



ASTT e-News, July 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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Call For Award Nominations

Deadline looming, submit your nomination right away!

Each year ASTTBC recognizes outstanding Technology Professionals in BC through its Awards Program. We invite you to help us identify individuals who are deserving of an ASTTBC Award. Awards include: Advanced Technology; Honorary Membership; Life Membership; Peter Allan ASCT Leadership; Professional Achievement; R. Littledale Memorial; Employer Award for Career Enhancement and Success of Women as Technology Professionals; and Professional Leadership Award for Women in Technology. Submissions need to be received by August 15, 2009. For details on all awards and to submit your nomination, please visit www.asttbc.org/about/awards/nominations.php

Letters of Assurance Input Sought

The Building and Safety Policy Branch is seeking public input on three proposals for changes to Provincial building regulations. The Branch is planning to update the Building Code's 'Letters of Assurance'. The update responds to industry requests and supports the Modernization Strategy's shift toward more clearly defined responsibilities and accountabilities. The Branch is also looking for input on proposed changes regarding high-efficiency toilets in new construction and solar hot-water-ready construction for new single family houses. You are invited to comment on these proposals through the public review until September 14, 2009. <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/consultation/>

Discounts Available To Members

ASTTBC is pleased to extend a number of value-added benefits to your membership. Members are

encouraged to take advantage of the discounts provided by ASTTBC partners. The following are a sampling of those available:

- **Playland and PNE Tickets at Discount Rates.** ASTTBC members have access to savings on various PNE events including Playland, The Fair at the PNE, Fright Nights and other special events. Save up to \$12 on ride passes. Visit www.pne.ca/groupsales and enter group savings code: cohepa72
- **Mercedes-Benz.** Looking for a new car? ASTTBC members are now eligible for rebates on select Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Be sure to advise your salesperson that you are a member of ASTTBC and would like to take advantage of the Association Member Rebate program. Savings will vary by vehicle model.
- **Zipcar.** Zipcar is the world's largest international car sharing program with more than 5,500 vehicles in 30 cities and 250,000 members. It is designed to enhance personal and business travel while decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and costs and hassles associated with rental cars and privately owned vehicles. Zipcar is pleased to extend **free** Zipcar memberships to the members of ASTTBC. New members, who sign up through the ASTTBC special offer, also receive discounted Monday to Friday rates. (The annual membership fee is \$30; member will receive \$30 driving credit on approval). Vancouver usage rates: \$8.25 /hour; \$49 /7am-7pm; \$60 /day including gas, insurance + parking (at designated spots only). Please visit www.zipcar.com/asttbc For further information, or to register your organization, contact: Dave Lewin, Business Development Manager, phone: 604-697-0550 ext 5704, e-mail: dlewin@zipcar.com

Features Added To Home Insurance

Now ASTTBC members can tailor their TD Insurance Meloche Monnex home insurance with **additional water damage protection**, and to **cover an in-home business**. Extreme weather events have caused a dramatic increase in water damage to Canadian homes over the last few years. The changes allow you to protect yourself against damage caused by ground or underground water such as sewer back up and damage caused by water above ground such as heavy snow and water entering through windows. The 'In-Home Office Solution' is specifically designed to cover the needs of the majority of in-home business owners. These new coverage options will be available July 28. For details, phone TD Insurance toll free at 1-866-269-1371 and advise them you are a member of ASTTBC.

TechPRO Boosts Your Profile

The TechPRO section of ASTTBC's web site provides great career information for aspiring technologists, technicians and technical specialists. TechPRO listings allow you to 'catch up' with former colleagues and find out who is working in your community. Posting your profile provides another way for self-employed practitioners to get their names in front of ...if you have not yet posted www.techprofile.ca

The monthly iPod prize-draw from new TechPRO entries has been wrapped up. **Visit the TechPRO posts of our last two iPod winners...**

June - Pam Winterburn-Chilton, ASCT, CRD, at www.techprofile.ca/techprofile.php?4a09f53fT

July - William Mendez, ASCT, at www.techprofile.ca/techprofile.php?4a3bef2d

House & Property Inspectors Newsletter Available

Sean Wiens, CHI(P), the Secretary-Treasurer of the BC Institute of Property Inspectors, has volunteered to produce 'BCIPI Inspector', an electronic newsletter for house and property professionals. Each issue is broadcast to members of the BC Institute of Property Inspectors and is posted on the 'What's New' section of the ASTTBC web site at <http://www.asttbc.org/services/whatsnew.php>

Meet The New ASTTBC President

Effective May 22 2009, Doug Carter, CTech, became the new 's posting on TechPRO at techprofile.ca/techprofile.php?4653c989

Errata – the May issue of ASTT e-News contained a typo in the new Council list. Our apologies to Ken McNames, CTech, CPI.

