



ASTT e-News, January 2009

Dear Member,

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 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 Nominating Committee Chair by Saturday, February 21 2009.

Keith Switzer, ASCT
Chair, Nominating Committee
10767 – 148 Street, Surrey, BC V3R 0S4
Fax: (604) 585-2790

ASTTBC Seeks Changes to the Architects Act

ASTTBC's Executive Director John Leech, ASCT, CAE, is connecting with people in the BC government to secure changes to the Architects Act, a piece of legislation that has not changed fundamentally in almost nine decades. *"If we as a province are serious about addressing the skills*

shortage by making full use of our BC-educated and internationally-trained technology professionals, we must change professional legislation that is out-of-step with modern realities and that is overly restrictive and I think the Architects Act is a prime example of this need for change," said John Leech. ASTTBC has been stressing for decades the need to amend the Architects Act, a piece of government legislation that severely restricts ASTTBC-registered building designers. Leech is calling for an exemption in the Architects Act for ASTTBC-registered Building Designers as is done in Saskatchewan. The Architectural Institute of BC is also requesting the government overhaul their statute, including removing sections that no longer reflect current practices. The AIBC is also seeking a change that will see that Association regulate Building Designers and Interior Designers. Leech stresses with government officials that this model is not accepted by ASTTBC. *"ASTTBC is actively opposing any move by AIBC to assume control over the practice of Building Designers,"* said Leech. *"I have been advising government officials of AIBC's efforts to register building and residential designers as 'Associate Members' within AIBC and I am letting government know that this move is not supported by ASTTBC and that we feel it is outside the scope of AIBC's mandate."*

Leech emphasizes that the Architects Act must be changed soon in order that BC enables rather than restricts BCIT and college graduates and internationally trained technology professionals. Changes to the Act are also needed to meet the long-term goals of the Agreement on Internal Trade. ASTTBC will continue its efforts to make sure that ASTTBC-registered building designers and residential designers enjoy self-governance within ASTTBC and are fully recognized with an appropriate scope of practice.

Minister Of Community Development Meeting

ASTTBC's Executive Director continues to connect with elected BC government representatives.

The Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Community Development, met with John Leech, ASCT, CAE, to talk about matters of interest to ASTTBC. During the conversation the two talked about a number of issues including the need to introduce technologist and technician technology programs in central and northern BC. The two talked about other ASTTBC initiatives including the creation of the First Nations Careers Council, TechGREEN, and a call for increased attention to math, science and technology in K – 12. John spoke about the Technology Skills Roundtable hosted by the College of New Caledonia and ASTTBC in Prince George in January 2008 and the subsequent efforts to bring together interested stakeholders to address this issue. John noted that CNC's President, John Bowman, is working with other northern colleges to introduce applied science and engineering technology programs 'in the north for the north'.

ASTTBC concerns about the need to change the Architects Act to include an exemption for ASTTBC members were a key part of the discussion. John referenced the current Architects Act which has not fundamentally changed since 1920. Leech stressed the need to include in the statute an exemption for ASTTBC members in a manner similar to the exemption that is in the Saskatchewan Architects Act. John stressed concerns about any professional regulatory framework which inappropriately and unfairly restricts ASTTBC-registered technology professionals. *"I found the Minister open to changes that will result in government legislation which fully enables highly qualified technical practitioners,"* stated Leech. The Minister promised to stay in touch with ASTTBC.

