

Consultation on *Professional Technologist* Concept for British Columbia

In June 2011, the Councils of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) and Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC) appointed a PTech Framework Development Group, composed of equal members of both association Councils, to advise on the options and preferred alternative for the development and regulation of the designation “PTech” (Professional Technologist) in BC.

The Group met six times between July and November 2011 to develop a concept for a Professional Technologist that would contribute to public interest and safety, while fulfilling a role that:

- a. is clearly not the role of a Professional Engineer or Engineering Licensee;
- b. will clearly enhance public safety and health;
- c. will be created through 3rd party legislation and regulation; and
- d. is easily understood by the public.

At the December meetings of the ASTTBC and APEGBC Councils, an interim report was presented that summarized the work of the Group and presented a concept for the development and regulation of PTech. For the full text of the report, *A Conceptual Framework for the Development of the Professional Technologist in B.C.* click here: <http://www.asttbc.org/docs/ptechreport2011.pdf>

The concept was approved in principle by both Councils, as was the undertaking of formal stakeholder consultation to provide input to shape the future direction of the P.Tech concept, including benefits, opportunities and concerns.

Member Consultation

As key stakeholders, members of APEGBC and ASTTBC will be surveyed both individually and through consultations with professional and trade associations and government. An online survey will be sent to all members and licensees of the two associations in **February**.

Following stakeholder consultation, the final report of the PTech Framework Development Group will be submitted to both association Councils by April 15, 2012.

The PTech Concept

The proposed concept is based on the principle that implementation of a PTech designation in British Columbia will result in improved protection of the public interest.

Key Principles upon which the proposed concept is based are:

- i. PTech practice addresses a recognized existing problem of public safety
- ii. a PTech is recognized according to individual competencies (academic and experience)
- iii. a PTech is a member of and is governed and regulated by ASTTBC
- i. PTech areas of practice are articulated and embedded in third-party municipal, provincial or other regulatory third-party legislation. (i.e. not in the Engineers and Geoscientists Act or the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians Act)

- iv. PTech areas of practice are determined and proposed to third parties by a legislated APEGBC/ASTTBC Joint Board which is embedded in ASTTBC and APEGBC legislation
- v. the area of practice for a PTech is not professional engineering but is applied science technology as it pertains to the application of engineering principles
- vi. PTech practice does not include the field of geoscience
- ii. practitioners who wish to practise professional engineering in British Columbia must become Engineering Licensees or Professional Engineers; and
- iii. PTech areas of practice do not prohibit practice by professional engineers.

An example of a possible PTech area of practice is to require that a PTech sign Letters of Assurance for structural, mechanical and electrical technology for Part 9 buildings, as defined in the BC Building Code (exclusive of single family dwellings).

Members are encouraged to participate in the upcoming survey. ASTTBC and APEGBC have also established a mailbox where members can voice additional opinion: ptech@apeg.bc.ca. Emails sent to this address will be distributed to both APEGBC and ASTTBC.