



## ASTT e-News, April, 2008

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ASTT e-News is broadcast to technologists, technicians, technical specialists and others. It contains the latest information about your profession and your association. Each issue is also posted to the ASTTBC web site.

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### ASTTBC AGM Set For May 23

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The 2008 ASTTBC Annual General Meeting will be held on May 23 2008 at the Coast Hotel & Convention Centre in Langley.

The day starts with a continental breakfast followed by the AGM business session. Informative workshops will be offered. The full-day package includes an awards luncheon and a wrap-up networking reception. Attendees who register by the Early-Bird Date of May 15 will receive a free 50th Anniversary legacy T-shirt, available only at the AGM. Mark your calendar now. Help us kick off celebrations for ASTTBC's 50th Anniversary, bring an item for the time capsule that will be opened in another 25 years!

Registration will be available on-line. Watch for broadcast emails from ASTTBC, a registration form mailed out with ASTT News, or visit [www.asttbc.com/agm](http://www.asttbc.com/agm).

### \$1,000 Student Bursaries Available

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Technology students could be eligible for a \$1,000 bursary through ASTTBC's charitable foundation, The Foundation For Education & Advancement In Technology. The following bursaries are available by applying to FEAT before May 31 2008:

- ASTTBC / BC Hydro Engineering Technology Bursaries - 5 bursaries, each valued at \$1,000, for first or second year students in electrical, mechanical, civil & structural or environmental technology at BCIT and BC colleges.
- ASTTBC / TD Insurance Technology Bursaries – 3 bursaries, each valued at \$1,000, for students from ASTTBC or CTAB accredited technology programs at BC colleges and institutes.
- ASTTBC Bursary for a High School Student - for a child/grandchild of an ASTTBC member and who

- is planning to attend an accredited technology program at BCIT or a college in BC.
- ASTTBC Wade Wicks Memorial Bursary - for a student who is overcoming any significant or extraordinary obstacle to pursue an education in technology, with priority being given to students with physical challenges.

FEAT operates as an independent charitable organization established to receive contributions and donations from members of ASTTBC and others, and in turn, to provide grants, awards and bursaries for the advancement of technology, technical education and awareness, and professional development for residents of BC. More than half-a-million dollars in bursaries and support for science and technology events has been provided by FEAT since 1990.

Application deadline is May 31, 2008. For criteria and details visit:  
[www.asttbc.com/about/foundation/howtoapply.php](http://www.asttbc.com/about/foundation/howtoapply.php)

Note:

1. Other ASTTBC/FEAT bursaries are given out by BCIT and the colleges. Students are encouraged to check with their college awards office.
2. The Canadian Council of Technicians & Technologists, through the generosity of Manulife Financial, awards two \$1,000 scholarships to the son or daughter of an individual member of a provincial association like ASTTBC. The deadline for applying to CCTT for the CCTT/Manulife scholarship is October 15. [www.cctt.ca](http://www.cctt.ca)

## **ASTTBC Members Needed NOW For National Study**

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All registered technologists and technicians have been invited to participate in a national Engineering and Technology Labour Market Study. It will help define the engineering community in Canada. The results will be used to identify education and training needs, career prospects, areas of practice and continuing professional development.

**Make your voice heard.** If you have not participated in the on-line part of the survey yet, please take 20 minutes today to complete the survey at [www.engineeringemployeesurvey.com](http://www.engineeringemployeesurvey.com).

Special thanks to several members of ASTTBC who volunteered for the focus group component of the 2008 Engineering and Technology Labour Market Study: Bernie Jebson, ASCT; Tim Murphy, ASCT, MBA; Keith Switzer, ASCT; Rob Terris, ASCT; and Graham Wickham, ASCT.

## **ASTTBC Calls For Exemption In Architects Act**

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In an April 2008 letter to Honourable Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education, ASTTBC Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT, CAE again called for government to incorporate an exemption statement for ASTTBC-registered Applied Science Technologists and Certified Technicians in the Architects Act.

