

ACEC Canada-Licensing of Engineering Technicians & Technologists

The President of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Canada (ACEC) John Gamble, provided a report, 'Year in Review' for ACEC-Canada which was published in the ACEC-BC Annual Report, 2012 - 2013. This report speaks to the role of ACEC, their many achievements and opportunities for this sector.

John Gamble reported on a policy statement by ACEC which pointed to the role of technologists and technicians and a licensing model / approach which could be supported by ACEC. John stated, "The (ACEC-Canada) Board struck a task force and approved a policy statement on this issue that technicians and technologists are important contributors to the consulting engineering industry and that allowing appropriately qualified technicians and technologists to perform Professional Engineering within defined scopes of practice strengthens the consulting engineering sector."

ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech, AScT, CAE indicated that this is a most encouraging statement by ACEC. "This recognizes the contributory role of technologists and technicians to the consulting engineering sector and more generally throughout other sectors here in BC," said Leech. "ASTTBC has gained modest recognition as a Qualified Professional / Person (QP) over the years and, with this acknowledgement by ACEC, I see another door opening to more fully engage and utilize the competencies of ASTTBC members."

John Gamble went further in reporting on the ACEC policy statement by defining a recommended legislative model, "However, ACEC believes that the regulation of engineering by all practitioners must fall within the same provincial / territorial legislation that defines and regulates the practice of Professional Engineering."

This endorsement ties in with the current joint work of ASTTBC and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC) where the recently formed ASTTBC - APEGBC Joint Board is considering opportunities where an Applied Science Technologist (AScT) might be recognized within a professional reliance model. The Terms of Reference for the Joint Board also calls on the Board to consider a one act - two associations or other mutually acceptable model for the regulation of practice. Leech offered, "ASTTBC is a self-governing professional association incorporated under the ASTT Act and, while this legislation has provided a solid foundation for the past 25 years since enactment, it is time for a change."

Recently appointed ASTTBC President, Dave Rutherford, AScT, BCLS, CLS, indicated that the ACEC statement lends support to ASTTBC's decades-old efforts to secure appropriate recognition for BC technologists and technicians in engineering and applied science technology. "This statement sends a positive signal to the BC Government which we hope will translate into consideration of legislative changes that will put us on a solid foundation for the recognition of all members of the engineering team," said Rutherford. "ASTTBC-registered technologists and technicians are involved with the design, construction, inspection, testing and maintenance of BC's infrastructure and in these roles are required to protect public health and safety and the environment." The ASTTBC President concluded by saying that health care professionals are fully regulated under one statute and called on the BC Government to focus attention on legislative changes that will ensure full utilization of the competencies of ASTTBC members, BCIT and college graduates in the engineering and applied science technology fields.