

## **MLA Michelle Stilwell Talks High Tech, SaferHomes & Tech Careers With ASTTBC's John Leech**



ASTTBC CEO John Leech (left) sits down with MLA Michelle Stilwell to talk 'Tech' over lunch

ASTTBC's leadership in advancing tech careers in view of the current skills challenges was one of the topics for discussion between MLA [Michelle Stilwell](#) (Parksville-Qualicum) and ASTTBC CEO John Leech. "Michelle and I explored many topics, some of which connected directly with her roles as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health for Healthy Living and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health for Seniors," said ASTTBC's John Leech. "For example, I mentioned [SaferHomes](#) and their program to build housing - single and multiple units - such that they have the structure to better accommodate changing needs as people age."

Michelle and John referenced the BC JOBS Plan and noted the implications for technical workers generally with major projects like LNG. ASTTBC members' role with issues such as the Mount Polley dam breach took the conversation along a very different path. Michelle was interested in local initiatives in high technology and the linkage here with technology education and careers and educational institutions such as Vancouver Island University and North Island College. Technology education in K-12 rounded out this part of what was a most enjoyable lunch at Lefty's in Parksville according to John Leech.

Michelle talked of her role as Chair of the Government Caucus, a job that takes a fair bit of time and offers interesting opportunities and challenges. Newly elected in Spring 2013, Michelle has been asked by Premier Clark to take on some interesting jobs.

“Michelle and I talked about possible connections with ASTTBC and members in the Parksville - Qualicum area,” offered Leech. “We agreed we would look for an opportunity to bring together local stakeholders to explore ways to enhance technology education career pathways.” Leech slipped in that Michelle has one other special role as MLA for the riding in which John resides.