

## Foresters and ASTTBC Connect



ASTTBC President Keith Trulson, AScT, Eng.L (third from left) presented ABCFP President Jon Lok, RFT with an ASTTBC eagle feather carved by Salish artist Len McKay.

Pictured are (L - R) Jason Jung, AScT, ASTTBC Manager, Professional Practice & Development; Sharon Glover, MBA, ABCFP CEO; Keith Trulson; Jon Lok; John Leech, AScT, CAE, ASTTBC CEO; and Mike Larock, RPF, ABCFP Director of Professional Practice & Forest Stewardship. Mike is also an Honorary Member of ASTTBC.

This past summer the leaders from the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) and ASTTBC met to get caught up on areas of common interest. Topics such as professional reliance and keeping the public trust loomed high on the list for discussion. Recognition as a Qualified Professional (QP) and ASTTBC's plans for PTech development in BC made for a stimulating exchange.

ASTTBC learned of the scope of practice available to the Registered Forest Technologist and explored how this recognition might relate to the practice of ASTTBC technologists and technicians. "We had a great meeting and covered many important topics," said ASTTBC President Keith Trulson. "The ASTTBC team appreciated the warm welcome and good discussion on many issues."

ABCFP and ASTTBC have a very close connection notably because the two associations successfully collaborated to establish registered forest technologists within the Foresters Act. The ABCFP then went on to obtain technical occupations related to the practice of professional forestry, thereby ensuring that all forest professionals are regulated through the one statute. To amplify the point that Registered Forest Technologists are well established and respected as part of the one association, the current President, Jon Lok is a RFT. "I think that continually strengthening professional relationships is ultimately beneficial to the public interest in forest resources" said Mr. Lok.

ABCFP has come a long way under the one act-one association model.