

## **ASTTBC Sponsors Surrey Board of Trade Forum with Ministers Bond and Fassbender**



ASTTBC Vice President, Keith Trulson addresses Surrey Board of Trade Forum with Special Guests Ministers Peter Fassbender & Shirley Bond

The Surrey Board of Trade hosted a special forum with Minister of Education Peter Fassbender and Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training Shirley Bond speaking on key directions for education and skills programming to meet the needs of industry. ASTTBC was one of the sponsors, with ASTTBC Vice President Keith Trulson providing greetings from ASTTBC to the attendees and Ministers Bond and Fassbender. During his brief remarks Keith spoke to ASTTBC's efforts to promote technology education and careers, including initiatives targeted at K-12 and post-secondary education, provincial planning and career awareness programs sponsored by ASTTBC.

Keith Trulson took notes and reported the following:

Minister Bond's comments:

- *We need to re-engineer the way we think – changes are coming*
- *Look at the data and allocate money / implement changes to what is needed by industry*
- *No longer the cookie cutter approach*
- *We must rely on all aspects of business to dictate changes*
- *Need to meet the overall needs through-out BC*
- *New program like the LNG will produce new revenues for education and learning*
- *There is a “new plan” of how to allocate and recognize areas of need*
- *Need to look at hard Data and drive decision-making tie to the data*
- *Need to honour and promote trades, technicians and technology as advancements*

- *No time for territorial issues*
- *BC needs to allocate and determine placement of skills throughout the province*

Minister Fassbender's comments:

- *It's about partnership; Remove the silos*
- *Retool for the future*
- *Meet the needs throughout BC*
- *Skills and job training – develop a 10 year plan*
- *Use technology as a tool*
- *Information on “WorkBC” web site*



Minister of Education Peter Fassbender (left) with ASTTBC Vice President Keith Trulson, AScT, EngL

Keith said, "My overall impression of the event was the Government wants to press ahead for change, to assure there are skilled workers for tomorrow. BC can't turn out 'degreed' individuals without specific regard to providing a skilled work force for today and the future." Keith took note of the apparent need to employ and engage all workers to their full potential. He suggested that ASTTBC needs to make the case for full professional status, recognition and practice for ASTTBC members, especially 'PTech'. Keith concluded by saying, with the fear of a skill shortage in the future, ASTTBC can help Government fill the void with the proper skilled work force necessary to meet industry and Government demands."