IN THIS ISSUE

ADVANCING WOMEN IN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
P. 4

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP
P. 5

PRACTICE UPDATES & PROFESSIONAL RELIANCE
P. 12

Ian Torrance, GradTech, Chair, ASTTBC YPG
Diversity at ASTTBC – More Than Lip Service

In 2018, Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) along with our provincial counterparts in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario issued the following statement:

“The member associations of Technology Professionals Canada (TPC) adhere to the principles of equality and inclusion, and celebrate diversity in our membership, in our volunteer practices, and in employment and human resource practices.”

BC and Canada’s strength is in its diversity. Success depends on everyone getting a fair chance to achieve this. We recognize that in today’s economy, our organizations need to reflect the diversity that is among us, in order to represent our stakeholders and the public we serve. For this reason, ASTTBC Council and staff made a leadership decision to support three key projects examining diversity in a multitude of ways including culture, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, race, national origin, physical ability, language preference, and professional choices.

In 2018, we began a research project funded by the BC Government to examine innovative and collaborative approaches for connecting career-oriented job seekers with diverse abilities to technical occupations in BC. As we wrap up this project in March 2020, we will have a matrix available for employers to match jobs with people with diverse abilities.

Early in 2019, ASTTBC signed an agreement with the BC Government and received funding from the Federal Government to examine how we could increase the participation of women in engineering and technology sectors. To find out more about this project, please see the article about Advancing Women in Engineering and Technology (AWET.) We are pleased to be partnered with Engineers & Geoscientists BC (EGBC) for this important work.

Our third major project, Technology Professionals Labour Market Integration (TPLMI), is helping internationally trained newcomers and those leaving the military find and keep good, well-paying jobs. Funded by the Federal Government, ASTTBC, with its partnering provincial associations across Canada, are creating innovative platforms and resources to support newly arriving Canadians.

Respectfully yours,
ASTTBC TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS

Established in 1958, ASTTBC regulates standards of training and practice of technologists, technicians and technical specialists, to protect the interests of the public under the ASTT Act.

For more information, please visit ASTTBC.ORG

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James Coble, MA
Roslyn Kunin, PhD

ASTTBC is seeking nominations for the 2020 Council Elections
Deadline for nominations is March 5, 2020

CLICK FOR MORE INFO

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SPOTLIGHT
ADVANCING WOMEN IN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
P. 4

ASTTBC YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP
P. 5

REGULAR FEATURES

INTERIOR........................................................................................................... P. 6
LOWER MAINLAND ..........................................................P. 7
NORTHERN BC.......................................................... P. 8
VANCOUVER ISLAND.................................................. P. 9
COMMUNITY EVENTS.................................................. P. 10
NEW MEMBERS.......................................................... P. 11
PRACTICE UPDATES & PROFESSIONAL RELIANCE ..........P. 12
UPCOMING EVENTS .................................................. P. 13
MEMBER SERVICES.................................................. P. 13
SPOTLIGHT:

ADVANCING WOMEN IN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

By Theresa McCurry, BSc, PMP, ASTTBC CEO

Did you know...that there is an alarmingly low average of newly-registered female applied science technology professionals in BC? There is also a projected shortage of Engineers, Geoscientists, Technologists, and Technicians in BC.

British Columbia’s Labour Market Outlook: 2018 Edition, released by Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, states that “Job openings in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services will almost double this decade and this trend will continue into the next decade”.

The BC Major Project Inventory lists construction projects in BC valued at $15 million or greater as requiring applied science technologists and technicians. The Engineers, Geoscientists, Technologists, and Technicians Labour Market Information 2015 report outlined a critical skills shortage in 31 out of 45 technical occupations. The report found looming market supply challenges with more than 31,000 jobs and reported that 11,500 new jobs in 31 key occupations will be created.

An Innovative Response....

In 2019, Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC and Engineers and Geoscientists BC launched the Advancing Women in Engineering and Technology Project (AWET) – a two-year initiative aimed at increasing the participation of women in the Engineering, Geoscience, Technology, and Technician occupations.

The AWET project is working with employers, educators, and industry partners on diversity and inclusion strategies. A key part of the strategy is the recruitment of employer champions to guide, inform, and support the work of the project team. This industry engagement will ensure a system-level cultural shift towards increased female representation within the applied science and engineering sector.

Since the project launch in early 2019, the project team has collaborated with people across the province, participating in 31 industry-related events by delivering workshops, attending conferences, and partnering with employers.

