

College President Talks Tech Programming in Northern BC



ASTTBC's CEO John Leech (L) presented CNC President, Henry Reiser with a special eagle feather carved out of cedar by Salish artist Len McKay.

College of New Caledonia President Henry Reiser met with ASTTBC CEO John Leech to talk about technology education and careers, as well as the contribution of technology professionals to BC's economy especially in central and northern BC. John Leech encouraged CNC to embrace a new Civil Technology program which has been identified by employers as a program in demand. Studies over the past 6 or more years have demonstrated a need for Civil Technologists in the Prince George and surrounding area. John pointed to the need to encourage young women to get involved with tech programs, noting that about 11% of ASTTBC members are female.

First Nations education and careers is a priority for CNC as it is for ASTTBC. ASTTBC and CNC are involved in a pilot project in Mackenzie in which a planned *Village Public Works Technician Program* will hopefully roll out in 2016. ASTTBC Council has approved the creation of a Public Works Technician certification program, the competencies for which have been developed.

Henry Reiser expressed interest in advancing technology programming at CNC and to do so in collaboration with the northern colleges and BCIT. "Henry is a strong champion for technology education," said Leech. "We can be assured that tech programming will emerge under Henry's watch."