



## ASTT e-News, October, 2007

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

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## **ASTTBC Skills Roundtable To Be Webcast**

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In June ASTTBC hosted a 'Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortage' which brought together industry leaders and the Hon. Colin Hansen, Minister of Economic Development for BC, to work on a Technology Skills Action Plan.

ASTTBC and key participants will be continuing this dialogue at a second roundtable on October 31, 2007 at the Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver, BC. The goal of this larger roundtable is to get down to specifics on key strategies and agreeing on collective actions for moving forward.

Attendance at 'Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortage II' is by invitation due to limited seating, however, the event will be web cast and ASTTBC members are encouraged to log-on on October 31.

*For more information visit [www.asttbc.org/RTSS](http://www.asttbc.org/RTSS)*

## **ASTTBC / BC Hydro Student Bursaries Deadline Extended**

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ASTTBC's charitable foundation, the Foundation for Education & Advancement in Technology, provides a number of \$1,000 bursaries for students in accredited technology programs. Three of the ASTTBC/BC Hydro bursaries are still available for 2007. The **deadline** for applications for the ASTTBC/BC Hydro bursaries has been extended to **Monday, October 15, 2007**.

Students... if you qualify, send in your application right away.

*For information on eligibility criteria and application process, please visit [www.asttbc.com/about/foundation/howtoapply.php](http://www.asttbc.com/about/foundation/howtoapply.php)*

## **TechPRO**

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Just a reminder that TechPRO, ASTTBC's online database designed to showcase our members is live and ready to go! We encourage AScT's, CTech's, GradTech's and Technical Specialist members to post their profiles.

Aside from public recognition on the TechPRO website, you'll be helping join ASTTBC in promoting careers in technology. The public and youth alike will learn about the important role technologists, technicians, and technical specialists play in our everyday lives.

Visit TechPRO at [www.techprofile.ca](http://www.techprofile.ca) and view profiles or better yet, post your profile today!

## Member Survey To Be Conducted

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ASTTBC will be conducting a survey to measure how well the Association is doing, and to find out what members feel ASTTBC should focus on going forward. The survey will be conducted on-line and will only take about 10 minutes to complete. Coming soon! Watch for it... participate... make your opinion count.

## Risk Management Seminars

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ASTTBC's seminars on Risk Management this past year benefited many members. We are planning on reaching out to different areas of the province starting in November with the next series of seminars. Once the plans are finalized, we'll be sending out by broadcast email details on the seminar content, locations, and how to register. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

## Final Dues Reminder

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Members are reminded that any dues outstanding puts your professional registration with ASTTBC at risk. If you have any unpaid dues, please contact Nicky Malli, Manager, Finance & Administration at 604-585-2788 ext 230 or [nmalli@asttbc.org](mailto:nmalli@asttbc.org) **immediately before your registration is cancelled.**

## ASTTBC Sponsors Vancouver Island Technology Award

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The Mid-Island Science, Technology & Innovation Council 'Science, Technology & Innovation Awards' takes place November 1, 2007 in Parksville.

ASTTBC is a platinum sponsor and is providing a 'Leadership In Technology Award' for this ground-breaking MISTIC event. While the deadline for award nominations has closed for this year, members on Vancouver Island are encouraged to get tickets to the awards banquet before they are sold out.

[Visit www.mistic.bc.ca/awards.asp](http://www.mistic.bc.ca/awards.asp)

## ASTTBC Sponsors Technology

## **In Health Care Award**

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In November, 2007 a forum in Prince George called 'A Healthier You' will bring together government and community decision makers, educators, business and healthcare professionals and the community at large. The forum will be hosted by Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Education & Deputy Premier.

As part of the event, ASTTBC is sponsoring a 'Technology In Health Care' Award. The ASTTBC award will be given to a company, individual or organization that 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. The awards banquet will be held Friday, November 16, 2007.

The purpose of 'A Healthier You' is to provide an educational platform for people that are interested in how they can use both traditional and holistic forms of health to improve their quality of life.

*To nominate candidates for the ASTTBC 'Technology In Health Care' award, please visit [www.ahealthieryouexpo.com](http://www.ahealthieryouexpo.com)*

## **2008 Dues Invoices To Be Sent By E-mail**

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Invoices for ASTTBC annual dues for 2008 will be sent out electronically for the first time this year. Please log-on to [www.asttbc.org](http://www.asttbc.org) to update your contact information if you have moved, changed your email address or have a new employer. Please make sure we have your correct email address so that you can receive all information promptly. Members who have not provided ASTTBC with an e-mail address will continue to receive their annual dues notice by regular mail.

