

## **Prince George Encouraging Technology & Engineering Programs**

Albert Koehler, PEng, a City Councillor and President of the Northern Technology and Engineering Society is encouraging promotion of technology and engineering education and careers.

ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech met earlier this year with Mayor Shari Green and the CAO to talk about ASTTBC's report, 'A Strategic Direction for Technology Education and Skills in British Columbia'. "Shari was enthused about ASTTBC's work in promoting technology education and careers," said Leech. "I was assured that the Mayor would make a point of encouraging new technology programming at the College of New Caledonia and encouraging young people to pursue a career as an engineering/applied science technologist, technician or technical specialist". As a professional association with over 10,000 registrants in BC, ASTTBC has been working hard to encourage more parents to have their children look to a two year Diploma of Technology as a pathway leading to great, rewarding careers.

Leech pointed to the current skill shortage and to the significant work of ASTTBC members at City Hall, with the resource sector, consulting engineering companies and yes, also in hospitals, where bio-medical engineering technologists and technicians manage and maintain all high tech medical equipment. "These are recession-proof careers that draw salaries in the range of \$60 - \$100,000 (58% of members responding to a 2013 compensation survey were in this range). The overall average salary reported was \$80,820 with 19% of ASTTBC members reporting salaries over \$100,000."

See the recent [article](#) from the Prince George Citizen.