

Minister of Health Terry Lake Meets ASTTBC



(L to R): ASTTBC Registrar, Charles Joyner, ASTTBC Secretary Treasurer, Trent Reid, Minister Lake and Executive Director John Leech. Minister Lake, who did not advise ASTTBC folk it was 'jeans day'; holds a gift from ASTTBC, an eagle feather by Salish carver Len McKay.

Topics such as the certification of Onsite Wastewater practitioners; technology education and careers and professional recognition; skills utilization and rights to practice were top of mind when ASTTBC representatives met this summer with the Minister of Health, [Terry Lake](#), MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson. Key points covered during the conversation follow:

Onsite Wastewater (ASTTBC Certifies as ROWP - Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioners)

- . *Enhanced public health with defined qualifications of ROWPs*
- . *Many benefits, cost savings to the province*
- . *Good progress in professionalizing this field*
- . *Need central filing system for the province*
- . *Continued development of professional accountability of ROWPs*
- . *Review what other provinces are doing in onsite wastewater*

Technology Education and Careers

- . *Tech education and careers are 'invisible'. Work needed to improve!*

- . *Expand technology programs in northern and central BC*
- . *[Big Little Science Centre](#) (Kamloops) needs support; replicate elsewhere in BC*

Practice Rights - in Service to the Public

- . *Full utilization and recognition of all skills*
- . *Practice rights commensurate with competencies*
- . *Biomedical Technologists and Technicians and Electrical Work*
- . *Biomedical Techs as one KEY health care practitioner not currently 'licensed'*
- . *PTech development in BC*
- . *House Inspection Licensing*

"It was a great learning experience," said ASTTBC Secretary Treasurer, Trent Reid, who was meeting with a BC Cabinet Minister for his first time as an ASTTBC representative. "The Minister was very open and keenly interested in ASTTBC's work as a professional regulator and as a lead promoter of technology education and careers." ASTTBC representatives left the meeting with the understanding that Minister Lake has a good handle on ASTTBC and our role and contribution to BC, the significant value of technologists, technicians and technical specialists, the importance of technology education and careers, the need for the effective utilization of all skills and appropriate licensing to protect the public and workers. ASTTBC is confident the Minister will be pro-active in addressing areas of common interest.