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“NorKam Trades and Tech Centre A Positive Model” - ASTTBC

ASTTBC Executive Director John Leech stated today in Kamloops that “Technology increasingly permeates every workplace and job in BC. We believe the innovative NorKam Trades and Technology campus expansion will help to get young students – boys *and* girls - much more involved and engaged in applied sciences.”

Visiting Kamloops in advance of National Technology Week November 5-12, Leech commented that BC’s Technologists and Technicians are already working with the Kamloops school district to develop appropriate technology programming for the NorKam Secondary trades and technology campus expansion announced October 5 by Environment Minister Terry Lake.

ASTTBC last month urged government to “Build a Science and Technology Culture” in the province, to head off developing workforce shortages. “There’s a serious disconnect between Canadians’ perceptions of the importance of science to society, and young people’s desire to pursue a science-related career,” Leech told the Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. Today he suggested that the NorKam Secondary model could be applied in other regions of BC, to attract more students to applied science.

“Young people are constantly using advanced technology in their daily lives,” Leech comments, “so it’s not a leap to imagine them advancing from smart phones and computers to developing and using electronic control systems and robotics.”

ASTTBC numbers 10,000 technology professionals, who together with engineers, architects and other professionals “design, construct, inspect, manage and maintain most of the world around us. All the systems we rely on, water and wastewater, transportation, telecommunications and internet, hydro and natural gas, environment, health, forestry – need qualified professionals working in the background. Yet a recent Angus Reid survey of 16 to 18-year-olds found that only 37 percent were interested in taking even one post-secondary course in sciences.”

“Today we renew our support for the Kamloops Big Little Science Centre, with another contribution of \$2,500, bringing ASTTBC’s total over four years to \$27,500,” the Executive Director concludes, noting that ASTTBC spends significant effort and money to attract young students toward technology. “We reach out to students with everything from scholarships and bursaries and supporting science centres, to career fairs and commissioning songs about science and technology by the **Kerplunks!**”

The Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC will stage their 24th annual Technology Awards and Recognition Ceremony in Vancouver this Saturday, to celebrate advances in sustainable technology on the part of BC individuals, companies and organizations.