

Government Enhances Financial Position of Persons with Disabilities

ASTTBC Plans to Open Doors to Technology Careers

The BC Government announced a major change in the assets that can be held by persons with disabilities (PWD), a decision applauded by ASTTBC CEO John Leech. British Columbians receiving disability will be able to hold significantly more assets and receive financial gifts and inheritances with no impact on their monthly assistance according to a BC Government public release.

The new arrangement announced by the Government and commencing December 1, 2015, allows persons with disabilities to hold assets of \$100,000 for one and \$200,000 for a couple if both hold a PWD designation. The current limits are \$5,000 and \$10,000 respectively.

"ASTTBC's interest is in developing a program that will reach out to employers and potential employees with disabilities to inform them of the many rewarding careers that can be found, built and sustained in engineering and applied science technology", said Leech. ASTTBC is exploring possible partnering arrangements with groups like Community Living Society BC (CLSBC) that will better serve people with disabilities and increase the number of employers engaging persons with disabilities.

"The recent [Labour Market Study](#) completed by ASTTBC, APEGBC and ACEC-BC under the management of the Asia Pacific Gateway Skills Table points to a shortage of technology skills well into the future," stressed Leech. "Being more proactive in engaging people with disabilities and potential employers is a natural role for ASTTBC. We are certain the ASTTBC program once fully launched will help address the need for highly qualified technology professionals."

ASTTBC is a self-governing professional association responsible for serving the public interest by certifying, registering and regulating engineering and applied science technology professionals. With over 10,000 registered technologists, technicians and technical specialists ASTTBC is the 8th largest professional body in BC.