



## ASTT e-News, January, 2007

---

ASTT e-News is broadcast monthly 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.

### Table of Contents

---

- [Council Nominations](#)
- [Code Change Workshops](#)
- [Campus 2020](#)
- [BC Deans Of Technology](#)
- [Community Representatives](#)
- [BC Safety Authority](#)
- [House Inspection Update](#)
- [BCIPI Supports Formal Licensing](#)
- [Advanced Education Minister Meets ASTTBC](#)
- [International Links](#)
- [Mid-Island Awards](#)
- [Northern Technology Show & Awards](#)
- [Executive Director Northern BC Visit](#)
- [Awards For Engineering Excellence](#)
- [Inventors, Creators, And Visionaries Wanted!](#)
- [Coming Events](#)

### Council Nominations

---

Nominations are requested for election to the Council of ASTTBC. Each nomination must be supported by the signatures of 10 certified members, as well as the consent and signature of the nominee. Nominations properly endorsed must be received by the Nomination Committee Chair by February 24, 2007.

Tim Murphy, AScT, MBA  
Chair, Nomination Committee  
10767 - 148th. Street, Surrey, BC V3R 0S4  
Fax: (604) 585-2790

## **Code Change Workshops Nearly Sold Out**

---

Seminars on 'Code Changes' are being offered in nine locations across BC in February and March, 2007. The seminars are being conducted by the Building Officials Association of BC in cooperation with other groups such as ASTTBC.

The February 2-3rd. seminar at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel is sold out. An additional seminar venue has been added to accommodate the lower mainland registrants. It will be held March 28-29th at the Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel in Richmond. The Abbotsford session on February 23-24th is three-quarters full with only 50 seats still available.

Members of ASTTBC are encouraged to register right away. BOABC does not anticipate adding venues beyond those now scheduled. Questions or registration should be directed to Shannon at the BOABC, phone 604-270-9516 or visit [www.boabc.org](http://www.boabc.org).

## **Campus 2020 Receives ASTTBC Submission**

---

The provincial government, through an initiative known as 'Campus 2020 'Thinking Ahead'', is developing a model of the BC education system in 10 to 20 years. Campus 2020 will report in the spring of 2007.

ASTTBC was pleased to hear of the full review of BC's post-secondary education system and has made a submission to Campus 2020. The submission identifies the need to promote careers in technology to young people and to provide easy access to the training required. It points to the declining enrollments at BCIT and the colleges and how Campus 2020 can be a vehicle to reverse this trend. The submission also highlights the growing need for skilled technology workers with particular emphasis on the needs of northern BC.

To view a full copy of the ASTTBC submission visit the home page of the ASTTBC web site or click on [www.asttbc.org/pub/ASTTBC\\_Campus2020\\_Submission\\_December\\_2006.pdf](http://www.asttbc.org/pub/ASTTBC_Campus2020_Submission_December_2006.pdf). An Executive Summary is also provided for a quick read of ASTTBC's key recommendations. Your comments are welcome. Please send an email to [techinfo@asttbc.org](mailto:techinfo@asttbc.org) with the subject line 'Campus 2020'.

---

## **BC Deans Of Technology Meeting Includes ASTTBC**

---

ASTTBC participated in a recent meeting of the BC Deans of Technology. ASTTBC outlined several important issues including: declining enrollments in technology programs; cancellation of several technology programs in recent years; the critical need to embrace a province-wide program to promote technology careers; need for strategic leadership for technology education; support for an initiative to develop new national standards for professional certification and accreditation; and ASTTBC's plan to submit a brief to Campus 2020. Tom Roemer, Associate Dean at Okanagan College assumed the Chair of BCDoT as Baldev Pooni has become Vice President of Camosun College.

## **Community Representatives Build Local Connection**

---

ASTTBC works with local Community Representatives to connect with members, employers, government and others at the local level.

During the period that ASTTBC and APEGBC were working on a merger, the involvement of Community Representatives was reduced due to a re-deployment of resources. After the decision to abandon the merger, ASTTBC began ramping up important programs. It is now time to cement our community connections' and here is where YOU might come in.

