

Association of Canadian Community Colleges Engages with Technology Professionals Canada (TPC)



ACCC and TPC meet in Ottawa (left to right): Barry Cavanaugh, CEO for Alberta; Denise Amyot, President and CEO, ACCC; John Leech, Executive Director for BC; Terry Anne Boyles, Vice President, ACCC; and, David Thomson, CEO for Ontario.

The President and CEO, Denise Amyot, and Vice President, Terry Anne Boyles, of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) hosted Technology Professionals Canada (TPC) in a discussion of many topics of common interest to the technology educators and technology professional regulators. Ontario CEO David Thomson, Alberta CEO Barry Cavanaugh and BC Executive Director John Leech covered a lot of ground during their brief time together.

"It was great to meet with the staff leadership at ACCC and engage with them on how we might better work together to ensure a sustainable supply of technologists and technicians in all institutions across the country," said ASTTBC's John Leech. "My colleagues from Ontario and Alberta and I focused on topics such as national standards, accreditation and technology careers promotion." TPC is an alliance of the Technology Professional Associations from Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC. Unfortunately Jaime Briltz, CEO and Registrar for Saskatchewan was not able to make the trip to the ACCC offices in Ottawa.

Emerging from the discussion was a general understanding on national standards and accreditation:

- * one national standard for accreditation;
- * 'best practices' in managing the National Technology Benchmark (NTB); and,
- * full portability of credentials.

The TPC representatives updated ACCC on the more than \$500,000 investment by TPC in a new accreditation model for Canada, stressing the need to enhance current practices and build a more effective, open and transparent model which is fully resourced to deliver accreditation for the profession.

Technology education and careers was front and centre, with TPC suggesting a number of actions:

- * conduct a nation-wide study and report on the state of technology education in Canada;
- * collaborate in messaging re technology education and careers;
- * engage First Nations to pursue technology education and careers; and,
- * encourage more women into technology careers.

Many parts of Canada face a skills shortage and TPC encouraged a call to action on the issue. Several suggestions were discussed:

- * national study and report;
- * include technologist and technicians within the Training Tax Credit;
- * map out a trades to technologist career pathway; and,
- * encourage technology courses in K-12 leading to post-secondary technology programs.

The group, open for one more subject, reflected on Internationally Trained Technology Professionals (ITTP) and took note of current initiatives to support their entry into Canada and success as they enter the job market and settle their families.