



ASTT e-News, February 2009

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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Government Requires License for House Inspectors

The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General has announced that, effective March 31 2009, all house inspectors must be licensed in British Columbia. This is a first in Canada. The Regulation provides that those certified by ASTTBC will qualify for a license. CAHPI(BC) and the National Certification Program are also named. House inspectors certified with ASTTBC will be able to apply to the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority for a license. The fee will be \$100 and will be valid for 3 years.

"This is an historic day in BC, we congratulate the Minister for his leadership in getting this done," said ASTTBC's Executive Director, John Leech, ASCT, CAE. *"Our Association and the BC Institute of Property Inspectors have been calling for licensing for years so this represents a great step forward. We will do everything we can to make sure ASTTBC-registered house inspectors are able to get licensed without delay once the processes are fully defined."*

BCIPI President Noel Murphy added that licensing is a first step to a higher quality of service for all British Columbians seeking house inspection services.

"On behalf of BCIPI, I am pleased that the government has acted on their promise to license inspectors," he said. *"Because of the high standards established by ASTTBC in partnership with BCIPI, in my opinion our members are among the best qualified in BC to offer services as house inspectors and they will certainly be sought out by consumers"*.

The Regulation goes a long way to ensure the public has access to qualified, registered and accountable professionals.

ASTTBC's Executive Director does see some challenges going forward. With different certification bodies being recognized in the Regulation there is not one common standard for licensing. Further, the complaints and professional regulation framework varies between the organizations. *"We need*

to move quickly to a level playing field to ensure best practices," hesaid. "I have assured the Minister, Ministry staff and the Director of BPCPA that ASTTBC will continue to work cooperatively toward the highest standards of professional regulation in BC".

Information will be made available to all ASTTBC-registered House Inspectors as needed to meet the requirements of the Regulation. Information will also be posted to the ASTTBC and BCPIPI web sites. To see the Ministry of Public Safety announcement and for full details visit www.asttbc.org/docs/govpressrelease.pdf

Top In Technology Award

Nomination deadline April 15 2009

This year ASTTBC will begin offering the 'Top In Technology Award'. It will recognize members whose work has been consistent with the high expectations of a professional committed to serving the public, and who have acted as a role model to other British Columbians.

Attributes typical of a nominee could include:

- Mentor / role model
- Demonstrates leadership – excels in his/her field
- Entrepreneurial attitude
- Promotes technology careers
- Uses and/or promotes new technologies
- Volunteers in the community or profession
- Elected to public office
- A new graduate who shows exceptional promise as a technology professional.

Nominations should be submitted by April 15 2009 to the ASTTBC Awards Committee for review and follow-up. Award Nominations are then presented to Council for final approval. Presentations will be made at the Annual General Meeting. www.asttbc.org/about/awards/topintech.php

Job Postings Call For ASTTBC Certification

ASTTBC certification counts. Here are some of the job ads that called for registration with ASTTBC, selected from newspapers across British Columbia on October 8 2008:

- **Manager, Underground Utilities, City of Victoria.** "Registration as an Applied Science Technologist with ASTTBC is required at a minimum."
- **Traffic Operations Technologist, City of Coquitlam.** "Certified (or eligible for certification) as an Applied Science Technologist or the equivalent..."
- **Electrical & Control Specialist, Spectra Energy.** "Eligibility for registration with APEGBC or ASTTBC..."
- **Senior Utilities Technician, City of Chilliwack.** "The successful candidate will be a graduate of at least a 2-year Civil Engineering program, and eligible for ASTTBC certification."
- **Project Technologists – Development Services, BC Housing.** "You have sufficient education to qualify as an Applied Science Technologist..."

Health and Dental Coverage

Introductory savings are available until March 31 2009 on ASTTBC's newest addition to member services. The Olympia Trust health and dental plan provides a new option for technicians and technologists who are working on contract or as consultants, and for small and medium-sized firms. See the flyer that was mailed with the June-December 2008 issue of ASTT News. ASTTBC's affinity partner programs continue to save money for members. At a time of economic uncertainty, ASTTBC's group programs add value to membership. For other savings, please visit www.asttbc.org/services/programs/group_programs.php

Women In Technology Survey Update

In the fall of 2008 ASTTBC conducted a survey among its female members focusing on the challenges that 'women in technology' face as they choose a career in technology, enter the workforce, and as they develop their technology careers. Preliminary results from the survey were reprinted in the January 2009 newsletter of the Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology. The SCWIST newsletter provides news and views from and for women working in science, engineering and technology.

