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Internationally Trained Professionals – ASTTBC Ramps up Program

While slowly whittling away on the immigration of ITPs to BC, including the assessment of their credentials and generally their experiences when they land in our province, ASTTBC has been 'playing at the fringes' until now.

With the support of funding from Human Resources & Services Development Canada (HRSDC) and the BC Government, ASTTBC will greatly expand its programming in support of ITP's:

- Technology Registrations Canada (TRC) is a new web-based software program which allows anyone at anytime to log on and complete a self-assessment against the National Technology Benchmark
- ITP Web Site has been developed and is now live... See: <http://www.itpbc.com/>
- Information and sources have been available in the web site to assist ITP's engage and build careers and new lives in BC
- ITP Mentoring services is being developed and should be launched before September
- Alternate-to-formal-education program is being investigated and could help ITP's and indigenous technology practitioners meet ASTTBC's professional certification standards
- Philippine - BC Partnership is being developed. ASTTBC's Executive Director and Member Ron Alvaro AScT were part of BC Premier Clark's mission to SE Asia to start work on the initiative
- Philippine Education Assessment and Agreement is planned with ASTTBC taking a team to the Philippines in the fall to reach an agreement / understanding on equivalency
- ITP Leadership Forum is being developed for the purpose of advising ASTTBC on the management of the ITP Program

Moving forward on the TRC and Canadian national standards, ASTTBC will, with a new grant from HRSDC, further develop and expand the base of programming relating in part to the ITP:

- assist other technology professional associations in Canada engage with and adopt the TRC
- refine the National Technology Benchmarks to standardize the language. When first developed the NTB was written by several authors
- review and amend the verbs in the NTB as needed to reflect contemporary practices by the Technologist and Technician
- validate assessments captured in the International Qualifications DataBase (IQDB), a listing of foreign education assessments

ASTTBC and all other technology association senior staff will meet in Toronto in June to begin formal discussions on key business elements of these initiatives.