

September, 2011

Minister Pat Bell Talks Jobs & Technology with ASTTBC



Minister of Jobs, Tourism & Innovation, Pat Bell (right), met this summer with ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech in the Minister's constituency office in Prince George.

Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation, Pat Bell (MLA for Prince George ó Mackenzie) welcomed to his office this summer ASTTBC's Executive Director John Leech. The conversation ranged from the need for BC to sustain and grow technology jobs to the need for the full recognition of ASTTBC-registered technology professionals. Appropriate recognition of ASTTBC members as Qualified Professionals within a broader professional reliance framework is a high priority for ASTTBC which, when fully achieved, will see much better utilization of technical talent.

The two talked about technology education in northern BC and the proposals by the College of New Caledonia for new technology programs. Leech highlighted ASTTBC's proposal for a technology education plan for BC. Pat spoke about his work with Premier Clark to develop a new jobs initiative, to be released in September. The two talked about the importance of working with First Nations and of ASTTBC's work to more fully engage First Nations in technology careers through the First Nations Careers Council, launched by ASTTBC in 2009. Pat noted the need to welcome highly qualified people from other countries and John updated the Minister on the Association's efforts to assist Internationally Trained Professionals as they look to integrate into Canadian society. Of particular interest was ASTTBC's lead role in developing Technology Registrations Canada, an on-line package which allows Internationally Trained Professionals to self-assess from anywhere in the world and then to apply for certification and registration with one of the ten provincial associations.

Pat has a solid understanding of the role of, and important contribution made by, ASTTBC-registered technologists, technicians and technical specialists.

THANKS to Pat Bell for taking time to engage and work with ASTTBC.