ASTTBC has been concerned for some time that the current Act unnecessarily restricts ASTTBC members from fully utilizing their skills. Moreover, as municipal governments become increasingly concerned about liability, they are more inclined to seek assistance from architects, rather than accept designs for smaller buildings from ASTTBC members, as has been common practice for the past several decades.

A discrepancy between the BC Building Code and the restrictions in the Architects Act has traditionally allowed ASTTBC-registered building designers to design buildings under Part 9 of the Code... a much larger scale than allowed under the Architects Act. In discussions with government ASTTBC has expressed concern about any movement to eliminate the available scope as allowed by the Building Code, and the need to expand that available scope for ASTTBC-registered members.

With the Government's recent Bill 10, the Housing Statutes Amendment Act, designating members of APEGBC and AIBC as 'qualified professionals' (QPs), municipalities could face even greater pressure to call for one of these designers rather than use an ASTTBC-registered professional. John Leech advised the minister that, if this became standard practice, it will lead to further under-utilization of BC's talented technologists and technicians at a time when the province faces a shortage of skilled practitioners. Such developments would lead to increased construction project backlogs and escalating costs. ASTTBC's request is that ASTTBC members be included as QPs in Bill 10, which would be in keeping with statements in the Throne Speech in early 2008 which indicated that a number of changes are in the works to ensure that all health care workers can fully and

appropriately utilize their training and skills, changes that would put health professionals in the vanguard of taking practical steps to alleviate the skills shortage in their sector. Two weeks ago Government introduced Bill 25 that will do just that.

In proposing an exemption in the Architects Act, the Executive Director pointed to the exemption that already exists for ASCTs and CTechs in the Architects Act in Saskatchewan.

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## **ASTTBC Supports Enhanced Portability Of Credentials**

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In March 2008, ASTTBC signed a mutual recognition agreement with the Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta to enhance the conditions under which a technologist or technician who is certified in Alberta or BC becomes eligible for recognition and certification in the other's jurisdiction.

This agreement will help both ASTTBC and ASET adjust their policies and procedures to fully meet and even exceed the obligations placed on professional associations by the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement between the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

*"We already have a lot in common with regard to certification, professional standards, and complaint and discipline procedures," says John Leech, ASCT, CAE, ASTTBC Executive Director & Registrar. "This agreement between ASTTBC and ASET will make sure there are no barriers to mobility of our members between provinces; for example there will be no residency requirement for registration, while allowing each association to get on with its business."*

In a letter to Honourable Colin Hansen, Minister of Economic Development for British Columbia, the ASTTBC Executive Director provided a copy of the ASTTBC/ASET agreement and confirmed ASTTBC's commitment to TILMA and to government efforts to provide for the portability of professional credentials. John Leech also reinforced ASTTBC's belief that, for TILMA to be fully effective pertaining to the mobility of technologists and technicians, the current professional regulatory framework needs to be revised. He called on the BC and Alberta governments to place greater attention on harmonizing professional legislation and regulation. The Executive Director sees TILMA and the resulting agreement between ASTTBC and ASET as a model for national labour mobility and he expressed ASTTBC's willingness to work with other technology associations across Canada in this regard.

For the ASTTBC/ASET mutual recognition agreement or for information on TILMA, visit [www.asttbc.com/services/publications/briefs.php](http://www.asttbc.com/services/publications/briefs.php).

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## **ASTTBC Members Invited To Hear Minister Of Education**

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The Prince George Chamber of Commerce has organized a luncheon on April 25 at which Minister Shirley Bond will speak on 'Educating for Today and Tomorrow'. ASTTBC members are encouraged to attend to hear what the Minister has to say and in support of ASTTBC involvement in BC communities. Attending for ASTTBC will be: ASTTBC Vice President Doug Carter, CTech; Council Member Jim Blake, CA (Chair of PG Airport Authority and lay rep on ASTTBC Council); Community Representative Colin Dix, ASCT, EngL as well as other local volunteers Lorelei Reier, ASCT and Heather Andreychuck, ASCT. Register by April 21 at [www.pgchamber.bc.ca](http://www.pgchamber.bc.ca)

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## **Make Your Business Card Work For You**

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When was the last time you took a good close look at that business card you are handing out? Does it show your professional designation after your name? Is the ASTTBC logo the most recent one if you are displaying that?