www.asttbc.org/docs/lekstrom.pdf

MLA Expresses Interest in Technology Education and Careers

The MLA for Prince George – Omineca, John Rustad, spoke with ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech, ASCT, CAE, about the status of technology education and careers in central and northern BC. They talked about approaches being taken by the colleges, notably the College of New Caledonia, to seek approval and funding for new technology programs in Prince George and other communities in central and northern BC. John also spoke with the MLA about ASTTBC's Technology Skills Roundtables; proposals to expand concepts like the BIG Little Science Centre throughout BC; and ASTTBC's plans for a First Nations Careers Council. ASTTBC's concerns about professional

recognition and rights to practice were another key topic during the discussion. John Leech emphasized his concern that the current professional regulatory framework does not adequately address the rights to independent practice of ASTTBC members. He cited recent changes to the Engineers Act in Alberta which created a one act – two association model whereby engineers and geoscientists continue to be regulated by APEGGA and the technologists and technicians by ASET, while introducing a new Professional Technologist title that will be jointly-regulated by APEGGA and ASET. John Leech asked John Rustad to assist ASTTBC in its efforts to secure changes to professional legislation that will lead to the fullest possible recognition and utilization of ASTTBC-registered technology professionals.

www.asttbc.org/docs/rustad2.pdf

BC Economic Summit

'Opportunities North: The Northern Economic Summit' on January 22 and 23 2009 and the 'British Columbia Economic Summit' which will follow on February 3 and 4, are unique forums that will bring business, government and community leaders together to highlight the choices, challenges and potential of the provincial economy. Prominent speakers will join Premier Gordon Campbell and British Columbia's cabinet ministers at each two-day summit, providing an interactive forum aimed at shaping the economic future of our province.

ASTTBC is one of the sponsors for the Prince George event. The Association will have its booth in the Prince George trade show and will present its Technology Provider of the Year Award at the awards banquet. ASTTBC Vice President Doug Carter, CTech, and Executive Director John Leech, ASCT, CAE, will be joined by Prince George and area members. "I hope members will join in for at least one of the days. It represents a tremendous learning and networking opportunity", said Doug Carter, who is also Chief Engineer at UNBC.

www.thebceconomicsummit.ca

Recognizing Excellence

ASTTBC's annual Awards & Recognition Celebration is a way of saying thanks to the Association's many volunteers. It is a time to honor highly talented people, the ASTTBC award recipients. And, it is an opportunity for ASTTBC to thank partner organizations for their contributions and for members to connect with colleagues in the science and technology community.

Speaking at the event on October 25 2008, ASTTBC President Darrin Heisler, ASCT, said *"We are rolling out the red carpet as we celebrate 50 years of success."* He went on to extend a west-coast welcome to all special guests, and a particular thanks to colleagues from the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists and the other provincial technology associations who traveled thousands of miles in some cases.

Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, was the guest speaker. As well, emcee John Leech, ASCT, CAE, read out a message of congratulations from the Premier. Mayor Sam Sullivan brought greetings on behalf of the City of Vancouver.

A highlight of the evening was the launch of the 500x50 campaign accompanied a cheque for \$25,000 from ASTTBC. The goal of this joint ASTTBC / FEAT initiative is to increase the Technology Legacy Fund to \$500,000. By the end of the evening the 500x50 campaign was well underway with total contributions of nearly \$40,000. This included the cheque from ASTTBC; donations from members, staff and past presidents; and proceeds from the silent auction and raffle at the gala.

Something else that made this a 'once in a lifetime' event was a special presentation to

Sever Rondestvedt, ASCT, member number 007, for 50 years of continuous membership in the Association. Later in the evening, \$1,000 bursaries were presented to six students who are just on the cusp of their careers in technology. *"I thoroughly enjoyed the banquet and celebrations. It was an honor to have been invited to such an event,"* said Ben Dunsmuir, one of the students who received a bursary.

