

Mayor of Prince George Talks Tech Education with Technology Professionals



ASTTBC Executive Director presents eagle feather to Mayor Shari Green during a meeting with the Mayor and CAO Kathleen Soltis.

During a recent visit to one of the communities in BC John Leech calls 'home', John met with Prince George Mayor Shari Green and CAO Kathleen Soltis. Technology education and careers and skill shortages were two key topics being discussed. The Mayor acknowledged the important role and contribution of ASTTBC members, both as employees of the City and also within the PG community. Leech talked about the need to bring the PG area and BC community in general to the table in support of building an enhanced science and technology culture in BC.

Mayor Green and CAO Soltis reviewed the ASTTBC Report, 'A Strategic Direction for Technology Education and Skills in British Columbia', noting ASTTBC's recommendations including the suggestion of adding technology training in K-12 and adding a new Civil Engineering Technology program at the College of New Caledonia. "It was a great meeting with Shari and Kathleen," said Leech. "They were generous with their favourable comments about ASTTBC's technology professionals and ASTTBC as an Association making a significant contribution to BC's professional regulatory system, the economy and education."

Leech and the Mayor also talked about fire protection and the interests of the PG community in requiring ASTTBC certification for fire protection inspection and testing. Leech met with the Deputy Fire Chief and Chief Fire Protection Officer who advised that a Bylaw has been prepared and will likely go forward this Spring.

John Leech went to high school in PG. His father worked for the BC Railway (then the PGE) bringing his family to the city in 1961. Graduating from PGSSS (now Duchess Park) in 1966, Leech went on to Grade 13 in PG (not completed) and then to BCIT. While John did not return to PG to live he was a frequent visitor over the years as his mother, brother and sister stayed and built careers and families in the community.