ASTTBC designations include: ASCT, CTech, RBD, CRD, CSO, TSC, RFPT, CPI, CHI, CPWI 3, CPWI 2, CPWI 1, RSD, CSD, ATE, ATC, ROWP, and RSIS. Note carefully where upper and lower case are used, and that the designations do not contain periods.

The ASTTBC logo may be used by ASTTBC certified members as a way of showing pride in their ASTTBC professional certification. The logo may not be revised or altered in any way. It must be displayed in the same form as provided by ASTTBC. The current logo includes the slogan 'technology professionals'. If you are using a logo with the old 'in touch with technology' slogan, it is time to print new cards.

Keep in mind that cessation of registration automatically terminates any rights to use the logo or designations. For information, visit [www.asttbc.com/practice/standards/logo\\_usage.php](http://www.asttbc.com/practice/standards/logo_usage.php).

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## Home Insurance Product News

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ASTTBC members have been able to get home insurance at group rates through our affinity partner, TD Insurance (formerly TD Meloche Monnex), for many years. In its on-going quest to give the best in customer service, TD Insurance has broadened the coverage available. Members can now choose from five levels of coverage to match the protection they need. What's more, the insurance contract will be written in new, plain language wording. Policy holders will notice a new TD Insurance logo on their contracts. Long a leader in professional group insurance, the company has been part of the TD Bank Financial Group since 2000. TDBFG has launched a major initiative to make insurance a core business within the group, and is harmonizing its insurance brands.

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## ASTTBC Joins Employer Forum

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ASTTBC has joined the Employers' Health and Safety Association of British Columbia, better known as the Employers' Forum. The purpose of the Forum is to provide employers in British Columbia with a vehicle through which the employer community communicates on workers' compensation issues. Brian Brown, ASCT, of Prince George, will be ASTTBC's representative at the meetings. He already participates as a safety consultant representing the North and the forest industry. ASTTBC monitors proposed changes to government regulations for any potential impacts on member's careers. The Employers' Forum will be one more way for ASTTBC to stay in the loop on workers' compensation regulations and to provide input.

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## Indoor Air Quality and Housing Durability Workshops

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A series of three courses on indoor air quality and housing durability are being offered in Richmond, BC between May 13 – 15 2008. Courses can be taken individually or consecutively as a series. The sequence for courses is:

- Day 1: IAQ and Housing Durability Essentials
- Day 2: Troubleshooting IAQ and Housing Durability
- Day 3: Mold Assessment and Clean-Up Essentials: Residential

ASTTBC and the BC Institute of Property Inspectors are recognized as being supportive of this professional development course and ASTTBC and BCIP members who register by the cut-off date will receive a discount. [www.iagresourcescanada.com](http://www.iagresourcescanada.com).

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## Vancouver Island Event Gets ASTTBC Sponsorship

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ASTTBC provided \$1,000 toward the Southern Vancouver Island Skills Canada Regional Contest. The event was held February 29. It showcased trade and technology based careers, making them more tangible for students, teachers and parents. The ASTTBC sponsorship went toward a Spaghetti Bridge contest organized by the Civil Engineering Technology Department and for student prizes for electronics, mechanical and computer activities.

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## ASTTBC Supports Innovation In BC's Interior

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The 'Silicon Vineyard Innovation Awards' acknowledge excellence in innovation among individuals and organizations from the Okanagan region's science and technology sectors. The annual awards are an initiative of the Okanagan Science & Technology Council.