***Help your Association reduce administrative costs. Please use on-line payment to send in your dues promptly. Thank you.***

## **National Technology Week**

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Mark your calendars! National Technology Week runs this year from November 5 to 9, 2007 and your Association will be front and centre.

National Technology Week is Canada's showcase of exciting career choices available in applied science and engineering technology. Held annually during the first week of November, National Technology Week offers a host of activities along with interactive and fun resources to help students, teachers and parents explore technical careers, particularly the 14 different fields in which over 50,000 certified technicians and technologists contribute to Canada's workforce.

ASTTBC is working on a host of different events and activities that are designed to showcase technology careers. Whether it's getting involved with 'Take your Kids to Work Day', talking

about careers in technology with friends and family, or participating in both provincial and national activities, we encourage you to get involved.

Please stay tuned to the ASTT web site as we'll be posting a list of activities and events taking place around the province soon!

Visit [www.nationaltechnologyweek.ca](http://www.nationaltechnologyweek.ca)

## **Tech's Recognized In Ontario Water Regulations**

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The Ontario Ministry of Environment has amended Ontario's Wells Regulation to strengthen protection of public health and drinking water supplies. One of the key changes to the regulation is a new class of licence for well technicians who primarily do monitoring, sampling and testing. Qualified professional engineers and geoscientists as well as certified engineering technicians and technologists are exempt from this licence.

Regulation 903 covers all wells including public and private, municipal and rural, agricultural, commercial and industrial - as well as test holes, dewatering wells, and monitoring wells. It sets out minimum standards for siting, constructing, tagging and reporting, maintaining and decommissioning wells. The regulation also sets out the licensing requirements for businesses and individuals engaged in well construction, pump and other equipment installation, as well as standards for the design, construction, maintenance and abandonment or decommissioning of wells.

*"We have been successful at ensuring that OACETT certified members, along with professional engineers and geoscientists, are treated equally as 'Qualified Persons' under certain sections of the regulations," says David Thomson, Executive Director of OACETT, ASTTBC's counterpart organization in Ontario. "Part of OACETT's government relations strategy, working in conjunction with the colleges, is to ensure that our certified members are recognized by convincing government that they are 'Qualified Persons' to undertake work detailed under regulations. We continue to protect public safety while advancing the competitiveness of the province."*

ASTTBC plays a similar role in BC. Technologists were recognized as 'qualified professionals' in the Municipal Sewage Regulation and the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation that came into effect in 2003, in part due to the efforts of ASTTBC.

*"The news from Ontario is another solid achievement and formal recognition of technologists and technicians. It adds to the growing list across Canada where we are listed as qualified persons or qualified professionals," said ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech, ASCT CAE. "ASTTBC has a good track record in achieving 'QP' status. It continues to be a focus here in BC and across Canada."*

It has long been ASTTBC's view that legislation and regulations should give full recognition to all qualified practitioners. This will become even more important as the nation searches for answers to the skills shortage.

## ASTTBC Member Helps New Canadians

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Wayne Nowlan, CTech, Superintendent of Waterworks Technology School, has discovered a way to help internationally trained professionals get started on a career in Canada. The school that he has operated for ten years provides post-secondary training for water, sewer and infrastructure construction. The course takes three months of full-time study.

*"The training is often taken by internationally trained professionals," says Wayne. "It opens doors for them to connect with a practical point of view here in Canada."*

Wayne Nowlan, CTech, joined ASTTBC in 1995. Now he finds he is often giving ASTTBC application packages to graduates, encouraging them to get involved in the Association to start building a career in Canada. In March 2007, Nowlan and Waterworks Technology School were recognized with the 'DIVERSEcity Award for Business' for multi-cultural inclusiveness. In 2005, he received the Diamond Pin Award from American Water Works Association for his outstanding sponsorship of new members into the water and wastewater industry over the years.

***Members - Do you have an interesting career-related story that we could profile in ASTT News or ASTT e-News? Contact [editor@asttbc.org](mailto:editor@asttbc.org)***

## New Bridge At Kicking Horse Canyon

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The new Park Bridge along the Trans-Canada Highway in Kicking Horse Canyon has been completed. The 405-metre span soars as high 90 metres above the canyon. The \$130-million project eliminates a notorious and winding stretch of road.

