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## **ASTTBC Congratulates Premier on 10 Year Plan**

ASTTBC applauds the BC Government's commitment to develop a 10 year 'skills plan' and encourages the Government to pay close attention to the need for a greater number of engineering and applied science technologists and technicians. The [Speech from the Throne](#) said in part, "To continue equipping our institutions, set targets to match skills to jobs and ensure a seamless delivery of skills training from high school through to entry in the workforce, your government will develop a comprehensive 10-year skills-training plan."

"Premier Clark has set the right course to address the jobs gap with a plan that will engage all levels of education and help focus attention on career connections," said ASTTBC's Executive Director, John Leech. "ASTTBC has been talking with Government and educators in recent years about the real need to rationalize education and focus decision-making and funding on education that leads to areas where there are skill shortages." The Throne Speech went on to say, "Preparing the workforce with skills that match current and future job opportunities where people live and in the communities they love, is essential to ensuring that British Columbians are first in line for jobs." ASTTBC released a [REPORT](#) earlier this year which focused on the skills shortages and the different approaches to address the needs of industry.

ASTTBC, BCIT and the Vancouver Board of Education signed an agreement earlier this year to commit resources to technology education programming in K-12 that will lead to consideration for direct entry to BCIT. The Kamloops School District has embarked on a new Trades and Technology High School and is in discussions with Thompson Rivers University (TRU) and Okanagan College (OC) about linking new technology courses in K-12 with two year Diploma of Technology programs at TRU and OC.

First Nations, women and internationally trained professionals also figure prominently in ASTTBC's list of solutions to address the skills gap. ASTTBC launched the [First Nations Careers Council](#) in 2009 and the [BC Women in Technology](#) to provide support and assistance leading to careers in technology. ASTTBC has developed many tools and resources to assist internationally trained professionals seamlessly enter the BC workforce and build engineering technology careers.

"These initiatives will most certainly help young people appreciate the great career potential as an engineering technologist or technician," enthused Sid Siddiqui, Vice President of Stantec and Chair of the Technology Education and Careers Council (TECC), a group of industry, education and professional association leaders established by ASTTBC to help inform Government on technology education and careers. "Industry needs many more technologists and technicians and we believe our primary objective should be to educate British Columbians so they can prepare for rewarding and meaningful careers in applied science and engineering technology." For more on [TECC](#)