

January 2013

ASTTBC Talks K-12 with Deputy Minister James Gorman



Pictured are (left to right): James Gorman; Geoff Sale, ASTTBC Manager, Internationally Trained Professionals and an ASTTBC member who regularly volunteers his time for the Scientists in the Schools Programs run through Science World; Jason Jung, ASTTBC Manager, Member and Program Development; Tim Winkelmanns; and, John Leech.

The topic was technology education and careers when ASTTBC reps met with Ministry of Education Deputy Minister (DM) James Gorman. ASTTBC has taken a lead in promoting Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) and technology career awareness in K-12 in recent years. "The meeting with the DM was designed to provide an update on ASTTBC programs and activities and look for areas of alignment where the Ministry and ASTTBC might cooperate and collaborate," said ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech. "The hour we had together was MOST productive... with several areas identified where we are of a common view on the issues and what needs to be done."

Tim Winkelmanns, Lead for Graduation and E-Learning with the Ministry, provided an outline for a career pathway in mining. ASTTBC representatives offered support for the initiative and indicated support and assistance for similar in all engineering/applied science fields. ASTTBC spoke about its support of events such as Spaghetti Bridge and Robocup as well as funding assistance for the Big Little Science Centre. ASTTBC suggested that Big Little be replicated in others areas of BC. ASTTBC indicated its support for technology courses in K-12 as with the trades ACE-IT program where a high school student attends a post-secondary institution to take trades courses and after completing Grade 12 leaves with a high school diploma (Dogwood certificate) PLUS credit towards a trades apprenticeship.

The DM was advised of the agreement between the Vancouver Board of Education, BCIT and ASTTBC to offer technology programming in K-12 leading to enhanced credits in a technology program at BCIT plus some form of certificate from ASTTBC. There was general agreement on a few areas for action. ASTTBC will follow up with the DM on next steps.