

October, 2010

Ontario Adopts ‘Licensed Engineering Technologist’

The ONTARIO Provincial Legislature recently gave third and final reading to the Omnibus Bill which will give authority to Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) to establish the Licensed Engineering Technologist (L.E.T.) designation as a limited license with a Certificate of Authorization; which allows for independent practice.

The ONTARIO Certified Engineering Technologists (C.E.T.) will have exclusive rights to the use of the L.E.T., subject to licensing requirements which are currently being developed as part of the regulation package. It is expected that applications for both the L.E.T. and the Certificate of Authorization will be available early to mid 2011. This has been a lengthy process over many years led by a number of committed and passionate volunteers on both sides. A joint PEO/OACETT executive meeting will be held in November to discuss implementation details and celebrate this collective accomplishment.

“The Ontario legislation represents an important step forward in recognizing the qualifications, competencies and practice of technologists,” said ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech. “We applaud this initiative. I am concerned, however, that the various provincial governments and professional associations across the country are not operating in concert. The Alberta legislature enacted changes to the Engineers Act a couple of years ago introducing the ‘Professional Technologist’ (PTech) with rights to practice based upon established industry standards and codes. There is no PTech in Ontario nor one planned at this time.” The ASTTBC Council favours the PTech and has stated that it will implement PTech in BC in 2011. ASTTBC Council has said it will work to build a model similar to Alberta. Leech went on to talk about how the PTech in Alberta is a member of the Association for Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta (ASET) and is jointly regulated by the Engineers and ASET. In Ontario the L.E.T. will be regulated by the Engineers. “The world is unfolding, albeit without a higher level and consistent plan or approach. We will continue to watch and learn and then try to move in a direction which will ultimately lead to a national framework,” concluded Leech.