ASTTBC stepped up as sponsor of the pre-dinner reception at the awards gala on April 10 2008. In exchange the Association got coverage on the OSTECH web site and newsletter and potentially in newspapers, radio and TV. Bruce Stevens, ASCT, attended as the ASTTBC representative. *"I guess there was 250 people there, so our name was out there,"* he says. *"I feel there is tremendous potential in connecting with OSTECH and we should explore ways that we could partner with them on events and also work towards raising the profile of ASTTBC and ASCTs and CTechs."*

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## BC Science Outreach Fair

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On May 8 2008 teachers and the public will gather at the main branch of the Vancouver Public Library to learn about science and technology resources for use in the classroom and to connect with organizations that provide science outreach to the community. ASTTBC will be participating. The event is sponsored by the BC Innovation Council. [www.bcinnovationcouncil.com/fair.pdf](http://www.bcinnovationcouncil.com/fair.pdf)

## National Technology Week Contest Winner

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Linette Ho, a Grade 9 student at Moscrop Secondary School in Burnaby, was the second place winner in CCTT's National Poster Design Contest for 2007. Students from across Canada submitted designs that captured the spirit of Green Technology. Linette received an MP3 player and a \$500 toward a Registered Education Savings Plan. National Technology Week, held annually in the first week of November, is Canada's national showcase to students, parents, and the general public of exciting career choices in applied science and engineering technology.

## Recognizing International Credentials

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At the end of March 2008, the government of BC announced \$1 million in funding to further improve international credential recognition programs in the province. This initiative is part of a \$3.1 million contribution from the federal government. The funding supports innovative projects that facilitate the assessment and recognition of qualifications acquired in other countries. It is directed at regulators of occupations and trades and will allow them to design new, or enhance existing, foreign and inter-provincial credential assessment and licensing.

*"This is another important step in lowering barriers for skilled immigrant workers," says John Shortreid, ASCT, ASTTBC's Associate Registrar. "It will provide them with necessary information in achieving recognition of their competencies and for finding appropriate employment."*

## Mentor Internationally Trained Professionals

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S.U.C.C.E.S.S. is a non-profit social service agency serving the immigrant community across the Lower Mainland. Its Career Mentorship Connections program is seeking mentors to volunteer in sharing their experience with internationally trained immigrants. For further information, visit [www.success.bc.ca/cmc](http://www.success.bc.ca/cmc) or contact Ann Su at 604-438-2100, ext 101 or [email ann.su@success.bc.ca](mailto:ann.su@success.bc.ca)

## TechPRO – Janet Scott, ASCT

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Janet Scott, ASCT, works as an Environmental Technologist with Dillon Consulting Limited, a national firm of consultants in planning, engineering, environmental sciences and management. Her job involves working with clients and colleagues to find solutions to their challenges and answers to their questions. Often there is no clearly defined role as an Environmental Technologist. *"Today I might be developing a municipal environmental best practices document for in-stream work, but tomorrow I'll be flying up to the Northwest Territories to monitor habitat restoration work on barrenland streams and lakes near decommissioned mine sites or designing wetland and riparian revegetation plans in Alberta,"* Janet says.

Janet Scott has worked as a technologist in applied biology and environmental sciences for more than eight years. What appeals to her about her job is the opportunity to learn and grow technically in her areas of interest. She was attracted to her career choice through an interest in science, a curiosity about the natural world, and a desire to gain applied skills that could lead to reliable work. *"I was studying science at the University of Victoria,"* she says. *"I was enjoying my course work but becoming concerned about future job opportunities. I wanted to make sure the skill set I had would be marketable, so I looked into options in applied science technology."* Two years later, she graduated from a renewable resources technology program at Selkirk College in Castlegar with solid technical training and excellent field skills. She has worked steadily ever since. Much of her time now is spent coordinating projects and field teams, but Janet still likes to get her feet 'wet' out in the field. She feels fortunate to have worked on some incredibly interesting projects: environmental construction and bio-monitoring for large construction projects in marine and river systems; ecological and habitat inventories for species at risk; and riparian and wetland habitat restoration projects. *"As a professional technologist on these project teams, I've had the chance to work with skilled and dedicated professional technicians, technologists, engineers and biologists in project planning and design, monitoring, and assessment,"* Janet Scott, ASCT, says. *"I'm happy I made the choice to build a career in technology. Not only has it given me the opportunity to meet some amazing people, but it has given me a solid foundation of skills and experiences I can use to continue to grow and learn."*

ASTTBC members... Want to share your career story?