65 Champions Recruited - Consider Becoming a Champion!

Champions are individuals, employers, secondary schools, and post-secondary schools volunteering to promote associated events and projects within their region. As a champion, you will receive information about the project activities and events. Regional events and activities range from educational workshops to networking events and other exciting opportunities. You will also be connected with a community of like-minded individuals and organizations that are aligned in their interest to advance women in the engineering and technology sectors in BC.

For more information, please visit womeninengtech.ca
I’m pleased to be writing this Spotlight about the ASTTBC Young Professionals Group (YPG) as the current chair of the YPG steering committee. I joined ASTTBC starting my career as a Biomedical Engineering Technologist in 2017 and was a bit intimidated by the vast amount of experienced people within the organization. There were few young professionals at events, so I was pleased that the CEO, Theresa McCurry, reached out to some members at the start of 2019 to inquire about starting up a YPG.

This group aims to help members develop and mature in their careers by offering specific networking events and professional development seminars/webinars relevant to those in the early stages of their careers. It can be daunting to be involved in such a large organization of established professionals when starting out. Having a group of peers in similar situations that are available to network with can break some of those barriers and get everyone more involved within ASTTBC.

The YPG will listen to its members to hear what they want out of events and will work to facilitate those ideas into reality. The steering committee meets by teleconference once a month and has direct communication with the CEO, who shares relevant information with the Council in order to recognize the needs and futures of young professionals in the organization.

The goals of the group in 2020 are to put on networking events and create professional development seminars relevant to young professionals looking to grow their careers. We are also looking to work with post-secondary feeder schools to increase YPG ASTTBC awareness amongst new graduates.

Our longer-term goals are to create an email newsletter with YPG updates, facilitate mentorships, and to form regional sub-committees around BC that can further target the needs of that area’s young professionals. Furthermore, this group will look to have a dedicated member sit on the ASTTBC Council at meetings to speak about issues relevant to younger members of the organization.

We had our first networking events in Kamloops, Prince George, and Vancouver at the end of January. We had great responses, with one member at the Vancouver event stating he was “relieved to finally be able to meet other young people that want to network and [was] happy that we have a voice in ASTTBC with a dedicated group listening to us.” The YPG is looking forward to hosting more of these events to further foster relationships with members and gauge their needs.

If this group interests you, please look into attending our future networking events, seminars and the YPG breakout session at the upcoming AGM in June. If you’d like to be involved in the steering committee, please contact info@asttbc.org to get connected with myself and we can discuss all things related to the YPG.

We’d love to have you help shape the future of young professionals within ASTTBC!
PELA Closes the Loop on Plastic Waste with New Responsibility Economy™

Imagine if every company took responsibility for their products. From beginning to end and back again, in a balanced cycle like nature. A Canadian-based, sustainable company does exactly that with their compostable products. Pela has been creating a waste-free future since 2011. Now, they are taking responsibility for other companies' plastic waste, in addition to their own products, with their new program called Pela 360 and plan to lead the way in the Responsibility Economy™.

"Taking responsibility for our products through their entire life cycle is one of the most sustainable things we can do as a company," said Pela VP of Sustainability, Jeremy Lang. "It creates the shift away from a linear economy and toward a low-carbon emitting, sustainable and regenerative circular economy."

More than 1.5 billion phone cases are discarded each year - a majority of which are made with conventional plastic. By now, most of us know that we have a problem with plastic. It's revolutionary but in the worst possible way. It is a long-lasting, durable product that is practically impossible to break down, taking upwards of 1000 years. Nearly every piece of plastic ever made still exists today.

To make matters worse, the plastic recycling system isn't working. Less than 5 percent of all plastic gets recycled with the rest ending up in landfills. The solution? Biobased, recyclable, biodegradable and compostable materials that can break down once they no longer serve a purpose.

"Using renewable materials wherever possible and designing a graceful end of life for these materials and products is paramount," said Lang. "But, the question of what to do with the existing plastic still loomed over us, that's why we expanded Pela 360 to include conventional plastic cases."

Pela’s concept is simple. They make everyday products without everyday waste. The company began by creating a more sustainable way to produce phone cases by making them biobased and compostable. Through their development, they took it one step further, taking back their used products to be upcycled into new Pela products with Pela 360.

But it didn’t end there, the company noticed that their customers had nowhere (other than the landfill) to put their used plastic cases after making the switch to Pela. And so, Pela 360 expanded to accept other companies' plastic phone cases. "We saw this as an opportunity to provide a graceful end of life for these products by either upcycling them or ensuring they are properly recycled," said Lang. "Ultimately, we want to help create sustainable, waste-free lifestyle options and we are going to continue to come up with solutions to make that happen."

