

Ministers Bond, Fassbender and Virk Meet ASTTBC



Left to Right: ASTTBC President Dave Rutherford; Minister of Advanced Education Amrik Virk; Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Shirley Bond; TECC Chair, Sid Siddiqui; and, ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech. ASTTBC presented the Ministers with an eagle feather by Salish carver Len McKay. Minister of Education, Peter Fassbender extended his regrets and sent along his Deputy Minister who was not available when photo was taken

The topic was technology education and careers when Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Shirley Bond and Minister of Advanced Education, Amrik Virk met with ASTTBC's President, Dave Rutherford, AScT, BCLS, CLS, Technology Education and Careers Council (TECC) Chair, Sid Siddiqui, PEng and ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech, AScT, CAE. Minister of Education, Peter Fassbender extended his regrets and sent along his Acting Deputy Minister, James Gorman (who is also DM, Advanced Education).

"Ministers Bond and Virk were very engaged and quite enthused during our dialogue about the work ahead to promote technology education and careers," said ASTTBC President Dave Rutherford. "It was great to see the Ministers so actively involved and rolling up their sleeves in our exploration of possible initiatives to build careers from K-12 through to rewarding jobs."

The Ministers were interested in ASTTBC's proposal that the K-12 system include technology courses leading to direct entry in technologist or technician programs at BCIT, the colleges and universities. The 2013 Agreement between BCIT, Vancouver Board of Education and ASTTBC was highlighted as was the great work in Kamloops where that School District is launching a Trades and Technology High School and several years ago introduced the Bert Edwards Science and Technology Elementary School.

ASTTBC talked about our support for programs such as the Big Little Science Centre in Kamloops and proposed to the Ministers that they launch pilot projects to replicate Big Little in various schools across BC.

"It was a great meeting with positive outcomes," said ASTTBC's John Leech. "I attend many meetings with Cabinet Ministers and this one was one of the best." Leech noted that this is the fourth year in a row in which ASTTBC has managed a joint meeting with the Ministers of Education, Advanced Education and Jobs.