

ASTTBC Budget Submission to Federal Government **Focuses on Technical Skills**

A meeting between [Andrew Saxton, MP](#) for North Vancouver and ASTTBC CEO John Leech has led to an ASTTBC pre-budget brief to the Canadian Government. As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, Andrew is in an ideal position to advance ASTTBC's concerns about skills shortages and proposals to enhance the presence of technology education and careers, as well as the role of and contribution by, Technology Professionals. Andrew is well acquainted with ASTTBC and has met with John several times in recent years. With the lead, *'Technology Professionals : An Economic Advantage for Canada'*, the brief outlines a number of initiatives designed to better understand the contribution made by Technology Professionals and specific programming opportunities to enhance awareness.

"There is a real need for a pan-Canadian strategy and initiatives to enhance the profile of technologists, technicians and technical specialists," said Leech. "A decade ago the federal government invested heavily in promoting trades training and careers. Much has been done to promote the trades over the past 10 years both at the national as well as provincial levels. It is now time to focus similar programming on technology education and careers."

"The current gap between employer need and available qualified technology professionals requires further attention by the federal government to ensure a sustainable supply of engineering and applied science technologists and technicians." (From ASTTBC pre-budget brief to the federal government)

The BC Skills for Jobs Blueprint points to trades AND technical skills, an important distinction and clear recognition that the BC Government 'gets it' in terms of the important role technologists, technicians and technical specialists play. "I applaud the BC Government, but more is needed here in BC and most criticality at the national level," stressed Leech. "I am convinced that if we do not start now to drive programming to further enhance technology education and careers the current skills shortage will grow to a crisis in the near term".

Leech pointed to studies conducted by ASTTBC and to the ASTTBC report, *'A Strategic Direction for Technology Education and Skills in British Columbia'*, January 2013 that points to critical shortages today in a few areas and how technology programming at the post-secondary level has been stagnant for 10 years.

To view the entire [BUDGET SUBMISSION](#)