

Minister Norm Letnick Sports ASTTBC Technology SIZZLES Apron



Minister of Agriculture, Norm Letnick (left) sports an ASTTBC Technology SIZZLES apron, gets ready for BBQ season and lends his support for technology education and careers

Minister of Agriculture, [Norm Letnick](#) (MLA for Kelowna-Lake Country) has long been a supporter of technology education and careers and he recently got into the spirit by donning an ASTTBC Technology SIZZLES apron. Norm met recently with ASTTBC CEO John Leech to talk tech careers and other topics of interest to ASTTBC including ASTTBC’s work in advancing the professional recognition and practice rights for ASTTBC members.

“Norm has ‘been there’ on many occasions in support of technology education and careers”, said John Leech. “For example, Norm helped me pull together some industry and education leaders in Kelowna last year to talk about technology offerings in K-12.” During their conversation it was noted that Okanagan College has a large program for First Nations, an area of interest to ASTTBC in particular because of the work of ASTTBC’s First Nations Careers Council. Promoting tech careers to women and girls is a key driver for ASTTBC as well, and this, too, was noted by Minister Letnick. ASTTBC formed the BC Women in Technology group to serve as role models and help promote tech careers to young girls.

John emphasized with the Minister that at present there are forces working against the full professional independent practice rights of ASTTBC Members and that Government really needs to take a hard look at where technologists and technicians fit within the work environment. Leech often points to the framework in place with health care practitioners where they have methodically, over time, defined the areas of practice for Nurse Practitioners, RNs, LPNs and others based on their competencies. John

continues to present the argument that the public and BC's economy is better served when we fully utilize and engage technical skills based on their competency and, in ASTTBC's situation, tied to their professional registration. John is always talking about the ASTTBC proposal to introduce Professional Technologist (PTech) in BC. "PTech is a reality in Alberta now for three years. It is past time that BC got on board."