

Polley: People. Regulations. Standards & Practices

The people and the standards they work with will emerge as a key focus of the BC Government [ANNOUNCED INQUIRY](#) into the Mount Polley dam breach according to the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC), a professional regulatory body responsible for registering engineering and geoscience technologists and technicians who are a part of the professional team inspecting BC's mines.

“Inspecting dams in BC is often a team effort requiring a mix of skills sets, all working to assure public health and safety,” said John Leech, AScT, CAE, ASTTBC CEO. “ASTTBC works with the BC Government and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC) to make sure that mine inspections are carried out by professionally qualified and accountable specialists.” ASTTBC is of the view that British Columbia has solid standards in place to help guide the professionals involved in mine inspections.

ASTTBC, as the 8th largest professional association in BC with over 10,000 technologists, technicians and technical specialists, is working to assure best practices to help guide ASTTBC members who are involved in the inspection of dams, whether as part of a team or as an independent practitioner. “For example, we are reviewing the APEGBC Dam Safety Guidelines and will consider endorsing this standard as a guide for ASTTBC members’ practice,” said Leech. “ASTTBC is also considering who is participating in dam inspections as technologists and technicians, and will report to Government on the numbers who are currently registered with ASTTBC as either an Applied Science Technologist (AScT) or Certified Technician (CTech).”

ASTTBC was incorporated by the BC Government in 1985 to regulate the standards of training and practice of members and to protect the interests of the public.

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