When customers purchase a Pela case, they also receive an envelope to send their used Pela case or conventional plastic case to Pela’s Sustainability Studio in Kelowna by mail. Major national retailers are interested in the program and the company expects to have Pela 360 in participating retail locations by March 2020.

CPD OPPORTUNITY:
Technical Writing & Editing
March 17
SFU Online
For more information, please click here.

TECHJOB:
Planning & Design Technologist, Fortis BC
Kamloops
For job details, please click here.
Mastercard is expanding its presence in BC with the opening of a new R&D centre

Ottawa is putting up nearly $50 million to boost the presence of Mastercard Inc. in Vancouver with the launch of a $510 million cyber security centre.

The credit card company announced Thursday (January 23) that the West Coast city would be the home of its sixth global technology centre — one focused on developing technologies to thwart cyber attacks in the payments arena.

In a bid to entice the financial giant to BC, the Federal Government dipped into its Strategic Innovation Fund to the tune of $49 million. A February 2019 analysis from The Logic revealed just over half the fund’s recipients were foreign firms at the time the story was published.

“The Vancouver centre will help us meet the growing demand for technology solutions to reduce the cost of cyber-attacks, enable today’s connected devices to become tomorrow’s secure payment devices and address the growing vulnerabilities associated with the Internet of Things,” Mastercard CEO, Ajay Banga said in a statement.

Mastercard’s new Intelligence and Cyber Centre will be based at The Exchange office tower on Howe Street, which counts Amazon.com Inc. among its tenants. The Mastercard office houses Vancouver-founded cyber security firm NuData Security Inc., which Mastercard acquired in 2017.

Mastercard said in a statement the new centre will be “creating and maintaining” a total of 380 jobs, while the federal government estimated the new site would create 100 new co-op positions.

NuData already employs about 100 workers in its downtown office, leaving Mastercard to hire about 300 more workers to meet the needs of the cyber centre.

Jill Tipping, CEO of the BC Tech Association, told Business in Vancouver that Mastercard was clearly enticed by access to talent and the city’s connections with key markets around the world.

“I’m thrilled that they’re recognizing Vancouver as a great place to launch, but it makes it even more important that we put the investment into supporting our local homegrown companies,” she said.

“We’re going to continue to be attractive to major multinationals making foreign direct investments and that’s a good thing — but only if we make the investments to ensure that we have a balanced tech ecosystem.”

Tipping added that one of the other benefits of bringing in a company like Mastercard will be its ability to cultivate local talent.

“When major multinationals come to town and set up shop tackling big global problems, one of the things they do is they basically provide learning and growth opportunities on how to tackle scale-up problems, how to run a global business [and] how things happen at the multinational level.”


CPD OPPORTUNITY:
Pavement Design & Maintenance for Municipal Roadway Infrastructure
April 23 & 24
Richmond
For more information, please click here.

TECHJOB:
Fire Services Technician, Levitt-Safety
Port Coquitlam
For job details, please click here.
HAISLA CHIEF GIVES HEARTFELT SUPPORT FOR LNG DEVELOPMENT AT THE BC NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE

Haisla Nation Chief Councillor Crystal Smith gave a passionate, off-the-cuff speech in defence of LNG development at the BC Natural Resources Forum.

Rather than wear a suit and give her prepared speech, Smith said she chose to dress like her real self - wearing a sweater and yoga pants - and speak from the heart, instead of repeating the same speaking points she’s said dozens of times.

“I had a 20-page prepared speech. As I read it the other night, I thought, ‘I can’t read this.’ The ‘managing poverty to managing prosperity...’ You guys have heard those speeches,” Smith said. “In reality, this is me.”

Smith said she and her council support the development of the LNG Canada natural gas export terminal in Kitimat and the 670-kilometre Coastal GasLink pipeline which would supply it, because it means economic opportunities for their people.

“Our nation’s goal is to be an independent, powerful and prosperous nation. We can’t get there without powerful, prosperous, independent people,” she said.

She said she and her twin sister grew up mostly in the care of their grandparents.

“My grandfather was a victim of the residential school, but they made my twin sister’s life most memorable. I didn’t think we were poor. We ate traditional food every day. But I grew up poor.”

Her mother died in her early 40s of cancer, and Smith and her twin helped raise their nine-year-old sister.

“Poverty, been there. Suicide, been there,” she said. “I don’t want our people to continue living that life.”

Smith said she remembers being 11 or 12 years old, walking by the band office on her way to school in the Kitimat Village, and thinking the only jobs she’d ever likely get were as a janitor or working as an assistant in the band office.