Contact [editor@asttbc.org](mailto:editor@asttbc.org) about the possibility of an article in ASTT News or ASTT e-News.

And remember... every ASTTBC member can post his/her profile on the TechPRO section of the ASTTBC web

site at [www.techprofile.ca](http://www.techprofile.ca)

## TechTIPS

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'TechTIPS' is a new feature in ASTT e-News to pass along a variety of information that members may find helpful in their daily lives.

### **Don't Worry, Be Happy - and Healthier!**

According to the KAA-Boomers newsletter, being happy is good for you. The newsletter quoted a British study of nearly 3000 healthy baby-boomers aged 50-74 that showed those reporting more positive emotions had lower levels of cortisol, a stress-related hormone. But how do we get happier? Remember those old Reader's Digest columns, 'Laughter is the Best Medicine?' Turns out, they were right. Other recent studies indicate that laughter is nearly as effective as exercise when it comes to boosting health and mental performance, making you smarter, more productive and more creative.

See the full article in the KAA-Boomer newsletter at [www.kaa-boom.com/node/28](http://www.kaa-boom.com/node/28)  
Special thanks to Barbara Jaworski, BSc, MBA, of the Workplace Institute for this TechTIP.

### **Coffee, Coffee, Coffee**

To ward off headaches and muscle cramping caused by caffeine and dehydration, alternate every cup of coffee you drink with a glass of water.

Special thanks to Madeline McIntyre, Registered Massage Therapist, Nanoose Bay, [montevista.rmt@hotmail.com](mailto:montevista.rmt@hotmail.com) for this TechTIP.

## TechLINKS

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- **Changes To BC Building Code.** New green requirements for energy and water efficiency have been added to the BC Building Code and will come into effect on September 5, 2008. [www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/green/index.htm](http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/green/index.htm).
- **BC Innovation Council Awards.** May 30 is the submission deadline for nominations for the 2008 BC Innovation Council Awards celebrating leaders whose contributions establish BC as a world-class innovation centre. Recipients will be honored at the prestigious BCIC Awards dinner on September 29 in Vancouver. [www.bcinnovationcouncil.com](http://www.bcinnovationcouncil.com).
- **Modernization Strategy.** In 2006, the Province initiated the Modernization Strategy to respond to the need for change in the building regulatory system. Initial changes have begun with the introduction of Bill 10, The Housing Statutes Amendment Act. This amendment package makes changes to several key pieces of legislation related to the construction sector. [www.housing.gov.bc.ca/modernization](http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/modernization).
- **Join Clean Technologies Trade Mission.** Companies that operate in BC's CleanTech and GreenTech sectors can participate in a Clean Technologies Trade Mission to China and Korea, May 17-27 2008. Contact [jeff.eltom@bceia.com](mailto:jeff.eltom@bceia.com).
- **BC Building Info.** A new web site for the building industry with links to online resources; discussion forums; Ask An Expert service; and free e-mail newsletter covering current events, issues & information. [www.bcbuildinginfo.com](http://www.bcbuildinginfo.com).
- **AEC Daily Education On Line Learning Centre.** More than 200 free on-line courses. Topics, from metal ceiling guidelines to firewalls, take one to two hours per course which are sponsored by Armstrong and other building supply manufacturers. [www.aecdaily.com](http://www.aecdaily.com).
- **BC Flathead Valley Protection.** The Sierra Club BC has a petition underway calling for protection of the Flathead Valley in BC's southeast corner, an area with a diversity of species. [www.sierraclub.bc.ca](http://www.sierraclub.bc.ca).

