

December 2012

## **Aboriginal Training in Public Works Discussed with Ida Chong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation**



Meeting at the Legislature (L to R): Leonard Laboucan, Training Advisor, FNES; Bill Baglot, Chair, FNCC; Minister Ida Chong; and John Leech, Executive Director, ASTTBC.

The First Nations Employment Society, First Nations Careers Council and ASTTBC met with Minister Chong to talk about our joint efforts to address technology education, training and certification in Aboriginal communities.

"It was a great opportunity to connect and inform the Minister and her staff about our joint work in a number of areas. We highlighted the planned Public Works Technician program, outlining for Minister Chong our efforts to create a new training and certification program to serve all communities in BC, including First Nations," said John Leech. FNCC Chair, Bill Baglot and FNES Leonard Laboucan echoed this comment and expressed their appreciation to the Minister for the dedicated time to talk about our collaborative efforts. "First Nations groups like FNES and PGNAETA represent a great training and employment resource for First Nations. This partnership with ASTTBC will help build solid career paths for First Nations," said Leonard Laboucan.

The group informed the Minister generally about the work of all five groups who are partnering to find ways to engage Aboriginal People (First Nations, Inuit and Metis) and communities across the province on technology education and careers. FNES, PGNAETA, Musqueam, FNCC and ASTTBC are conducting a survey of First Nations communities to determine the type of public works usual to the

communities. The survey focuses on small, medium and large communities. A final report, expected early in 2013, will help guide the development of future training and certification programs.

Attending the meeting with Minister Chong: from FNES was Leonard Laboucan, Training Advisor; from FNCC, Bill Baglot, Chair; and from ASTTBC, John Leech, Executive Director. Also hoping to be there but unable to attend: from the Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Education and Training Association, Karin Hunt; from FNES Norma Guerin, Executive Director; and from Musqueam and a member of ASTTBC Council, Wendy Grant-John.