike Donnelly, ASCT graduated from the BCIT civil and structural program in 1984. He worked for the City of Parksville before joining the Regional District of Nanaimo in 1993 as Manager of Operations and has also served as the Transportation Services Manager for the District. Mike's current job title is manager of the District's Utilities Department. Volunteerism in is Mike's blood. As well as serving as president of the 2005 BC Disability Games, he has served as president of both Tourism Nanaimo, the Nanaimo Credit Union and is currently president of the Nanaimo RCMP Auxiliary Constable Association.

Editor's Note Re 2010 Olympics:

- The 2010 Business Network is a searchable, online supplier directory created to ensure 2010 buyers are able to find BC businesses. It was created by the BC Olympic & Paralympic Games Secretariat. Businesses are invited to develop their own complimentary, online profile in this public database. Website: www.2010commercecenter.com
- For the latest information on the Olympic Games generally, visit vancouver2010.com

MISTIC Awards

ASTTBC was at MISTIC for the second year on November 1, 2007. And what is 'MISTIC' you ask? The Mid-Island Science, Technology and Innovation Council based in Nanaimo. In 2007 ASTTBC again sponsored the evening awards program and presented the 'Technology Leadership' Award. The winner this year was the Regional District of Nanaimo – Solid Waste Department for their Landfill Gas Collection & Utilization. Based on research that started in 2001, the Regional District has now entered an agreement with Cedar Road LFG Inc to construct a facility on the landfill site to demonstrate the commercial viability of generating electricity using landfill gas. This \$3 million project will produce 1.5 MW of green electrical power, sufficient to supply 1,200 homes. ASTTBC Council member John McNeill, CTech headed up a table at the event which included ASTTBC members Bob Colclough, ASCT (a Past President), Bill Sims, ASCT, and Daryl Amos, ASCT. Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT, CAE presented the Technology Leadership Award on behalf of ASTTBC.

ASTTBC Attends BCIT Alumni Awards

ASTTBC President Darrin Heisler, ASCT lead a group of ASTTBC representatives at the recent BCIT Alumni Awards dinner. The event attracted more than 400 graduates and guests. ASTTBC was a sponsor of the event. *“This is a great way for ASTTBC to let the BCIT*

community know of ASTTBC's support and commitment to the Institute and its graduates", said President Heisler.

ASTTBC's Manager, Technology Careers, Jason Jung, ASCT is working with the BCIT Alumni Association on a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines joint interests and ways of working together. ASTTBC has been placing a half page corporate advertisement and a member profile in each issue of BCIT Alumni News.

Greening Of The BC Building Code

The provincial government is proposing to add new green requirements to the BC Building Code and needs to hear your views. The deadline for comments is **December 21 2007**. To see the Code change proposals and instructions on how to comment, click on www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/green

Municipal Sewage Regulation Under Review

The Ministry of Environment has completed the first series of amendments to the Municipal Sewage Regulation. Details of the recent changes to the regulation are available the ministry's web site:

www.env.gov.bc.ca/epdiv/ema_codes_of_practice/msr/index.html

The Ministry is also seeking comments by mid-December on:

1. Environmental Quality Standards For Barium And Salt
2. Off-site Migration Of Contamination In British Columbia: Review And Recommendations
3. Institutional Controls In British Columbia: A Review of Current Practices And An Evaluation Of Program Amendment Options

Visit www.env.gov.bc.ca

Civil Engineering Technology Co-op Students Available

Well-trained, energetic and hard working first and second year students from the Camosun College Technology Co-op programs are available for the 2008 winter work term (January-March). If you need a student for the winter work-term, feel free to post a job online by following this link: www.camosun.bc.ca/coop/jobpost.html

Reminders From The ASTTBC Office

Dues Notices. Invoices for ASTTBC annual dues are being sent out electronically for the first time this year. Members who have not provided ASTTBC with an e-mail address will continue to receive their annual dues notice by regular mail.

Festive Season Holiday Hours. The ASTTBC office will be closed from December 24 to January 2 2007.

Contact Information. Please log-on to www.asttbc.com to update your contact information if you have moved, changed your email address or have a new employer.

Coming Events

Construction Solutions Conference for Mould and Moisture, November 27 2007, Vancouver. Of interest to architects & designers, engineers & technologists, contractors, developers, property managers, specifiers. www.constructionsolutionsconference.com

Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo, November 28 – 29 2007, Vancouver. Focus on collection, hauling, processing and disposal of waste; materials recycling; municipal recycling programs including blue box programs, MRFs, scrap metals, C&D, wood, plastic, paper, auto,

tires, fiber and more. Contact: Arnie Gess, 1-877-534-7285; arnie.gess@cwre.ca;
www.cwre.ca

Green Building Sustainability Strategies, December 4 – 5 2007, Calgary. Strategies for increasing the asset value of commercial properties. 1-800-474-4829;
www.infonex.ca/inx/events.html

Transportation Conference, January 29 2008. Vancouver. Morning tour of Canada Line, lunch, workshops sponsored by CEBC and BC Road Builders, Deputy Minister's Awards Dinner; www.cebc.org

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

World Forestry Congress, October 18 – 25 2009. Buenos Aires. Call for papers under the theme 'Forests in development – a vital balance'. www.wfc2009.org