“Alcan or the band office, those were the two places I had a chance to work,” she said. “I’m going to get pregnant early, be on social assistance. I’m going to be a burden on society. I’m supposed to be stupid, right? I came out of that school believing that.”

She went to a local community college but dropped out after a year. The self-fulfilling prophecy came true when she got a job working as an assistant to the elected chief at the band office.

It was working for former Haisla chief councillor Ellis Ross, now the BC Liberal MLA for Skeena, that helped inspire her that she could do more.

“The reason he did what he did was because of people like me,” she said.

Continued on page 10

CPD OPPORTUNITY:
BC Housing Building Smart - Building Envelope Guide for Houses
February 27
Webinar
For more information, please click here.

TECHJOB:
Junior/Intermediate Drafterperson/CAD Technician, DWB Consulting
Prince George
For more information, please click here.
DISCOVER TECTORIA AND ALL IT HAS TO OFFER

Greater Victoria’s largest sector, technology, generates $4.06 billion in revenue per year, has a total economic impact of $5.22 billion and employs 16,775 people (VIATEC’s Economic Impact Study, 2018). With all of this momentum, VIATEC continues to spread the word in an effort to attract more talent to join Victoria’s tech workforce.

Discover Tectoria is a biennial exposition put on by VIATEC, of more than 75 Greater Victoria tech companies, research projects, interactive displays and community partners under one roof at the Crystal Garden in downtown Victoria, and it returns on February 27, 11:00am-6:00pm. It’s one of the only events where locals and visitors come together to discover the innovation that’s flourishing in Victoria, while offering talks, panels and workshops for current tech workers - and those interested in jumping into the tech sector. Attendees get to interact with the people and their creations to better understand who and what is driving Victoria’s largest industry, leading to potential careers, connections and an increased understanding of how and why tech continues to thrive in Greater Victoria.

“We created this event in 2003 to get people to notice that our region was changing, and tech was playing a major role in shaping our region,” explains Dan Gunn, CEO of VIATEC. “Discover Tectoria gives our local tech companies a platform where they can be seen and heard by investors, media, job seekers and youth. Each time we see thousands of attendees, many of which will make up the leaders and vital team members of our community in the immediate and near future.”

Attendees can expect to interact with local tech companies and their products in Startup Alley and on the main trade show floor. Attendees will see everything from medical devices to a solar-electric boat, battling robots and more. They can also expect to see a newly added Women in Tech Lounge (put on by Locelle), and the Career Corner dedicated to job finding resources, tips and tricks. There will also be informative and engaging sessions taking place in two theatres throughout the day, student inventions in the UVic Research District, valuable information from Partner Row (sponsored by Royal Roads University) and even beer samples from Victoria Beer Week.

“There’s no better way to inspire our current and future tech workers than filling a space with all the opportunities, creative minds and unworldly inventions,” added Gunn. More information on Discover Tectoria can be found at www.discovertectoria.ca.

CPD OPPORTUNITY:
OQM Certification Training
May 6
Victoria
For more information, please click here.

TECHJOB:
Building Engineering Technologist, Method Engineering
Victoria
For job details, please click here.

Member Portal is now live! Log in to pay dues, record CPD and stay updated on events & activities!

asttbc.org/members/login
Projects like LNG Canada’s gas terminal are giving her people a chance to escape poverty and have hope for the future, she said.

“I’ve seen the impacts firsthand. I’ve felt the these impacts firsthand,” Smith said. “The focus for us is the long-term careers.”

Her 17-year-old daughter has a two-year-old son, and will face challenges as she considers going into post-secondary education, Smith said.

“I asked her, ‘Do you have hope?’ She said, ‘Yeah, because with what’s going on in the nation, you can do anything. You can be anything. And Zavier will be taken care of all his life.’” Smith said. “Hearing my 17-year-old daughter say that, (I know) our nation isn’t doing the wrong thing. I support projects, and I’m not afraid to say it.”

The project is also generating benefits at the First Nation governance level, she added, providing revenue to support projects.

“For the first time ever, we’re funding culture and language programs. We’re also expanding existing programs. This independence is what we want,” she said. “This is what we need more of in our community. We need to heal our people. No other government... has been able to heal our people the way they need it.”

Smith said she is also mindful that the project isn’t just an opportunity for them, but for their neighbours and other First Nations in the region.

“At every First Nations table I sit at, or to the other First Nations leaders in the room... I want to see your people come to Kitimat,” she said. “There is enough opportunity, we’re not going to be be able to fill it all. That opportunity is LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink.”

