



June 2013

## **ASTTBC Executive Director Speaks to APEGBC Kamloops Branch**

ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech was a guest speaker at the APEGBC South Central Branch in Kamloops on June 6. John spoke about the loooong history between APEGBC and ASTTBC going back 55 years to the inception of ASTTBC when APEGBC administered the professional certification of technologists and technicians. With his presentation entitled 'The Engineering Team: Built Thru Parity of Esteem', Leech talked about the critical role of APEGBC and ASTTBC as self-governing professional associations enacted by the BC Government to protect the public interest through professional registration and regulation of engineers, geoscientists, technologist and technicians.

Mike Bapty, PEng the Vice President of APEGBC was the other guest speaker at the AGM. "Mike did a great job of speaking to the privilege of self-governing status and the critical role of APEGBC and their members," said Leech. "Mike spoke to recent developments at APEGBC and future opportunities. He acknowledged the ties between APEGBC and ASTTBC and encouraged more APEGBC members to get involved as volunteers." Mike goes back some time with ASTTBC, assisting with the accreditation of technology programs.

According to Leech, "Key" issues for the two associations include:

- . *ensuring high standards*
- . *addressing skills shortage*
- . *ensuring the full utilization of all members of the Team and in particular ASTTBC members*
- . *supporting and assisting Internationally Trained Professionals*
- . *encouraging more First Nations and women to consider careers in engineering / technology*
- . *considering a new legislative model which will more effectively serve the public interest*
- . *introducing PTech in BC*

The Executive Director spoke to the many points of contact between ASTTBC and APEGBC over the years, including a MoU in the late '90s and a five year investment of formal merger discussions. "I was delighted to be asked to speak with the APEGBC members in attendance," said the Executive Director. "I spent time getting to know many of the attendees, once again reinforcing my view that the members of the Engineering Team are well qualified professionals providing an essential service in every corner of BC 24/365." Leech paid tribute to APEGBC as an exemplary professional association and stressed how he makes this point in all his discussions with elected officials and senior staff at all levels of government and industry.

APEGBC Branch Vice Chair Maggie Sheu, BBA, BASc, EIT stated in a follow-up email to John, "It was a pleasure to have you speak at that AGM. I've received so much positive feedback from our members about your visit, and am sure this will not be your last." Maggie is a Project Engineer with McElhanney in Kamloops.

John committed a donation of \$250 to the Branch bursary fund in consideration of the free dinner and opportunity to speak with APEGBC members.