## TechEVENTS

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- **CONNIE Awards Gala,** May 1 2008, Vancouver. Celebrating innovation in the use of ready-mixed concrete in applications throughout the province. Sponsored by the BC Ready-Mixed Concrete Association. [www.bcrmca.ca](http://www.bcrmca.ca)
- **Bridging Information, Technology and Human Interfaces,** May 2 2008, Surrey. This presentation by a researcher from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab will explore innovative ways to design seamless interfaces between people, digital animation, and physical environments. Sponsored by SFU Business 25th Anniversary Speaker Series. [business.sfu.ca/news\\_releases/event01180802.php](http://business.sfu.ca/news_releases/event01180802.php)
- **IAQ and Housing Durability,** May 13-15 2008, Richmond, BC. Save - early registration discount for ASTTBC or BCIPi members. [www.iagresourcescanada.com](http://www.iagresourcescanada.com)
- **CEBC Golf Tournament,** May 22 2008, Vancouver. [www.cebc.org](http://www.cebc.org)

- **ASTTBC Annual General Meeting**, May 23 2008, Langley. Business session, workshops, awards luncheon and reception. Help kick off celebrations for ASTTBC's 50th Anniversary!  
[www.asttbc.com/agm](http://www.asttbc.com/agm)
  - **Association of Canadian Community Colleges Annual Conference**, May 25 – 27 2008, Prince George. 'Forests of Change', helping to shape a new direction.  
[conference.accc.ca/2008/index\\_e.htm](http://conference.accc.ca/2008/index_e.htm)
  - **Personal Leadership for Peak Performance**, May 27 2008, Nanaimo, BC. Join international speaker Brian Tracy. [www.briantracy.com](http://www.briantracy.com)
  - **BC Building Code II**, May 30 2008, Vancouver. Sponsored by the Architectural Institute of BC.  
[www.aibc.ca](http://www.aibc.ca)
  - **Are You Interested in Exporting?** June 4 2008, Vancouver. Small Business BC, the Canada Border Services Agency and others offer a full day workshop on the rules, regulations, standards and resources involved in exporting. [www.smallbusinessbc.ca](http://www.smallbusinessbc.ca)
  - **Design of Aluminum Structures**, June 5 2008, Vancouver. This course provides engineers and technologists & technicians training on the design of aluminum structures as well as information on the main properties of aluminum. Sponsored by The Canadian Society for Civil Engineering.  
[www.csce.ca](http://www.csce.ca)
  - **Consulting Engineers of BC Annual General Meeting**, June 12 2008, Vancouver. Business session and networking reception. [www.cebc.org](http://www.cebc.org)
  - **Construction In Challenging Environments**, June 16 – 18 2008, Edmonton. A forum for sharing ideas, exploring new solutions and understanding financial impacts on the construction industry. Sponsored by the Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors. [www.pags2008.com](http://www.pags2008.com)
  - **Pacific NorthWest Economic Region 18th Annual Summit**, July 20 – 24 2008, Vancouver. PNWER is the regional planning and facilitation organization set up in statute by the border states and provinces to deal with trans-boundary policy and planning in the Pacific Northwest.  
[www.pnwer.org](http://www.pnwer.org)
  - **International Federation of Consulting Engineers**, September 7 – 10 2008, Quebec City. Bringing together the world's consulting industry. [www.fidic2008.org](http://www.fidic2008.org)
  - **2008 BC Innovation Council Awards**, September 29 2008, Vancouver. Celebrating leaders whose contributions establish BC as a world-class innovation centre. [www.bcinnovationcouncil.com](http://www.bcinnovationcouncil.com)
  - **Wood WORKS! BC Sustainability Workshop**, October 10 2008, Vancouver; October 11, Surrey; October 12, Kelowna. Different ways of measuring the benefits of high performance structures; environmental attributes of engineered wood products; Green Globe Training.  
[www.wood-works.org](http://www.wood-works.org)
  - **Canadian Summit on the Mature Workforce**, November 5 2008 Calgary. The impact retiring baby boomers are having on organizations throughout the Western World and what to do about it.  
[www.workplaceinstitute.org](http://www.workplaceinstitute.org)
  - **World Forestry Congress**, October 18 – 25 2009, Buenos Aires. Call for papers under the theme 'Forests in development – a vital balance'. [www.wfc2009.org](http://www.wfc2009.org)
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