Award Recipients

The following were recognized at the ASTTBC Awards & Recognition Celebration on October 25 2008:

- **Advanced Technology Award**
Stephen Ibaraki, Chairman, iGEN Knowledge Solutions
- **Professional Achievement Award**
Trevor Hutton, ASCT, General Manager, North Salt Spring Waterworks District.
Luke McDonald, ASCT, Project Manager, L&M Engineering Limited
Edgardo Tapia, ASCT, President, Odessa Manufacturing Incorporated
Mike Lambert, CTech, Associate Deputy Minister & CEO, BC Public Service Leadership Centre
(unable to attend)
- **Honorary Membership**
M.J. Whitemarsh CEO of the Canadian Home Builders' Association – British Columbia
John Reynolds, MP (unable to attend)
- **Professional Leadership Award for Women in Technology**
Corinne Dalgas, ASCT, Program Coordinator, Civil Engineering, BCIT
- **Employer Award for the Enhancement of Career Success of Women as Technology Professionals**
Dayton & Knight Ltd., Consulting Engineers
- **R. Litledale Memorial Award**
Richard Mayer, ASCT, Manager, Corporate Identity, ASTTBC (unable to attend).

Two ASTTBC members were recognized by Stephen Gould, CET, President of the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists. Geoff Sale, ASCT, received the CCTT Volunteer of the Year Award for his service as Chair of the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board. Harold Clifford, ASCT, President of Shelter Industries Inc was presented with the CCTT National Achievement Award.

ASTTBC '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.

From ASTTBC's 829 female members, there was a 23% response rate. *"This is a great response and we are pleased that so many people took the time to participate,"* says Nancy Fowler, ASCT, project leader. *"Of the 191 responders, 36% volunteered their time to pursue this subject further, I think that is amazing!"*

A team of women, made up of technology practitioners, is analyzing the survey results. The twelve individuals represent ASTTBC female members across age, discipline and location. Given the magnitude of the information received in the survey responses, analysis will not be completed until Spring. *"Our initial look at the data tells us that we have some great material and we are anxious to share our findings and recommendations with government, educators, industry and all of our members,"* continues Nancy.

The findings will drive ASTTBC 'next steps'. Some activities are already underway by ASTTBC to address some of the preliminary findings. For example, a 'Women In Technology Forum' is being planned.

Following are some preliminary statistics from the survey and a sneak peek at some of the responses:

- Response rate: 23% (191 of 829 recipients).
- Age group responding: 26% 18 to 30 years, 27% 31 to 40 years, 31% 41 to 50 years, 16% 51+ years.
- Majority discipline groups responding for Technologists/Technicians: 26% Civil, 17% Environmental, 14% Building.

- Majority discipline groups responding for Technical Specialists: 46% Building Design, 21% Onsite Wastewater.
- Locations responding: 19% Okanagan, Kootenays, Kamloops, 28% Vancouver Island, 38% LML and Fraser Valley, 11% Prince George and North, 4% out of province.

Category # 1: Choosing a Career in Technology

- Subjects most enjoyed in school: 72% selected the Sciences
- Age at which decision was made to follow a technology career path: 54% were 18+ years
- Important age to capture a girl's interest in technology/science: 39% selected 9-12 years and 41% selected 13 to 17 years.

Category # 2: Entering the Workforce in a Technology Career

- Timing of entering the workforce in a technology career: 60% within the last 13 years
- Difficulty in finding a job in the field of study: 33% had difficulties

Category # 3: Developing Your Technology Career

- Career goals: 57% choose to stay hands-on in the technical field
- Company support to attain career goals: 80% have between good to excellent support

More to come...visit the web site at www.asttbc.org/careers/womenintech.php or read ASTT e-News.

Women In Technology Blog

March 24, 2009 is an international day of blogging to draw attention to women excelling in technology. 'Ada Lovelace Day' is a chance for you to blog about the women in technology that you look up to. The list of tech-related careers is endless. It's up to you how you interpret the phrase 'in technology' and you could tell the story of any woman who creates, invents, or uses any technology in an innovative way. To take part all you need to do is sign the pledge www.pledgebank.com/AdaLovelaceDay, pick your tech heroine and then publish your blog post any time on Tuesday 24th March 2009. It doesn't matter how new or old your blog is, what gender you are, what language you blog in, or what you normally blog about - everyone is invited. <http://findingada.com>

Sustainability Volunteer Opportunity

After serving for several years as ASTTBC's representative on APEGBC's Sustainability Committee, Michelle Bast, ASCT, is looking for another technologist or technician who shares a keen interest for sustainability to get involved. *"I appreciate the opportunities and experience I've had through being a part of the committee,"* says Michelle. ASTTBC would like to thank Michelle for her contribution to this important committee. Members who are interested in volunteering as the ASTTBC representative on the APEGBC Sustainability Committee should email techinfo@asttbc.org using the subject line 'Sustainability Volunteer'.