ASTTBC Public Representatives Report 2009

ASTTBC Council appointed, in May 2007, two Public Representatives to serve on Council. Jim Blake, CA, and John Murphy have completed their first two years in this role. The Public Representatives provide an independent perspective in the governance of the Association. One of their responsibilities is to report on their representation to stakeholders, in particular to the Minister Responsible for the ASTT Act, as well as to the public, ASTTBC members and others. The inaugural Report was tabled at the ASTTBC 50th AGM. www.asttbc.com/about/corporate/documents/PublicRepsReport.pdf

ASTTBC Supports National Framework

"Canada's skilled workers should be fully enabled to function within their competencies," says ASTTBC Executive Director John Leech, ASCT, CAE. "It seems to me the current, decades-old legislative and regulatory framework governing professions and occupations relating to the built and natural environment is no longer adequate. A national framework for professional regulation would enhance Canadian productivity."

The federal Agreement on Internal Trade sets out to achieve portability of credentials for professions and occupations. This government initiative is needed as Canada strives to meet the challenges of a global economy and works to ensure availability of its own skilled workforce. ASTTBC Council has endorsed a statement, the 'Professional & Occupational Regulation and Practice in Canada - A National Framework', that outlines ASTTBC's thoughts on the principles and recommendations for a new approach. The document supports the concept of a national framework and calls for government action. To see the full report visit the July 3 2009 entry in the 'What's New' section of ASTTBC's web site at www.asttbc.org/services/whatsnew.php

Women In Technology Survey Report

On June 30 the ASTTBC 'Women in Technology Survey' report was released at a meeting of the Technology Education and Careers Council that took place at Science World. The attendees, about 30 in all, were representatives from industry, education and other associations, all of whom are very interested in increasing the number of women in technology careers. Women are an untapped resource group. Only 9% of ASTTBC's 9000+ technology professionals are female. The WiT Survey Report identifies the challenges and issues that women face as they choose a career in technology, as they prepare to enter the workforce and as they develop their technology careers. Download a copy of the ASTTBC WiT Survey www.asttbc.com/careers/wit/witsurvey.php

At the close of the June 30 event, ASTTBC launched a new WiT Forum that is available at wit.asttbc.org/sm/. *"This forum offers the opportunity for all to join in on discussions regarding mentorship, women in the workplace, education and other important topics,"* says Nancy Fowler, ASCT, Manager of the WiT Program at ASTTBC. *"Please join the forum and share this site with your peers, students, immigrating professionals, friends and family."*

On October 20 2009, ASTTBC plans to host a Technology Skills Roundtable for all stakeholders to review and discuss BC's talent pool. The WiT survey conclusions and action items will be part of this event. The ASTTBC WiT Panel will be working over the summer to address the next key recommendation for ASTTBC resulting from the Survey report. *"I encourage all members to get involved as we launch support tools for women in technology,"* continued Nancy.

First Nations Careers Council Garners More Attention

The launch of ASTTBC's First Nations Careers Council on April 24 2009 in Kamloops continues to

secure media attention. While a little after the event, the Kamloops North Shore ECHO published an article in their May 27 issue. It included a photo of Tim Duerden, ASCT, Chair of the FNCC, with Jennifer Pighin, the artist who created the FNCC logo, Minister Kevin Krueger and Kamloops Mayor Peter Milobar. www.asttbc.org/services/whatsnew.php

Kootenay Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortage

Castlegar was the site of the fifth in a province-wide series of Technology Skills Shortage consultations that are being spearheaded by ASTTBC. Partnering with the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST) and the Canada West Foundation, ASTTBC co-hosted the presentations and roundtable working groups with industry, educators, professional associations and government. With 35 of the West Kootenay's key stakeholders attending, this event generated wide-ranging discussion and a recognition of the need to create a strategy and get on with it. The core message was that fewer kids in K-12 are being attracted to sciences; and that decreasing enrolments in post secondary technology programs will result in an increasing shortage of technology skills. The impacts to industry and the economy are self-evident. The challenges identified included: technology as a distinct profession is misunderstood; educators and school counselors do not promote technology as a professional career because of this misunderstanding; and parents and students do not realize the career potential as a technology professional. Presentations from Brian Fry, VP Marketing at Rackforce; Kelvin Saldern, ED of KAST; and John Leech, ASCT, CAE, the Executive Director of ASTTBC, spoke to the reality and challenges. Dr. Roslyn Kunin, CM, PhD, Senior Fellow and Director of Canada West BC, spoke of how highly skilled technology professionals are the key to economic recovery and growth. Dr. Kunin stated "*We need technologists and technicians because they know how as well as what to do*". With the participants formed into a series of roundtable working groups, discussion and exploration generated many ideas and opportunities. The next step will be a follow up meeting to identify specific and targeted action.

