

## **BC Skills for JOBS Blueprint**

"Two big thumbs up on the new Skills plan," exclaims ASTTBC CEO, John Leech. "ASTTBC has been encouraging government to direct education and training decisions and funding to meet the needs of industry." Leech was invited to attend the announcement of the BC Skills for JOBS Blueprint in Victoria. Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, John Rustad, acted as MC. Minister of Education Peter Fassbender kicked it off, talking about changes to the K-12 system; Minister of Advanced Education, Amrik Virk outlined changes planned for post-secondary and Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Shirley Bond, pulled it all together as the new direction for education and training in BC.

See highlights of the [BLUEPRINT](#)

The Technology Education and Careers Council (TECC), a body of industry and education leaders set up by ASTTBC, has been advocating for technology education and careers since it was first established in 2009. Sid Siddiqui, PEng, Chair, will lead a delegation to Victoria on May 14 to have lunch with about 40 MLAs and then meet together with Ministers Virk and Bond. Sid noted that this will be the fourth annual MLA lunch for TECC and ASTTBC. "This year will be quite a bit different as we will be reporting fairly significant progress over the past year, the culmination of many years of working to enhance awareness and support for technology education throughout BC." Sid indicated he will be thanking the Government for its work in focusing the overall education system to better address the needs of industry.

"Over the past three to four years ASTTBC has been working with the Ministers and their staff, providing input to the BC JOBS Plan," concluded Leech. "We have also been asking for a longer term strategy designed to focus our efforts to address the needs of industry whether that is in municipal infrastructure, high technology, LNG and other resource fields, manufacturing and others who are crying for technical, trades and other skills." ASTTBC and TECC have committed to working with the Government in supporting the new scheme.