Technologist Pays Dues Promptly And Wins iPod

Members who paid their ASTTBC dues by December 31 2008 were automatically entered into a draw for an iPod. David Wiese, ASCT, won the draw and received a personalized blue 8Gb iPod Nano. Thanks to all members who paid promptly, it helps reduce administration costs for your Association.

<https://secure.asttbc.com/registration/dues/paydues1.php>

Landfill Gas Regulation Recognizes Qualified Professionals

The Landfill Gas Management Regulation under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Emissions Standards) Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 became effective January 1 2009. This initiative is part

of Ministry of Environment's support for the provincial government's commitment to reduce greenhouse gases by at least 33% below current levels by 2020. The Ministry will be implementing the new regulation in the coming months and will be working with groups like ASTTBC and other stakeholders on the landfill gas management guidelines.

"We are pleased to see this new Regulation includes Qualified Professionals," says John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director. "It is an example where legislation or regulation provides full recognition of the skill set of our members."

A 'qualified professional' is defined in the Regulation as a professional who is an applied scientist or technologist who is registered in BC with a professional association and is therefore subject to a Code of Ethics and disciplinary actions and who has suitable education, experience, accreditation and knowledge respecting solid waste and landfill gas management.

Connecting With Internationally-Educated Professionals

Prakash Joshi, ASCT, Eng.L, represented ASTTBC at the annual general meeting of the Bangladeshi Engineers and Applied Scientists of BC on December 20 2008. Prakash is a council director of ASTTBC. In conveying greetings, he congratulated BEASBC on including technicians within their association. He suggested BEASBC, ASTTBC and APEGBC work together to help internationally educated professionals establish careers in BC. The role of BEASBC is to assist immigrant engineers, technologists and technicians with networking, career guidance and job placement. As a musician and a composer Prakash also entertained the audience after the AGM dinner. He works as a Senior Materials Engineering Technologist with Metro Testing.

CNC Medical Lab Technology Program A Winner

ASTTBC sponsored the 'Healthier You Conference' in Prince George in November 2008. That included offering the ASTTBC Technology In Health Care Award. This year's recipient of the Award was the College of New Caledonia for its Medical Laboratory Technology Science diploma program. Meg Janecki, ASCT, ASTTBC's Manager, e-Business, presented a plaque to CNC staffers Karen Bowers, Yvonne Yaschuk, Kathleen Thompson, Claire Hicks, Sheila Scharf and Chris Taruc. CNC President John Bowman was on-hand at the Awards Ceremony, and noted that, *"Everyone at CNC is excited and proud of the success of the Medical Laboratory Technology program over the past year."*

The ASTTBC Technology In Health Care Award goes to a company, organization or individual who has developed, introduced or improved a technology product or has improved the interface or service between technology and health care which enhances health and wellness within Northern British Columbia.

ASTTBC Sparks Two Student Study Prizes

ASTTBC provided a \$1,000 study prize for one female high-school student attending the 'Today's Woman Show' in Prince George. The money is to help cover the cost of any technical program at a college in BC. At the conference luncheon, ASTTBC Council member Nancy Fowler, ASCT, drew the winner. Patricia Daduica will be enrolling in a program at the College of New Caledonia in 2009. The College of New Caledonia agreed to match the ASTTBC prize with a second \$1,000 draw. The winner of that prize was Lakin Peck.

ASTTBC Pegs Deal With BC Wood WORKS!