Technical Expertise Sought

ASTTBC and the Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta have joined with the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists in forming an Environment Task Group. The primary goal of the Environment Task Group is to identify and implement some tangible initiatives addressing the environmental agenda that provide value to the membership of the associations. The Group is working on an article on water and wastewater treatment and is looking for members who are experts to help with the article. The focus is on emerging but proven technologies in water and wastewater that promote environmental sustainability or resource protection. Are you interested in volunteering as a technical resource to the Environment Task Group? Contact Kerri Trace, BSc, ASCT, at kerri.trace@stantec.com

ASTTBC Becomes OSTEC Sustaining Patron

ASTTBC has come stepped in to help OSTEC lead the development of thriving technology-driven sectors in the Okanagan. *"We are excited to welcome ASTTBC as the newest Sustaining Patron and we look forward to working with them as a member and partner,"* says Douglas MacLeod, Executive Director of OSTEC. The Okanagan Science & Technology Council is a membership driven organization that supports science and technology initiatives. OSTEC is a conduit that brings people together, partnering with industry, agencies and government.

Technology Skills Report Flags Action Steps

In October 2008, ASTTBC partnered with Okanagan College and the Okanagan Science and Technology Council to stage a roundtable that drew attention to the technology skills shortage in the Okanagan. This was the fourth in a province-wide series of roundtables instigated by ASTTBC. The report from the Kelowna Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortage has now been published.

Okanagan College, OSTEC and ASTTBC will take the lead on four specific proposals to 'jump start' the outcomes from the Roundtable:

- Form a steering committee to bring together the various proponents behind similar technology and science skills shortage initiatives (OC, OSTEC and ASTTBC)
- Create an 'Industry Ambassadors' program to take the message to local schools (OSTEC)
- Launch a targeted media campaign to raise awareness of engineering technologies careers and programs (OC)
- Offer a 'Science Educator Of The Year Award' at the OSTEC Silicon Valley Awards (OSTEC, ASTTBC).

"As we were expecting, concrete results have come from this dialogue," said Bruce Stevens, ASCT, one of the organizers of the event. *"What we need now is for people to get involved in the action steps we have identified, or for those with other initiatives that they want to champion to touch base so we can help connect them with others who may want to participate."*

The results of the Kelowna Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortage are posted at www.asttbc.org/docs/roundtable.pdf

Want to get involved? Please contact Bruce Stevens, ASCT at (250) 491-0395 or email strategicsolutions@Telus.net

CCTT Launches Monthly e-Newsletter

January 2009 saw the first issue of 'Innovation', a monthly e-newsletter featuring shorter articles

on current events affecting Canada's community of technology professionals. Published by the Canadian Council of Technicians & Technologists, 'Innovation' allows Canada's technology professionals to see themselves in a national context; to learn of developments at the level of the federation of all provincial associations; and to better appreciate the contributions that technicians and technologists make to the economy. Innovation is the title because that is what technicians and technologists do. Recognizing that we live in an era of instant communications, often facilitated by the pervasive Blackberry, the editors know that timeliness, frequency and compatibility with wireless devices is a must. If a topic interests the reader, simply click on it for the full story. Otherwise scroll on. CCTT did away with printed newsletters years ago. Now CCTT has moved away from a quarterly electronic news magazine, to the concise monthly format. To subscribe visit maillist.cctt.ca/?p=subscribe&id=6

TechPRO Creates Visibility

TechPRO, a member service feature on the ASTTBC web site, profiles a selection of the Association's 9,000 technologists, technicians and technical specialists who contribute to the development of British Columbia. These profiles interest students who are looking into careers, or anyone who is interested in a snapshot of the work and responsibilities of ASTTBC members. Here is one TechPRO profile selected at random:

- **Avril Sullivan, ASCT**, did a four year industrial electrical apprenticeship at TRIUMF sub-nuclear particle research facility at UBC before becoming interested in the medical application of electronics. Avril returned to BCIT and completed the Biomedical Engineering Technologist program in 1991. After 8 years as a Biomedical Engineering Technologist at Vancouver General Hospital, Avril moved to the hospital in Cranbrook and is currently Quality & Risk Consultant - Clinical Engineering with the Interior Health Authority. Avril has also completed an Advanced Diploma in Biomedical Engineering and Bachelor of Technology Management Degree through BCIT.

