

Federal Labour Minister Warns of Skill Shortages- Vancouver Sun **ASTTBC Identifies Programs & Services**

The Vancouver SUN reported that the new Minister of Immigration, Chris Alexander, was in Vancouver last week talking about skill shortages and the need for Canada to continue its policy of attracting new, skilled immigrants to the country. "ASTTBC has assumed a lead role in working to make sure those considering a move to Canada have as much information at their fingertips as possible, ideally BEFORE they uproot their family and move to Canada," said ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech. "ASTTBC has put in place a number of programs and policies designed to assist Internationally Trained Technology Professionals (ITTP) and we have more being developed."

Read the [ARTICLE](#) from the Vancouver SUN.

ASTTBC has many programs in place, some soon to be released and others that will be developed in 2014. "I am pleased to say ASTTBC, working in partnership with the BC Government and the Asia Pacific Gateway Skills Table and other groups, has leading edge programs and services in place to support and assist the ITTP," said John Leech.

ASTTBC has in place:

- Technology Registrations Canada (TRC), an on-line program that allows anyone from anywhere in the world and at NO COST to assess their qualifications against the Canadian Standard for certification. This program was developed in partnership with Employment and Social Development Canada
- Certification policies that allow for 'Provisional' registration while a resident in another country. The first was issued in September 2013
- Certification policies have removed the one year Canadian experience AND identified core competencies which must be met prior to gaining full certification
- An Internationally Trained Technology Professionals FORUM, comprising ASTTBC members who are assisting ASTTBC in our program development
- A web site with much useful information for ITTPs
- A mentoring scheme in partnership with the Immigrant Employer Council of BC
- An assessment, from an on-sight visit, of the Philippine education compared to Canadian standards. Ontario and Alberta joined the BC group

* NOTE that the BC Government partnered with, and provided funding for, the ASTTBC initiatives noted above with the exception of TRC

Soon to be released:

- A joint APEGBC - ASTTBC web-based portal where ITTPS can assess as to whether they should be applying to APEGBC or ASTTBC
- 12 video vignettes in which ITTPs discuss various issues facing new immigrants. Great advice is provided
- A banner and brochures to help ASTTBC showcase ITTPs
- Advertising that focuses attention on ITTPs

Being developed:

- New database software that will allow ASTTBC to extract key information on ITTPs that will help guide programs
- Tools to assess core competencies
- A new log book to assist ITTPs record and report their experience
- A visit to India in 2014 to review education programming. Again ASTTBC will invite other provinces to join the visit