ASTTBC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with BC Wood WORKS! to advance links between the two organizations and to further the use of wood in building construction and other applications. The agreement calls for both associations to collaborate in areas of common interest, including training for practitioners and ensuring there is a qualified workforce of sustainable technology practitioners in BC. Mat Tracey, BC Wood WORKS! Executive Director, and John Leech, ASCT, CAE, ASTTBC Executive Director, signed the agreement at a training session in Victoria. BC Wood WORKS! is the provincial arm of the Canadian Wood Council.

www.asttbc.org/docs/mou.pdf

Catapult Competition Seeks Sponsor

ASTTBC has stepped up as first place sponsor for the Wood WORKS! Catapult Competition. Event organizers are also looking for a sponsor for third place. At the \$500 level, this gives the sponsor a judging position at the event along with web site and media exposure. This competition has been integrated into the UBC engineering courses and provides an excellent opportunity to add content about wood in engineering to the curriculum as well as injecting some fun at the same time. The first year, 2007, saw two technology students from Okanagan College take first place. In 2008, 'The Knights Who Say NIC', carpentry students from North Island College, took the honors. A video of last year's event is posted on the Wood WORKS! web site at www.wood-works.org

Kamloops Science Centre Plans Open House

The BIG Little Science Centre will feature Mandrake the Magician as guest presenter at its open house on February 21 2009. *"This will be a return engagement because he was such a popular main attraction at our open house in 2007,"* says Gordon Gore, President of BIG Little. ASTTBC members are encouraged to volunteer at the Open House and/or take their families to the event. www.biglittlesciencecentre.org

Career Opportunities In Qatar

Steve Bolan, ASCT, a member of ASTTBC, has been working in Doha, Qatar for the past five years. Qatar is a tiny country jutting into the Persian Gulf next to Saudi Arabia. After working in Kamloops as a Biomedical Engineering Technologist for 10 years, Steve relocated to Newfoundland to start a program in Biomedical Engineering Technology at College of the North Atlantic, where he remained until relocating to Doha to help build engineering technology programs. Steve is currently the Chair of Engineering Technology at College of the North Atlantic-Qatar (CNAQ) and loves every minute of it.

Doha is a rapidly growing city that, while westernized, still retains the mystique of the Middle East. There are always new things to do and see: watching world-class sporting and entertainment events, riding ATV's on the sand dunes, exploring the souqs (markets), or watching camel races to name a few. Travel opportunities are endless. Since accepting the posting in Qatar, Steve and his wife have traveled to more than 35 countries on all continents except Antarctica.

The School of Engineering at CNAQ offers two and three year engineering technician and technology diploma programs in Mechanical, Chemical Processing, Electrical and Telecommunications Engineering Technology. The curriculum for these programs is based upon local industry requirements and the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board's National Technology Benchmarks. Initial accreditation for three of these engineering technology programs is currently underway. The School currently employs 50 technical faculty, many of whom are certified as CTech's, AscT's, CET's, or PTech's from CCTT constituent members associations.

CNAQ is always looking to hire Canadian certified technical professionals. If you are interested in the career experience of a lifetime visit www.cna-qatar.com or www.cna.nl.ca/qatar

TechPRO – Ron Hein, ROWP

Technical Specialist Heads Up Onsite Wastewater Registration Program.

For Ron Hein, ROWP, pushing to improve techniques and move beyond the 'we've always done it that way' mentality has been a cornerstone of his career.

As head of his own firm, Coast Mountain Earth Sciences, Ron has inspected more than 3,000 residential and commercial onsite wastewater treatment systems across BC. Combine that with his legal 'expert witness' status regarding onsite wastewater; his involvement with the original Sewerage System Regulation committee; the BC Onsite Sewage Association; and his work as an

instructor with the Westcoast Onsite Wastewater Training Centre and he becomes the ideal person to be Manager of the Onsite Wastewater Registration Program at ASTTBC. Under this program, registration certificates are issued by the Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC that certify that the holder is competent to plan, construct, maintain or inspect a sewerage system that uses a treatment method classified as Type 1 or Type 2.