Have you posted your profile on TechPRO yet? www.techprofile.ca

TechLINKS

- **Revisiting Limits to Growth**, March 11 2009, Vancouver. Are there ecological limits to economic growth? Or can GDP continue to grow? Many claim that economic growth is a prerequisite to raise all income levels, create jobs and make environmental protection affordable. Others argue that activities required for sustained economic growth use non-renewable resources and deplete natural capital, while increasing income disparity. Who is correct? What does this mean for traditional measures of 'progress' like the GDP? This debate will look at whether there are limits to economic growth, ecological or otherwise. Presented by UBC Continuing Studies, Community Programs and UBC Continuing Studies Centre for Sustainability. This event at the UBC Robson Square is free and preregistration is required due to limited seating.
reg.cstudies.ubc.ca/session_info_2.cfm?sessionid=UP488
- **BCRMCA CONNIE Awards Call for Entries**. Deadline March 31 2009. The BC Ready-Mixed Concrete Association's 4th Annual Awards for Excellence in Concrete Construction (the CONNIEs), recognize the vision and ingenuity of owners, architects, engineers and contractors that are designing and constructing concrete projects in BC. To view the Call for Entries and judging criteria please visit www.bcrmca.ca/awards
- **Wood Catapult Competitions**. BC Wood WORKS! / Canadian Wood Council annually hosts the Western Canadian Wood Catapult Competition on the UBC Campus in Vancouver BC. The purpose is to challenge registered college or university students to design and build a wood siege engine capable of accurately hitting targets at 20, 30 and 45 meters using a cement ball. The third annual Wood Catapult Competition will take place at the UBC Campus in Vancouver on March 28 2009 on the Whit-Mathews sports field.
www.wood-works.org/BC%20Wood%20WORKS/Competitions/?Language=EN

TechEVENTS

- **'DigSafe BC!' 2009**, March 3 Kelowna; April 1 Fort St. John. Workshop sessions include: utility and pipeline awareness, ground disturbance regulations, locating basics, damage prevention and more. Sponsored by the BC Common Ground Alliance, together with BC One Call.
www.bconecall.bc.ca
- **Developing Effective Leadership Skills**, March 2 – 4 2009, Vancouver. How leaders can invest in their own continuous learning while promoting quality assurance, developing human capital, and supporting innovation. Canadian Professional Management Services Inc.
www.cpmnational.com
- **The Power Within Leadership Series**, March 6 2009, Vancouver. This event features a line up of dynamic speakers including Michael Phelps, Olympic Gold Medalist on high performance; Patrick Lencioni, best selling author of 'The Five Dysfunctions of a Team' on management; Jamie Clark, author of 'Everest to Arabia' on the power of passion; and more. Members and guests of ASTTBC receive a corporate discount. www.asttbc.org/docs/powerwithin.pdf
- **Learning to Think Strategically**, March 9 – 11 2009, Vancouver. How strategic thinkers stay two steps ahead of their organization and their competition. Canadian Professional Management Services Inc. www.cpmnational.com
- **CEBC Awards Gala**, March 7 2009, Vancouver. The annual Consulting Engineers of BC Awards Gala is the association's premiere professional and social event of the year. ASTTBC is a Platinum Sponsor of CEBC's Gala. www.cebc.org/subcalendar/upcomingcalendar.html
- **Silicon Vineyard Innovation Awards Gala**, March 12 2009, Kelowna. Join in celebrating excellence in innovation among individuals and organizations from the Okanagan's science and technology sectors at the 6th Annual Silicon Vineyard Innovation Awards. Sponsored by the Okanagan Science & Technology Council. events@ostec.ca
- **Urban Development and The Environment On Vancouver Island**, various locations and dates. The BC Ministry of Environment (Vancouver Island Region), in partnership with the District of Saanich, is co-hosting workshop on issues and possible solutions to existing and future environmental challenges. Nanaimo March 12, Cumberland March 17, Campbell River March 18, Duncan tba. Space is limited, pre-registration required. For details e-mail info@viridiaconsulting.ca
- **Wood Solutions Fair**, March 18 2009, Vancouver. A one-day educational event on wood products and construction. www.wood-works.ca
- **Celebrating Women & The Spirit Of The Cranes awards gala**, March 21 2009, Whiterock. Every year by International Women's Day, the Sandhill Cranes return to Burns Bog. The 'Celebrating Women & The Spirit Of The Cranes' awards gala recognizes women who have made a difference in their community and workplace. www.burnsbog.org
- **13th Annual Business Breakfast**, March 24 2009, Nanaimo. The Vancouver Island University Foundation and VIU President Dr. Ralph Nilson would like to invite you to the annual breakfast fundraiser for student scholarships, awards and bursaries. events.foundation@VIU.ca
- **ASTTBC AGM**, May 22 2009, Burnaby. Details to follow, please mark your calendars now. www.asttbc.org
- **World Conference On Sport & The Environment**, March 29 - 31 2009, Vancouver. How sport organizations and major sporting events can contribute to environmental, cultural and economic sustainability at local, regional and global levels. Hosted by the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games on behalf of the IOC and the United Nations Environment Programme. www.wcse2009.com
- **BC Land Summit 'A Better Future: Adapting to Change'**, May 20 - 22 2009, Whistler. Workshops, panels and speakers of interest to BCSLA members and other allied professionals. <http://www.bclandsummit.com/register/index.html>
- **WorldSkills Competition**, September 1- 6 2009, Calgary. More than 850 competitors from 48 countries will compete. The goal is to promote excellence in skilled trades and technologies training. www.worldskills.org

Note: For links to seminars listed on the web sites of other associations, visit www.asttbc.org/services/cpd/seminars.php