We are looking for members in a number of communities to assist ASTTBC at the local level. Your role will be: assist in setting up local meetings; make contact with local employers; support ASTTBC's efforts to promote technology careers; help set up meetings with municipal, provincial and federal elected officials; review key information from ASTTBC and provide comment; sit in on conference calls to discuss ASTTBC programs and services; and attend the ASTTBC AGM if possible. We estimate you will be asked to offer about 5 to 10 hours a month and while there may be some travel, we anticipate doing most of our work using e-communications.

**Community Representatives presently volunteering are:**

<b>Dawson Creek:</b>	Jim Dickey, CTech
<b>Ft St John:</b>	Mark Fessenden, ASCT
<b>Kamloops:</b>	Tony Walters, CTech, RSIS
<b>Kelowna:</b>	Henry Murphy, ASCT
<b>Merritt:</b>	Shawn Boven, ASCT
<b>Nanaimo:</b>	Carmi Simpson, ASCT
<b>Castlegar:</b>	Doug Harold, ASCT
<b>Penticton:</b>	Allan Mann, ASCT
<b>Vernon:</b>	John Juul-Andersen, ASCT
<b>Prince George:</b>	Colin Dix, ASCT, EngL
<b>Prince Rupert:</b>	Bill Belsey, ASCT
<b>Quesnel:</b>	Danny Keeler, ASCT
<b>Victoria:</b>	Tina Hill, ASCT

If you are interested in getting involved, please e-mail [techinfo@asttbc.org](mailto:techinfo@asttbc.org) with the subject line: Community Rep. Include a copy of your current resume and a brief statement of your areas of interest and the skills you will bring to ASTTBC. And, yes, even though we might have someone working in your community we welcome your expression of interest. We will certainly put your talents to work.

## **BC Safety Authority And ASTTBC Talk**

---

ASTTBC has been pursuing appropriate changes to safety legislation / regulation, particularly where this affects ASTTBC registered professionals and where our members might make a contribution. President Keith Switzer, ASCT, has been leading the effort for more than 15 years with some tangible results, especially in the electrical field. Because of ASTTBC's involvement, Applied Science Technologists were recognized in the Electrical Safety Regulation. While this recognition helped, the current Regulation requires more work to fully address the role of ASCT's and to include the CTech's. Clarity around the work of other ASTTBC registrants, especially in fields such as fire protection, instrumentation and Biomedical Engineering Technology, where these practitioners provide services which might be construed as 'electrical work'. ASTTBC has met a couple of times with senior BC Safety Authority representatives and is preparing information for BCSA staff. We will keep you posted.

In addition to working on technical practice issues, ASTBC is engaging with the BC Safety Authority about other mutual interests including code competency, roles of technology professionals, and promoting

technology careers. BCSA CEO Harry Diemer met recently with ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech, ASCT, CAE, to consider strategic linkages between the two organizations. One example of the growing tie between BCSA and ASTTBC is exemplified by an ASTTBC advertisement in an issue of BC Business magazine that profiled the BC Safety Authority.

## **House Inspection Certification Update**

---

ASTTBC continues to work closely with officials as the BC Government decides on future directions for the recognition of house inspectors. Executive Director John Leech, ASCT, CAE, is leading efforts to ensure that the consumer can rely on highly qualified inspectors to conduct a pre-purchase inspection. In its messaging to government, the Association is making the point that ASTTBC's professional certification program is likely the most advanced and comprehensive in Canada and that ASTTBC has the capacity and experience to effectively deliver a quality standard program for BC. ASTTBC has expressed its willingness to work with all appropriate stakeholders as part of an ASTTBC-lead initiative.