Ron had originally planned to study engineering after high school, but a work experience assignment led to full-time employment in the public safety sector before graduation. *"Still thinking I would go on to engineering school, I decided to lay the groundwork by taking a few civil courses at BCIT,"* he says. *"I absolutely enjoyed the mix of practical and theoretical there and it swayed me to go into construction."* He was soon providing construction management services and site supervision for engineering firms. Government contacts led to the wastewater treatment world, first on a municipal level and then into onsite treatment. *"I found I had a career going that I really enjoyed and I decided not to become an engineer after all,"* he adds. *"I really liked the problem solving, the 'how can we make it better' approach of the inspection work."*

He sees the Onsite Wastewater Registration Program and others at ASTTBC as benefiting both the consumer and the member by raising work standards and the image of practitioners. A 'Practice Assessment Program' is in the works to provide ROWPs with constructive feedback and specific recommendations for improvements, and Ron is keen to develop a continuing professional development program to assist.

"The ultimate goal is to increase professionalism," he says. *"What we want to do is help our registered practitioners become even better at their job. It's been great to talk to these guys. I'm impressed by their desire to make a career in this industry and how they are looking at every aspect to see where they can improve their service and their business. Whatever I can do to help them achieve that, I'm there."*

Corporate Discount For Leadership Series

ASTTBC is pleased to inform you of a special offer to attend the Power Within Leadership Series in Vancouver on March 6, 2009 at GM Place. This event features a line up of dynamic speakers:

- Michael Phelps, 8 Time Beijing Olympic Gold Medalist on High Performance
- Dr. Mehmet Oz, Guest Appearances on The Oprah Winfrey Show, Professor of Surgery at Columbia University on Personal Achievement, Wellness & Success
- Patrick Lencioni, Best Selling Author, 'The Five Dysfunctions of a Team' on Management
- Mimi Donaldson, Co-author of 'Negotiating for Dummies' on Effective Communication & Stress Management
- Christopher P. Gardner, Author 'The Pursuit of Happiness' on Personal Inspiration
- Adrien Smith, 3 Time Grey Cup Champion on Teamwork
- Jamie Clark, Author of 'Everest to Arabia' on The Power of Passion.

Members and guests of ASTTBC are eligible to receive a corporate discount.

www.asttbc.org/docs/powerwithin.pdf

TechLINKS

BC Wood Design Awards - Call for Nominations deadline February 6 2009. Wood WORKS! BC, a project of the Canadian Wood Council, is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Wood Design Awards competition. The awards honour excellence in wood-based projects and recognize the people and organizations that are pioneering and presenting the use of wood in British Columbia. Nominated projects will showcase the special qualities of wood such as strength, beauty, versatility, and cost-effectiveness. www.wood-works.org

Bioremediation Protocol Draft. The Land Remediation Section of the Ministry of Environment has released for public comment draft Protocol 15, 'Soil Treatment Facility Design and Operation for Bioremediation of Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soil'. It was developed after a review of similar

requirements in other jurisdictions. Send comments no later than February 27 2009 to Tyler O'Grady, Senior Contaminated Sites Officer at Tyler.OGrady@gov.bc.ca. The draft protocol is available at: www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/remediation/requests_for_comments/index.htm

Contaminated Sites Regulation, Stage 6 Amendments. These new amendments came into effect on January 1 2009. Many of the amendments expand or amend the environmental quality standards in the Regulation. Key changes to the standards include new Schedule 5 matrices for barium, chloride ion and sodium ion, and new standards for wildlands and vapours. As well, a number of clarifications have been made to the site profile regime (including a new version of the site profile form) and an updated Summary of Site Condition form has been added as Schedule 1.1. www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/remediation/updates/index.htm