***Note to ASTTBC members: If you worked on this project, please contact [editor@asttbc.org](mailto:editor@asttbc.org) about a possible 'member profile' article in ASTT News.***

## Buying or Building A Home?

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If you are buying or building a home, there are several groups within ASTTBC that specialize in providing housing-related services:

### House and Property Inspection

The purchase of residential or commercial property represents a significant investment. A quality inspection gives the purchaser or building owner detailed information about the building and the systems within it. A **Certified Property Inspector (CPI) or Certified House Inspector (CHI)** is qualified with the education, training and experience to carry out professional house and property inspections.

*For a list of certified house and property inspectors, visit the BC Institute of Property Inspectors web site at [www.bcipi.net](http://www.bcipi.net)*

## **Site Improvements Surveys**

The practice of Site Improvements Surveys is the determination of the relative location of structures to cadastral survey monuments and Land Titles Office records and plans. These surveys are typically required by lending institutions as a condition of mortgage approval, and by municipal authorities as part of the building permit process prior to construction. ASTTBC membership is required before one may be **Registered in Site Improvements Surveys (RSIS)**.

*Contact ASTTBC for a list of practitioners with the RSIS designation.*

## **Building Design**

The designations of **Registered Building Designer (RBD)** and **Certified Residential Designer (CRD)** represent professional building designers practicing in BC under provincial statute with ASTTBC. Members' expertise covers the full spectrum from residential, commercial and industrial to recreational allowing them to offer uncompromising professionalism and service in the design and construction of buildings. In the public interest, RBDs and CRDs work with architects and professional engineers where required by law.

*For a list of building designers, please visit the Building Designers Institute of BC web site at [www.bdibc.bc.ca](http://www.bdibc.bc.ca)*

## **On Site Wastewater**

The majority of BC homes outside of cities use onsite systems to handle their sewage. The Ministry of Health Sewerage System Regulation provides for two types of Authorized Person - a Professional, such as a Professional Engineer, and a **Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP)** to plan, install and maintain an onsite system. In order to be registered by ASTTBC, the ROWP must demonstrate experience and complete required education. ROWPs must follow a 'Standard Practice Manual' provided by the Ministry of Health, which sets out the current best practices. ASTTBC registers four main classifications of ROWP: planner, installer, maintenance provider, and private inspector.

*For a list of ROWP practitioners, visit [owrp.asttbc.org](http://owrp.asttbc.org)*

## **BCIT Orientation**

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On September 4 ASTTBC staff attended 'Student Orientation Day' at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby campus. ASTTBC had its information booth set up in the Great Hall where staff greeted both first and second year students. It was an excellent opportunity for

ASTTBC to connect with students from a variety of accredited engineering and applied science technology programs. ASTTBC looks forward to continuing a presence not only at BCIT but at many of the other colleges and institutes around the province.

## **Co-op Students Available**

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Mechanical Engineering second-year students from Camosun College are available for work between October 2007 and April 2008 through the Co-op Education Program.

*Contact Nan Judd, the employment facilitator leading the technology programs at [juddn@camosun.ca](mailto:juddn@camosun.ca)*

## **Pine Beetle Database Available**

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Geoscience BC has released 'Geoscience BC Report 2007-9' which consolidates a large and diverse collection of data on the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation in BC. The database contains more than 30,000 samples, covering over 250,000 square kilometers in BC's interior. It will be useful in planning detailed surveys and targeted studies, identifying gaps in geochemical data that can be profiled for future attention, and providing long-term data management advantages.

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

## **Equity Funding For Start-Ups**

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On November 14 2007, more than 30 pre-screened technology, service and manufacturing companies will be able to meet with private equity investors to seek funding of up to \$1.5 million each. The Angel Forum has been held in Vancouver since 1997.

Investor preferences are for both tech and non-tech companies at the 'starting sales' stage. There is also good investor demand for 'in-development' stage or 'established sales' stage. They are looking for:

- an experienced management team (not necessarily complete) located a half day from the investor.
- unique and innovative products/services with clear protectable and sustainable competitive advantages.
- a compelling market need to allow the company to grow to a significant size with a leadership market share.
- company has raised funds from family/friends, the NRC or similar agency and has a realistic business valuation.
- a well prepared investor presentation.

Sponsors include the Business Development Bank, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, TSX Venture

Exchange, Business in Vancouver Media Group, and the Government of BC - Investment Capital. Partners include the Vancouver Enterprise Forum, VIATeC, Okanagan Science & Technology Council, National Research Council, NewMediaBC, BC Life Sciences, BC Technologies Industries Assoc, BC Regional Science & Technology Network and Wireless Innovation Network.

