



May 2012

Minister Pat Bell's Weekly 'TOP 10' Features ASTTBC

Member of the BC Legislature, Pat Bell, writes a weekly message to constituents in the Prince George Mackenzie riding. In THIS issue Pat opened the door for ASTTBC to write a 'Guest Top 10'. Pat is Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation. Pat's introduction message plus ASTTBC's Top 10, follow...

Hi All

It was a very exciting week for Brenda and I last week as our oldest Daughter Donna and her Husband Matt had their first child. Joey is a happy, healthy 7 pound 11 ounce boy with Mom, Joey (and Dad) doing well. Joey is the first Grandchild on both sides of the family so he is sure to be spoiled, but isn't that what Grandchildren are for? Brenda and I also celebrated our 34th anniversary last Sunday so between the 2 events it was a pretty exciting week for us!

Technologists and Technicians play a key role in our economy and the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) does a great job representing the members. This week's Top 10 is a special 'Guest Top 10' written by ASTTBC's Executive Director, John Leech. John is a graduate from the Prince George Senior Secondary School and BCIT. Early in his career John worked for BC Rail in and around Prince George. John's family has lived in Prince George since 1961 and in fact Brenda and I now live in the house that John grew up in! John's father, Jim, worked for PGE / BC Rail and his mother, Nony, was a nurse at Prince George Regional Hospital. His Brother Don was a teacher in Prince George until his retirement and his sister Dinah and Brother in law both work in health care.

Next week I am off to Edmonton to the Western Premiers Conference where I have been asked to represent BC. I'm expecting some interesting discussions involving energy, trades training and immigration, more on that next week.

Have a great week!

Pat

<http://www.patbellmla.bc.ca/>

ASTTBC's TOP 10 Follows Below:

ASTTBC's TOP 10

1. ASTTBC's membership has reached **10,000** in British Columbia. Increasingly new members are Internationally Trained Professionals (ITP) from many other countries, notably the Philippines and India. The Association is partnering with the **Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation** to provide added services to ITPS to ensure a smooth transition to the BC world of work.
2. ASTTBC's primary role is to protect the public interest by certifying, registering and holding accountable Applied Science & Engineering Technologists, Technicians and Technical Specialists. Its mandate compares to the professional associations or colleges that regulate Nurses, Dental Hygienists, Engineers, and Foresters.
3. ASTTBC provides professional dispute resolution services. In mediating complaints, the Association assesses a range of remedies including additional training to assure competency, monetary adjustments and loss of certification and registration as warranted. The public can learn more about filing a formal complaint from the ASTTBC web site at: www.asttbc.org
4. ASTTBC is the 8th largest professional association in BC with 20 Full Time Equivalent staff, and an annual budget of \$2.6 million.
5. ASTTBC registers applied science & engineering technologists and technicians in 16 disciplines including Biomedical Engineering, Civil, Electrical, Electronics, Environmental, Information and Mechanical technologies. ASTTBC registration is fully portable in Canada and with several countries including the Australia, Hong Kong, Ireland, New Zealand, USA and UK. ASTTBC is being supported by the BC Government in assessing the Philippine education system in order to assist ITPS move seamlessly from the Philippines to Canada.
6. ASTTBC registers Technical Specialists in 8 fields including Fire Protection, House Inspection, and Onsite Wastewater (septic system) design, installation and maintenance. Each of the fields has a distinct professional title such as Certified House Inspector (CHI) and Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP). You are assured that an ASTTBC-certified practitioner has met stringent standards for certification and will be held professionally accountable.
7. ASTTBC promotes technology careers to students, parents, and counselors. ASTTBC supports the **BC JOBS PLAN** and as part of that initiative is encouraging NEW technology programs at CNC and the north. ASTTBC supports CNC's proposed Civil Engineering Technology program and is asking Government for approval to enable the first class intake in September 2013.
8. ASTTBC's charitable foundation has provided over \$600,000 in bursaries and programs designed to promote technology education & careers. ASTTBC's Foundation raised the 'Technology Legacy Fund' (a long term endowment fund) to \$500,000 in 2011.
9. ASTTBC has firm roots in BC, owning its own million-dollar office building in Surrey.
10. ASTTBC has existed since 1958 and operated under provincial statute (ASTT Act) since 1985