

ASTTBC – TECC Meet Ministers Bond, Fassbender and Virk



Front Row (L to R): Dave Rutherford, President, ASTTBC; Sid Siddiqui, Chair, TECC and Vice President, Stantec; Minister Shirley Bond; MJ Whitmarsh, Senior Consultant Whitmarsh Enterprises; ; Bryan Tisdale, President and CEO, Science World; and, ASTTBC CEO John Leech.

Back Row (L to R): Sandy Innes, Vice Chair TECC and Vice President, TELUS; Andrew Hay, Vice President, Okanagan College and Representative for the 11 colleges in BC; Minister Amrik Virk; Minister Peter Fassbender; Harry Diemer, Harry Diemer and Associates; and, Paul Dangerfield, Vice President, BCIT.

A great day in Victoria for ASTTBC and the Technology Education and Careers Council (TECC) included a joint meeting with the Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Shirley Bond, Minister of Education, Peter Fassbender and Minister of Advanced Education, Amrik Virk. “We had a great exchange with the Ministers and their staff,” said TECC Chair, Sid Siddiqui, PEng, who is a Vice President at Stantec. “TECC and ASTTBC presented suggestions as to how technology education and careers could be further enhanced in BC.”

ASTTBC’s President Dave Rutherford and CEO John Leech expressed their appreciation to the members of TECC who bring their industry and education credentials to the table in support of technology education and careers. “ASTTBC has built a solid relationship with key leaders in Government and enjoy a partnership in support of Science, Technology Engineering and Math generally and technology education and careers specifically,” said Rutherford. “TECC, a group pulled together by ASTTBC in 2008, has served a valuable purpose in bringing key stakeholders to the table

to share their knowledge, experiences and ideas of how we can enhance the science and technology culture in BC.

The group talked about math and science in K-12, relevance of education for BC's youth, new and emerging education and training methods, the need to engage a much greater number of First Nations, attracting women and girls into science and technology careers and the promotion generally of STEM subjects and technology education to students and parents. TECC Vice Chair, Sandy Innes, who works as Vice President, Human Resources at TELUS, advised the Ministers that graduate levels in technology programs have been stagnate at just under 700 for the past decade and the numbers are actually decreasing. Sandy Innes, the first Chair of TECC, spoke about the importance of industry more fully engaging with the education system. Sandy agreed with Chair Sid Siddiqui and the other members of TECC that this was a most productive discussion.