Register at [www.ANGELforum.org](http://www.ANGELforum.org)

## **Loan Program To Meet Trades Training Demand**

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In order to help meet the growing demand for trades training, the B.C. student loan forgiveness program has been expanded to include technology education teachers. Technology education teachers work in school districts across the province, delivering Industry Training Authority trades programs such as auto repair, welding, carpentry and electrical. School districts and other industry training stakeholders in B.C. have said they need more trades people to become involved in the education of secondary students.

Students who graduate on or after July 1, 2007 as technical education teachers are eligible for the loan forgiveness program. Their BC student loan debts will be reduced by one third for each of the three years they work in a high demand area of the province.

Visit [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

## **Engineers Change Name Of National Organization**

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The Canadian Council of Professional Engineers has adopted the business name 'Engineers Canada'. Established in 1936, Engineers Canada is a national organization made up of the 12 provincial and territorial associations that license and regulate the practice of professional engineering in Canada.

## **Industry Training Authority Gets New CEO**

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Kevin Evans has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Industry Training Authority. Prior to joining the ITA he was vice president of the Retail Council of Canada and chair of the Coalition of BC Businesses.

The goal of ITA is to achieve better and faster training of more skilled workers in British Columbia. For example, apprenticeship has grown 140 per cent in the past three years. Where there were fewer than 15,000 apprentices in BC when the ITA was established, there are now more than 35,000. This includes 5,000 youth apprentices in high school trades programs, more than quadruple the number in 2004. Employer involvement has also grown significantly. There are now nearly 10,000 employers sponsoring apprentices.

During the next few years ITA will focus on increasing the number of women and aboriginal people in industry training; recognizing skilled immigrants; matching the supply of training to

the growing demand; improving apprenticeship completion rates; and encouraging greater innovation in the system in order to make training increasingly flexible and accessible.

## **'BC150 Years' Celebration**

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In 2008, BC will be celebrating 150 years since the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia in 1858. Everyone is invited to get in on the celebrations.

'BC150 Years' will celebrate the adventures, struggles, people, events and achievements that have shaped the Province's identity. It's a celebration with a focus on five pillars: Heritage, Communities, Multiculturalism, Aboriginals, Arts & Culture.

A core of events is planned. BC150 Years will also work with First Nations, cultural groups, communities, business, educators and arts and culture organizations to give them the support and tools they need to ensure that everyone is part of the celebration.

The BC150 Years Secretariat is a branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts tasked with organizing and implementing 'BC150 Years' celebrations across British Columbia.

Visit [www.BC2008.gov.bc.ca](http://www.BC2008.gov.bc.ca)

## **BIG Little Science Centre To Hold Open House**

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The BIG Little Science Centre in Kamloops is staging an Open House on October 27, 2007. ASTTBC members in the region are encouraged to volunteer to help out with the Open House. Members can let other families know about the Open House. It will provide an eye-opener for many children about the fascinating world of science and technology and about career possibilities. Visitors to the BIG Little Science Centre can experiment on their own at any of more than 120 hands-on stations. Demonstrations are also provided.

*To help with the Open House, please phone Gord Stewart at 554-2572.*

Visit [www.biglittlesciencecentre.org](http://www.biglittlesciencecentre.org)

## **ASTTBC Links With Construction Conference**

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ASTTBC has formed a collaborative relationship with the Construction Solutions Conference which will be held in Vancouver on November 27, 2007. Now entering its fourth consecutive year, this one-day conference brings together professionals such as architects and designers, engineers and technologists, contractors, developers, managers and specifiers to discuss the building envelope and construction solutions for mould and moisture management in buildings. In addition to nine different panel discussions, the conference will include a tabletop tradeshow over the morning coffee break and lunch hour.

For further details on this event, please visit [www.constructionsolutionsconference.com](http://www.constructionsolutionsconference.com)

