

## Minister of Education Connects with ASTTBC



Minister of Education, Mike Bernier (left) speaks with ASTTBC CEO John Leech (centre) and MLA Richard Lee.

The Honourable Mike Bernier, MLA for Peace River South, caught up with ASTTBC CEO John Leech and MLA Richard Lee (Burnaby North) while attending the Premier's Natural Resource Forum in Prince George.

“We connected at an evening reception and took a little time to chat about STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) in the K-12 system,” said ASTTBC’s Leech. “Mike was interested... actually he was very keen to talk about what we need to encourage more young British Columbians to stay connected with STEM subjects throughout their K-12 education experience. “It was a very lively conversation,” said ASTTBC CEO John Leech. “Both Mike and Richard Lee were fully engaged and exploring opportunities for getting young minds excited about STEM.”

The three discussed women in technology and the need to encourage girls in the STEM subjects as well as strategies to peak their interest in technology-related fields. John spoke about ASTTBC’s BC Women in Technology (BCWiT) program and their work to showcase women in technology, serve as role models and provide bursaries and various forms of recognition for women currently engaged in technology.

The conversation moved to First Nations and ASTTBC’s work through the First Nations Careers Council (FNCC) to enhance awareness of technology education and careers and the application of technology in First Nations communities. ASTTBC will meet Minister of Education Bernier this Spring to advance this initial discussion in a more formal setting.