'Workplace Connections' Newsletter. MOSAIC has been serving immigrants and refugees for more than thirty years. Their Workplace Outreach Program has just launched 'Working Papers', a newsletter for workplace connections participants. www.mosaicbc.com

'Assisted Living & Residential Care Fire & Life Safety' Publication Available. In British Columbia, there is a growing interest in making available a range of housing, support and care options for seniors and other vulnerable adults. Two of the options in this range, registered assisted living and licensed residential care, are regulated by the provincial government. The laws governing assisted living residences and residential care facilities are intended to reduce risks to the health and safety of the people living there. Of particular interest to several groups of stakeholders are the provisions governing fire and life safety. The purpose of this publication is to clarify the fire and life safety provisions established for assisted living residences and residential care facilities, particularly small group homes. www.health.gov.bc.ca/ccf/publications/index.html

TechEVENTS

Roads to Green 2009, February 3 2009, Vancouver. Overview and tour of Canada Line Project; luncheon; sessions in two streams – Technical and Planning & Policy; reception and Deputy Minister's Awards Dinner. Sponsored by CEBC and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. www.cebc.org/subcalendar/upcomingcalendar.html

Buildex Vancouver Conference & Exposition, February 11 - 12 2009, Vancouver. The Buildex Vancouver Conference & Exposition, featuring The BC Construction Show, offers the latest products and services in 550 exhibits to the architectural, construction, interior design, property management and real estate industries. Free trade show passes available through ASTTBC, limited quantities, contact techinfo@asttbc.org. Register before January 29 for lower conference prices. www.buildexvancouver.com

Gender and Communication Workshop, February 12 2009, Vancouver. The Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology, in partnership with the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Association of Women in Finance, is pleased to presenting a workshop on communication dynamics common to mixed gender workplaces. www.scwist.ca/images/uploads/gender_and_communication.pdf

Land Remediation Update and Consultation Session, February 16 – 17, 2009, Vancouver. Land Remediation Section work plans, Stage 6 Amendments, UST Regulation, brownfield renewal strategy, compliance strategy, groundwater, soil vapours, salt standards, and more. Restricted to 130 attendees. The registration form is available on Ministry of Environment web site.

Soil Vapour Workshop, February 17 - 18 2009, Vancouver. The GeoEnviroLogic Professional Development Soil Vapour Workshop will provide details on the new vapour standards and guidance for soil vapour investigation and remediation. The Soil Vapour Workshop is paired with Ministry of Environment information sessions taking place on February 16 and 17. Information on regulatory aspects, selection of COPCs, use of available models and spreadsheets, and a focus on 'how-to' in terms of investigation layout, sampling methods, analytical methods, and soil vapour mitigation. www.geoenvirologic.ca

BIG Little Science Centre Open House, February 21 2009, Kamloops. Fun for students and

parents; featuring guest presenter Lon Mandrake. blscs.org

Building SustainAble Communities, February 24 - 26 2009, Kelowna. More than 100 speakers from the public, private, non-profit and academic sectors will address a range of topics including sustainable agriculture, sustainable business, and community sustainability. Third annual event by the Fresh Outlook Foundation. www.freshoutlookfoundation.org

ExpoFor 2009, February 25 – 27 2009, Prince George. ABCFP's annual forestry conference and AGM. This year's event will feature a public education forum in addition to numerous plenary and breakout session to interest every forest professional. www.expofor.ca

Regional Intermodal Transportation Conference, February 25 2009, Bellevue Washington. Utilizing technology and collaboration to enhance regional transportation security. Offered by the Security Network inside the three day Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate Stakeholders West Conference. www.thesecuritynetwork.org

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.cpmsnational.com

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.cpmsnational.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 (tbc) 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

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

ASTTBC AGM, May 22 2009. 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

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

World Forestry Congress, October 18 – 25 2009, Buenos Aires. The theme is 'Forests in development – a vital balance'. www.wfc2009.org

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