The Minister Responsible, The Hon John Les, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, has signaled that government will take some action to enhance consumer protection. The Minister has said, though, that this does not necessarily mean 'full licensing' (meaning, we assume, a fully restrictive regime). ASTTBC has stated that it is comfortable supporting a program which does not compel a consumer to engage the services of an inspector, but one that nevertheless requires inspectors to be licensed / registered should a consumer decide to hire an inspector. John Leech's editorial piece in the Vancouver Sun was provided with last month's e-News. ASTTBC will continue to work with the BC Government to ensure a program that serves the interests of consumers effectively.

## **BCIPI Supports Formal Licensing Of House Inspectors**

---

The BC Institute of Property Inspectors, an institute within ASTTBC, is working hard in support of a formal licensing system for house inspectors. BCIPI President Gerry Goumans, CHI stated recently, 'I am encouraged by statements by the minister in general support of additional protection for the consumer. While it is not clear what the government plans to do, I can say that they have the support of BCIPI in moving to some form of standard registration for all inspectors.'

Without this, the industry will continue to be fragmented and less able to provide the best possible services to the public.'

## **Advanced Education Minister Meets With ASTTBC**

---

Minister of Advanced Education, the Hon Murray Coell, met again in November with ASTTBC President, Keith Switzer, ASCT and Executive Director, John Leech, ASCT, CAE. Discussion included: the need to work together to promote technology careers; the declining (and at best static), enrollments in technology programs at BCIT and colleges throughout BC; cuts in technology programs in recent years, the need for strategic leadership for technology education; and the need to change the Architects Act which has handcuffed BC's design technologists and technicians for decades. The Minister expressed interest in hearing more from ASTTBC on these and other issues. He also agreed to work with ASTTBC to promote technology careers and encouraged the association to make its views known on key issues to others within government. ASTTBC appreciates the Minister's time to meet with ASTTBC and consider our points of view.

## **International Links Fostered**

---

Connections with organizations in the UK, France and Denmark were renewed in December when Executive Director John Leech, ASCT, CAE, arranged meetings during a combined business and vacation trip.

In London, John Leech met with the CEO for the Institute of Engineering and Technology. As a result of a merger, IET is now an association of 150,000 engineers, technologists and technicians. Topics included professional recognition, recognition of internationally educated professionals, the need for additional technology professionals to sustain 'hot' economies, and the need for greater promotion of engineering and applied science technology careers. These are familiar topics to ASTTBC and our sister associations in Canada.

In Paris, he met with senior staff at UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. John was active in the 1990's with the World Federation of Technology Organizations, an organization hosted by ASTTBC. During that time WFTO worked closely with UNESCO on several projects, including helping establish associations for technicians and technologists in Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya. WFTO hosted two international conferences, one in Vancouver

in 1995 and the other in Cape Town, South Africa in 1998. UNESCO staff encourages technologists and technicians to link up internationally to contribute their expertise to various global challenges and the recent meeting renewed linkages with a view to once again building a modest bridge between ASTTBC, WFTO and UNESCO.

In Denmark, the ASTTBC Executive Director met with the Danish Association of Professional Technicians about topics similar to those he discussed with the Institute of Engineering and Technology. One area of particular interest to the Danish group is accreditation of technology programs at educational institutions. Their association is setting up an accreditation system and, given the experience of ASTTBC and the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board, they want to learn more about the Canadian system. A trip to Canada this spring is likely.

ASTTBC has made modest efforts to reach out internationally, recognizing that Canada is a trading nation and that to continue a high standard of living we must ensure markets for our products and services. ASTTBC will continue to work with our sister organizations in Canada, the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists and other interested stakeholders to bring together technology professionals globally.

## **Mid-Island Awards Receive ASTTBC Support**

---

ASTTBC provided \$1,000 toward the Mid-Island Science, Technology and Innovation Council's first annual awards program held in November in Parksville. ASTTBC's contribution was recognized as sponsorship for publishing the programme for the MISTIC awards. ASTTBC will likely enhance its involvement by sponsoring an award at the next event.

