

ASTTBC Talks Science & Technology Strategy with Select Standing Committee on Finance

Executive Director John Leech called on the BC Government to lead a "full press initiative to imbue a renaissance in science and technology". Leech was in Courtenay today talking with the BC Government Committee about a science and technology culture, technology education and careers and the contribution of ASTTBC-registered Technology Professionals. "The Committee was situated in Victoria and I was at North Island College in Courtenay, with technology bridging the gap. Technology was working at full tilt... was the medium for communication. Video conferencing saved travel costs and time for the Committee without much loss of the 'personal touch'," said Leech.

Each presenter had 10 minutes to make their pitch and then there was 5 minutes for questions or comments from the Committee. John's brief outlined 12 Recommendations, including:

- *Government to lead an initiative to grow a more vibrant science and technology culture in BC*
- *Premier to serve as Honourary Chair of a new industry group to be appointed by Government to forge the new STEM initiative*
- *Designate Science World as lead agency promoting Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)*
- *Support new technology programs especially in northern and central BC*
- *Target funding for Aboriginal technology programs*

MLA [Dan Ashton](#) (Penticton) is the Committee Chair. MLAs [John Yap](#) (Richmond-Steveston) and [Mable Elmore](#) (Vancouver-Kensington) asked questions about technology skills shortage and what ASTTBC is doing to assist Internationally Trained Technology Professionals.

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