

## **ASTTBC & First Nations Employment Society Sign MoA**



Back Row: (left to right) Squamish Nation Councillor Chris Lewis; Squamish Nation Guest Faye Halls; ASTTBC President Bill MacPherson, ASCT; First Nations Careers Council Chair Bill Baglot; Musqueam First Nation Councillor Howard Grant; Angela Baker, Senior Development Officer at Human Resources and Skills Development; Sliammon First Nation Councillor Dillon Johnson; Musqueam First Nation Councillor Wendy Grant John.

Middle Row (left) Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; and Lil'wat Nation Chief Lucinda Philips.

Seated (left) ASTTBC Executive Director John Leech, ASCT, CAE; and FNES Executive Director Norma Guerin.

Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, was event guest speaker and witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between ASTTBC and the First Nations Employment Society (FNES). Minister Chong expressed her gratitude to FNES and ASTTBC for their leadership. "I look forward to hearing of FNES and ASTTBC plans for collaborative work to enhance technology careers within First Nations communities."

ASTTBC and FNES have been working together over the past year to build linkages in support of enhanced awareness and career opportunities in applied science technology. Many other special guests in attendance applauded FNES and ASTTBC. "The MoA is a great beginning and sets the stage for a collaboration that will embrace not only FNES and ASTTBC but many other interested groups," said Norma Guerin, Executive Director of FNES. ASTTBC Executive Director John Leech, ASCT, CAE, concurred, pointing to current plans to develop a public works technician program to meet the needs of all communities in BC, with consideration to the interests and needs of First Nations.