## **Northern Technology Show & Awards Sponsorship**

---

Once again ASTTBC was a sponsor for the Northern BC Business & Technology Show, now in its 5th year. Hosted by Pat Bell, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, the two-day event attracts hundreds of businesses and individuals, along with associations, governments and other stakeholders to technical presentations, a trade fair and an awards celebration. ASTTBC sponsored the Technology Provider of the Year Award and had the ASTTBC booth in the trade show. Jason Jung, ASCT, Manager, Technology Careers, attended the booth and John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director presented the ASTTBC award

and linked up with government and industry representatives. Premier Gordon Campbell spoke at one of the luncheons. Several members of Cabinet were in attendance including: Minister of Education, Shirley Bond; Minister of Labour and Citizens' Services, Olga Ilich; Minister of State for Mining, Bill Bennett; and Attorney General & Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, Wally Oppal.

ASTTBC called on members throughout the north to review the 12 nominations for the Technology Provider of the Year Award and select the winner. Thanks go to:

<b>Heather Andreychuk, AScT</b>	Prince George
<b>Bill Belsey, AScT</b>	Prince Rupert
<b>Doug Carter, CTech, PE</b>	Prince George
<b>Jim Dickey, CTech</b>	Dawson Creek
<b>Colin Dix, AScT, EngL</b>	Prince George
<b>Mark Fessenden, AScT</b>	Ft St John
<b>Danny Keeler, AScT</b>	Quesnel
<b>Lorelei Reier, AScT</b>	Prince George

Announcement of the award winner and more information on the event will be in the next issue of ASTT News.

## **Executive Director Meets Officials During Northern BC Visit**

---

### **President, College Of New Caledonia**

ASTTBC Councillor Jim Blake, one of the first public representatives on ASTTBC Council and the current Chair of the Prince George Airport Authority, introduced Executive Director John Leech, AScT, CAE to the College of New Caledonia Interim President, John Bowman during John's visit to Prince George. The two spoke about the need for enhanced technology education offerings in northern BC and the need to improve promotion of technology careers. They agreed to meet again soon to explore these topics more. ASTTBC has expressed concern that CNC suspended the Engineering Design and Drafting program when there is a clear need for additional technicians and technologists in BC, especially in the north.

### **Mayor, Prince George**

Executive Director John Leech, ASCT, CAE and Manager, Technology Careers, Jason Jung, ASCT, met Prince George Mayor Colin Kinsley during their trip to attend the Northern BC Business & Technology Awards. They spoke with the Mayor about the need to enhance technology education in BC and the recognition of technology professionals. ASTTBC feels it is vital to continue to present its views on key matters to all levels of government and industry.

### **Minister Of Mines**

The Hon Bill Bennett, Minister of State for Mining, spoke briefly with John Leech, ASCT, CAE, while both were attending the Northern BC Business & Technology event in Prince George. John again took this opportunity to advance issues of concern. He also expressed ASTTBC's appreciation for the interest shown by Bill Bennett and other members of the BC Government in taking the time to better understand the role of technologists, technicians and technical specialists and to the contribution they make to BC's economy and quality of life.

### **Awards For Engineering Excellence Set For March**

Keith Switzer, ASCT, President of ASTTBC, has agreed to serve as a judge for the 2007 Awards for Engineering Excellence competition. These awards will be presented by the Consulting Engineers of BC at their awards gala in Vancouver on March 3. ASTTBC is a Platinum Sponsor of the event.

This year CEBC received 50 submissions, an increase of 14 over last year. A winner for at least one Award of Merit and one Award of Excellence will be selected in each of five categories including Building, Municipal, Transportation, Resource and Energy and Soft Engineering. These awards demonstrate the value of CEBC member firms to clients as they celebrate technical excellence and recognize innovation in engineering.

ASTTBC members are encouraged to attend the awards gala. 'This event is very entertaining, as we always go to great lengths to provide a spectacular evening for our colleagues.' says Glenn Martin Executive Director of the Consulting Engineers of British Columbia. CEBC is celebrating 30 years of engineering excellence in 2007.