When asked about the blockade by some Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs and their supporters impeding work on the Coastal GasLink pipeline, Smith said she is sympathetic to the Wet’suwet’en people and the difficult political divide in their community. She’s experienced similar conflicts in her own First Nation.

“These are people’s lives. Our community experienced that, too. There is a political divide, and you have families that don’t talk to each other. It is the hardest thing to go through...” she said. “What is happening in the territory of the Wet’suwet’en can only be resolved by the Wet’suwet’en. (But) they have the power - forget the titles, the people have the power to decide who leads them.”

NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS

Applied Science Technologist (AScT)

Jason Bedi
Curtis Brown
Omar Butt
Brandy Craig
Joseph Dunford
Brian Farrelly
Jivtesh Garcha
Geoffrey Giebelhaus
Donald Handel
Humayun Kathuria
Kari-Lynn Kenny
Roozbeh Kheghatdoust
Timothy Kneelsen
Jordan Kuzmiuk
Shane Laye
Charles MacKinnon
David McMeeken
Keith Miller
Alex Minett
David Noronha
Ryan O’Daly
Elizaveta Odermatt

Certified Technician (CTech)

Alex Conly
Gurminder Dhandly
Mladen Jovicic
John Lawson
Payam Rafiei
Daniel Tyczkowski

Professional Technologist (PTech)

Bryce Boldt
Amandeep Dhaliwal
Kalpesh Nagar

Technical Specialist

Mark Allan
Jonathan Alojado
Julio Amayo
Ryley Beattie
Angus Botting
Nicola Cusano
Sukdev Gill
Andrew Herndier
Daniel Johnstone
Chi-Man Lau
Bryan Chi Wai Li
Christopher Magnus
Sheldon May
Rafael Sison
Renan Tarras
Tylor Versteeg
Erin Williams
Xiao Bin Han
Vjekoslav Zaric
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www.cten.ca
Since 2007, ASTTBC has published guides to professional practice for use by ASTTBC registrants. There are currently 7 guides approved by ASTTBC with plans for an eighth in 2020. Many hours of valued input from subject matter experts, industry and academia have resulted in ASTTBC Council approval of 3 guides to professional practice for:

- Biomedical Engineering Technology Services,
- Electronics Technology Services, and
- Geomatics Technology Services.

With Council approval on January 23, 2020, the guides have been added to the ASTTBC electronic (web) resource library for access by registrants and the public. In addition, all registrants will be advised of their availability via publication of professional practice bulletins.

The guides will serve multiple purposes including clarifying what technologists and technicians are capable of and should be doing within their competencies. They will be used when defining scope of practice and as standards for determining compliance.

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Welcome to 2020 with a new vision, mission, values and players. The first month of the new decade is now history and with our improved vision and mission ASTTBC Council and staff are focusing their full attention on the challenges and opportunities ahead. The new vision approved by Council on January 23, 2020 reminds all ASTTBC registrants that we are “Technology Professionals safeguarding the public through leadership and regulatory excellence.” Striving to achieve the vision is our mission: “To serve the public by regulating and supporting Technology Professionals’ commitment to a safe, healthy and sustainable society and environment.” Adhering to our core values of professionalism, integrity, innovation, and passion will serve us well as we go through 2020 transitioning from the ASTT Act and Regulations to the new Professional Governance Act (PGA) being implemented by the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG).

The ever-increasing reliance on professionalism began approximately 20 years ago when the Government of British Columbia, in the best interest of the public, embarked on the long journey towards a professional reliance model. The theoretical concept is quite simple – place responsibility for providing professional services on the professionals.

The practical reality is the public can rely on the vast majority of professionals to provide quality services. There is, however, a need to make sure conduct and competence of every professional meet the standards set by regulatory entities. ASTTBC sets standards of conduct and competence of technologists, technicians and technical specialists in British Columbia.
UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 ASTTBC AGM, Conference & Technology Awards Luncheon

Thursday, June 4th, 2020
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Pacific Gateway Hotel, Richmond, BC

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ASTTBC TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS

MEMBER SERVICES

ASTTBC has carefully selected value-add service providers who offer special rates to our members in areas that matter most to technology professionals and their families.

Our Affinity Partners Program offers exclusive rates on products and services with trusted providers, such as:

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- TD Insurance Meloche Monnex
- Manulife
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Epic Education
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about Engineers Canada-sponsored insurance plans

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+ Engineers Canada and Manulife continually assess the plan benefits and rates to ensure they’re highly competitive.
+ They’re innovative, with recent enhancements like the job loss waiver of premium – the first of its kind in Canada.

Learn more about how these plans can benefit you.

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