ASTTBC Joins Interior Career Fair

School District #23 hosted a Science and Technology Career Fair in Kelowna in May. ASTTBC was there. It was an opportunity to meet middle and high school kids, teachers and counselors and to highlight the wide-ranging roles of technology professionals and the potential within technology careers. "*Reaching out to high school counsellors and teachers was a key outcome from our previous Kelowna Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortage,*" says Bruce Stevens, ASCT, ASTTBC's Regional Manager for the Okanagan. "*From the feedback we received at this career fair, it's clear we have begun to really bring some positive attention to technology as a distinct career.*"

Terasen Gas Technologist Forum

On June 4, 2009, Terasen Gas hosted their inaugural 'Technologist Forum'. Held at the company's Surrey office, members from engineering teams including engineers, technicians and technologists attended a forum designed to raise the awareness for the important roles technologists and technicians perform everyday at Terasen Gas. In addition, the event was an opportunity to come together in an environment to share knowledge across a number of departments where technologists make a contribution everyday to BC's public. Jason Jung, ASCT, ASTTBC's Manager of Technology Careers, was on hand to make a presentation about the Association to the approximately 90 people attending the forum. "*It was a great event that was well attended by techs from all over the province,*" he said. "*The topics of discussion were really interesting and it showcased the quality and top-tier work ASTTBC registered technologists and technicians are performing everyday.*" ASTTBC would like to extend a special thank you to Dave Record, ASCT, and Frank Mostad, ASCT, for organizing the event. As well, ASTTBC would like to acknowledge the support of Terasen Gas, and all who made this possible.

TechLINKS

- The **Canadian Home Builders' Association of British Columbia** is offering a residential construction training program that supports transferable business management and building

technology skills. Over 10 months, instructors will deliver 8 separate course modules on topics from business planning to construction law and from the building code to the Certified Energy Advisor program. Participants will enjoy a flexible schedule with both on-line and in-classroom learning in 23 communities throughout BC. Instruction begins in the Fall of 2009.

www.chbabc.org

TechEVENTS

- **Water Engineering for a Sustainable Environment**, August 10-14 2009, Vancouver. The 19th Canadian Hydrotechnical Conference and 33rd International Association of Hydraulic Engineering & Research Biennial Congress, focuses on the central roles of hydraulic engineering and hydro-informatics in water engineering for a sustainable environment, and how these roles link to broader aspects of environment sustainability in watershed and coastal settings.
<http://content.asce.org/conferences/iahr09/>
- **Canadian Quality Congress**, August 19-21 2009, Vancouver. The theme is 'Focus on Future: Quality, Innovation and Social Responsibility'. www.CanadianQualityCongress.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
- **ASHRAE Okanagan Trade Show**, September 30 2009, Kamloops. 'The Green Advantage' will feature a trade show plus technical sessions on photovoltaic technologies; the Green Dream Home joint project of CHBA and TRU Equilibrium; the Sustainable Housing Demonstration Initiative; and energy-efficient heating of hot water. www.ashrae.bc.ca
- **VRCA Awards of Excellence**, October 1 2009, Vancouver. The Vancouver Regional Construction Association will hold it's 21st Annual Awards of Excellence Dinner to celebrate excellence in construction. www.vrca.bc.ca
- **APEGBC 2009 Annual Conference & AGM**, October 15 – 17 2009, Victoria. Join professional engineers and geoscientists, government representatives, industry leaders and consultants in discussing sector-related issues as well as celebrate initiatives made by APEGBC members.
secure.apeg.bc.ca/imisCustom/Events/EventsCalendar.aspx
- **ASTTBC Technology Skills Roundtable**, October 20 2009, Vancouver. ASTTBC will host a roundtable for all stakeholders to: a) review and discuss the Women In Technology Survey report conclusions and, b) to establish action items to address the key recommendations. Watch ASTT e-News for details or visit www.asttbc.org
- **ASTTBC Awards & Recognition Celebration**, November 7 2009, Vancouver. This gala recognizes award winners in technology, thanks the Association's many volunteers, and provides an evening of entertainment. It coincides with National Technology Week. Watch for details in the fall. www.asttbc.org

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