### **Inventors, Creators, And Visionaries Wanted!**

The University of Victoria's Innovation and Development Corporation's first 'Invention Contest' is a fun and energetic competition open to all students, faculty and staff at the five major universities and colleges on Vancouver Island. The Invention Competition is also open to grade school students (K to 12) across Vancouver Island.

Contestants are eligible for \$20,000 worth of prizes for best invention; best software concept; best food and beverage idea; best sports concept; and best high school invention. Prizes for high school students include free tuition packages.

The entry deadline is January 31, 2007. Visit the Mid-Island Science, Technology & Innovation Council web site at [www.mistic.bc.ca](http://www.mistic.bc.ca) or the IDC web site at [www.idcinvention.com](http://www.idcinvention.com).

## **Coming Events**

---

### **SPEATBC Annual Dinner**

The Society of Punjabi Engineers & Technologists of BC presents its annual dinner January 19, 2007 in Surrey.  
For information or tickets contact Nav Sandhu at [treasurer@speatbc.org](mailto:treasurer@speatbc.org)

### **APEGBC Sustainability Committee Guest Expert Series**

A presentation on the built environment and how we operate in our bioregions will be held from 2:00-4:00pm on February 10, 2007 in Vancouver. Meror Krayenhoff has won more than 20 design, building and environmental awards including 2000 Best Home Builder from the Canadian Home Builders Association.

For information visit [www.apeg.bc.ca/aboutus/sustainability/upcomingevents](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/aboutus/sustainability/upcomingevents)

### **BC Construction Show & Homebuilder & Renovator Expo**

Western Canada's largest conference and exposition for construction and renovation will be held February 14 & 15 in Vancouver. ASTTBC has a limited supply of free trade show passes for ASTTBC members and technical specialists. Contact [techinfo@asttbc.org](mailto:techinfo@asttbc.org); first-come, first-serve.

For information on the BC Construction Show & Homebuilder & Renovator Expo visit [www.bcconstruct.com](http://www.bcconstruct.com)

## **Parametric Modeling and Digital Wood Fabrication Workshop**

The CDRN Parametric Modeling and Digital Wood Fabrication Workshop and Symposium will be held at the Forest Sciences Centre at the University of British Columbia on February 15 to 24, 2007. New tools, techniques, products and practices are revolutionizing the use of wood in architecture, design and construction. To help design professionals take advantage of these innovations, the Canadian Design Research Network is presenting a series of events that will explore the potential of digital media and CNC fabrication technologies. Parallel to the workshop, a symposium will take place on February 21 to 24, 2007. All lectures, panel discussions and exhibitions at the CDRN Parametric Modeling and Digital Wood Fabrication Workshop and Symposium will be open to the public and free of charge.

Please see [www.cdrn.ca/events/wood](http://www.cdrn.ca/events/wood) for details.

## **EMA Annual Workshop**

The Environmental Managers' Association of British Columbia will be holding its annual full day workshop on February 22, 2007 in Burnaby. The topic this year is Environmental Risk Management. Some of the key elements to be covered will include the identification, ranking and management of typical and emerging environmental risks faced by industry.

For information visit [www.emaofbc.com/workshop.htm](http://www.emaofbc.com/workshop.htm) and to register e-mail [info@emaofbc.com](mailto:info@emaofbc.com)

## **CEBC 2007 Awards Gala**

The Consulting Engineers of BC 'Awards For Engineering Excellence' will be presented March 3, 2007 in Vancouver. ASTTBC is a Platinum Sponsor of this gala. ASTTBC members are encouraged to attend.

For information or tickets, visit [www.cebc.org](http://www.cebc.org)

## **EPIC 2007: The Sustainable Living Expo**

GLOBE Foundation of Canada presents EPIC (Ethical Progressive Intelligent Consumers) in Vancouver on March 16-18, 2007. It is designed to bring together savvy shoppers with businesses that care about consumers, the community and the environment.

Visit [www.epicvancouver.com](http://www.epicvancouver.com)

## **ASTTBC AGM**

The Annual General Meeting for the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC will be held on Friday, May 25, 2007. Mark your calendars now. Details to follow.