## Coming Events

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- **Wood-Works Sustainability Workshops**, October 10 2007, Vancouver; October 11, Surrey; October 12, Kelowna. The benefits of building green and construction environmental attributes of engineered wood products, a case study of what may be the greenest building in North America and an introduction to Green Globes, an alternative high quality green building rating system. Lorna Malone at [lmalone@wood-works.ca](mailto:lmalone@wood-works.ca) or 1-877-929-9663 ext 4.
- **IAQ and Housing Durability**, October 10-12 2007, Richmond. Day 1 IAQ and Housing; Day 2 Troubleshooting; Day 3 Mold Assessment. Attend 1, 2, or all 3 days. REGISTRATION DEADLINE APPROACHING. For information phone Julie Levi (800) 785-4110; e-mail [info@iaqresourcescanada.com](mailto:info@iaqresourcescanada.com)
- **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design**, October 16-17 and November 27-28, Calgary. SafeGrowth Primer and Advanced Workshops provide training in safe urban design. For more information or to register, please contact Anna Brassard at [aebrassa@telus.net](mailto:aebrassa@telus.net) or (403) 389-3327.
- **Canadian Brownfields Conference**, October 18-19 2007, Montreal. Focus on building sustainable cities and the potential of achieving economic and cultural growth through the redevelopment of brownfields. Themes will include political and technological innovation, municipal and private sector partnerships and international experiences to revitalize communities and restore urban cores. [www.canadianbrownfields.ca](http://www.canadianbrownfields.ca).
- **Negotiation Skills**, October 19 2007, Fort St John. Achieving success requires the ability to negotiate effectively. Sponsored by APEGBC [www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/neg\\_skills\\_oct07.html](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/neg_skills_oct07.html)
- **APEGBC 2007 Annual Conference & AGM**, October 25 - 27 2007, Whistler. Program includes two days of professional development, combining industry-leading technical and business sessions. A trade exhibition and social events provide an opportunity to network with colleagues and suppliers. [www.apeg.bc.ca/ac2007/main.html](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/ac2007/main.html).
- **ASTTBC Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortage II**, October 31 2007, Vancouver. This roundtable will bring key stakeholders to agree on strategies and collective action for moving forward on the technology skills shortage. Seating at the Roundtable is limited and is by invitation, however participation is available by webcast at [www.asttbc.org/RTSS](http://www.asttbc.org/RTSS)
- **BCBC Skills Conference**, October 29 - 30 2007, Vancouver. The conference will focus on solutions and best practices by leading employers, governments and others in addressing the continuing labour shortage situation. [www.bcbc.com](http://www.bcbc.com)
- **Laboratory Safety Course**, October 29-30 2007, Edmonton. Canadian Society for Chemical Technology [www.cheminst.ca/profdev](http://www.cheminst.ca/profdev)

- **ASTTBC Awards & Recognition Celebration**, November 3 2007, Pan Pacific Hotel, Vancouver. Watch for details in ASTT e-News and by broadcast email.
  - **Supported Employment Conference**, November 7 - 9 2007, Calgary. Theme is 'Help Wanted / Jobs Wanted - Making The Connection'. [www.supportedemployment.ca](http://www.supportedemployment.ca)
  - **Diversity at Work**, various dates and locations in the Lower Mainland. A free workshop for employers, community service providers and associations. Communication strategies, the impact of multiculturalism in the workplace, newcomer employment barriers and approaches to addressing them and tips for improving inclusiveness in the workplace and Canadian society. Presented by Burnaby School District. Contact Jody at [jody.johnson@shaw.ca](mailto:jody.johnson@shaw.ca) or at 778-808-6252
  - **Lowering The Risk**, November 17 2007, Richmond. Conference for Construction Safety Officers. Sponsored by WorkSafe BC. Contact [ConstSaf@worksafebc.com](mailto:ConstSaf@worksafebc.com)
  - **Summit On The Mature Workforce**, November 21-22, 2007, Toronto. The 3rd annual summit focuses on mature workforce issues and how to address the skills shortage by meeting the needs of older workers. [www.workplaceinstitute.org](http://www.workplaceinstitute.org)
  - **Construction Solutions Conference for Mould and Moisture**, November 27 2007, Vancouver. Of interest to architects & designers, engineers & technologists, contractors, developers, property managers, specifiers. [www.constructionsolutionsconference.com](http://www.constructionsolutionsconference.com)
  - **Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo**, November 28 - 29 2007, Vancouver. Focus on collection, hauling, processing and disposal of waste; materials recycling; municipal recycling programs including blue box programs, MRFs, scrap metals, C&D, wood, plastic, paper, auto, tires, fiber and more. Contact: Arnie Gess, 1-877-534-7285; [arnie.gess@cwre.ca](mailto:arnie.gess@cwre.ca) [www.cwre.ca](http://www.cwre.ca)
  - **GLOBE 2008**, March 12 -14 2008, Vancouver. Corporate sustainability and finance; energy and the environment; building better cities. [www.globe2008.ca](http://www.globe2008.ca)
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