

## **City of Prince George Adopts Bylaw Requiring ASTTBC Fire Protection Certification**

The central interior City of Prince George is the latest to adopt a Bylaw requiring those inspecting, testing and maintaining fire protection systems to be ASTTBC certified. Executive Director of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) John Leech advised that ASTTBC will now get to work on certifying fire protection technicians. "I applaud the decision made by the Prince George City Council to enhance public safety by requiring those inspecting, testing and maintaining fire protection systems to demonstrate full competency, get registered with ASTTBC and be professionally accountable for their work."

Prince George now joins with 20 other BC municipalities that have adopted a Bylaw requiring ASTTBC certification. "Registered Fire Protection Technicians (RFPT) in Prince George will join with over 800 in BC who have for many years accepted professionalism and all that goes with ASTTBC registration, including practice audits to confirm ongoing competency," according to Leech. "ASTTBC will work with individual technicians as well as business owners and other stakeholders to get everyone on board with the new standards."

ASTTBC will travel to Prince George in the near term to learn more about the business environment in Prince George. "We will need to find out how many technicians there are and what their training needs might be," said Leech. "We will work closely with employers and other stakeholders to assure the most effective implementation of the Bylaw." ASTTBC has already connected with the College of New Caledonia to consider how CNC might engage on the training front. It is estimated there are 25 fire technicians who will need to get certified.