

August 2014

## **ASTTBC's CEO Quoted in BC Government Release** **Re: Foreign Qualification Recognition**

More skilled technologists and technicians will have their professional qualifications recognized through ASTTBC with the renewal of the Foreign Qualifications Recognition (FQR) funding agreement between the federal government and the Province of BC.

*"ASTTBC has been working in partnership with the BC Government on FQR projects designed to support and assist Internationally Trained Technology Professionals (ITTP) get their credentials assessed and secure meaningful employment in their respective fields of applied science technology,"* said John Leech, ASTTBC Chief Executive Officer. *"This partnership has produced significant results over the past 2 - 3 years and there is more ahead."*

Read the BC Government [PRESS RELEASE](#) in which quotes are provided by BC Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Shirley Bond, BC Minister of Advanced Education, Amrik Virk, federal Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada, Jason Kenney and ASTTBC CEO John Leech.

Outcomes to date from the ASTTBC - BC Government partnership agreements include:

- An ITTP web site with useful tools and resources
- Video vignettes of ITTPs addressing key issues faced by ITTPs as they relocate to BC / Canada
- 'Soft skill competencies' required for professional registration and to secure employment in BC
- Focus groups with just under 100 employers throughout BC to determine these soft skills
- e-Portfolio as a web-based software program to capture work experience
- FQR database to help identify education programs from other countries that meet ASTTBC standards
- A joint project with APEGBC to help foreign trained engineers determine whether their best fit is with APEGBC or with ASTTBC
- A team from BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario visited the Philippines in 2012 to better understand their education system
- ITTP Leadership Forum to help inform ASTTBC staff on programs and services

New projects have just been launched and these include:

- Developing competencies for four Technical Specialist Programs
- Rolling out the new e-Portfolio for Technical Specialist programs
- India visitation to learn more about their education system

*"ASTTBC is at the forefront of programming to assist and support ITTPs as they make their way to BC / Canada seeking rewarding technology careers"* concludes ASTTBC's John Leech.