ASTTBC Welcomes Honorary Member Ralph Sultan

The Association has never recognized an ideal candidate, demonstrating exemplary leadership on many fronts, including as an MLA. For ASTTBC, as a professional regulatory body, we must exercise care when recognizing sitting members of Government. In this case, the Association made an exception, as Ralph is a PEng and has actively supported initiatives that better serve the engineering and technology community, and more broadly the public. ■

Congratulations… Ralph Sultan

ASTTBC Recognized Ralph Sultan, P.Eng, MBA, PhD, with Honorary Membership in ASTTBC at the Association’s Technology Awards & Recognition Celebration 2013. Ralph has been registered as a Professional Engineer since 1971, in Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia.

In his youth Ralph worked as a tree fell er, hydro lineman and surveyor’s helper in North and Central BC. After graduating in engineering from UBC he spent two years in technical sales, before attending Harvard University. During 15 years at Harvard, Ralph earned three degrees and joined the faculty as Associate Professor in the Business School. He spent two decades in the technology community and more broadly the public.

ASTTBC Chief Executive Officer John Leech said the Association has never before granted Honorary Membership to a sitting Member of the Legislature. “Ralph is an ideal candidate, demonstrating exemplary leadership on many fronts, including as an MLA. For ASTTBC, as a professional regulatory body, we must exercise care when recognizing sitting members of Government. In this case, the Association made an exception, as Ralph is a PEng and has actively supported initiatives that better serve the engineering and technology community, and more broadly the public.” ■

Congratulations… Ralph Sultan

TECHNOLOGY TODAY PERMEATES every work place in BC. Technology- related occupations in BC employed almost 150,000 workers in 2012. Certified technologist, technician and technical specialist positions represent almost 57,000 jobs, some 38% of this employment. But British Columbia faces a serious skills shortage, with thousands of engineering and technology jobs opening by 2020, while thousands of technology professionals will be nearing retirement. Yet most young BC men and women—and their parents— currently overlook science and technology careers. Why is this?

“Part of the reason is that no clear strategic direction exists for technology education in BC,” observes ASTTBC CEO John Leech, AScT, CAE. The Association’s 2013 report, A Strategic Direction for Technology Education and Skills in British Columbia, maps out an action plan for technology education and skills development, says Leech. “ASTTBC Strategic Direction stresses the ‘middle path’ of two year technical programs at BC’s colleges, BCT and universities. ASTTBC members are well paid and enjoying rewarding careers that are recession proof. The payoff is summed up in just one word — opportunity,” says Leech. “We see our young graduates, male and female, First Nations and new Canadians, becoming professional technologists, technicians and technical specialists.”

Leech notes that ASTTBC supports the Government’s BC Jobs Plan and is pleased to see forward movement on a 10-year education plan. ASTTBC encourages the development of technology courses in K-12, which is progressively being realized as school boards work with post-secondary institutions to create a dual credit system.

“In Kamloops, the school board approved Civil and Mining Technology courses for K-12 leading to advanced standing for graduates seeking placements at post-secondary institutions. The Vancouver School Board, BCT and ASTTBC signed an agreement in 2013 that will lead to tech courses in K-12, and ASTTBC is working with Okanagan College and local School Districts to embrace dual credit programming in the technologies,” says Leech.

Additionally, ASTTBC signed on to a Science Charter, championed by Science World, for the purpose of engaging British Columbians in ‘STEM’ – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. “STEM Skills are the means by which Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Finland established leadership in key industries,” says Leech.

A recent BC Technology Industries Association survey found ‘specialty’ technicians and technologists are the most sought-after positions by BC technology companies. The recent BC Mining HR Task Force forecasts technologists and technicians as prominent in the industry’s five most in-demand occupations. “The need for more technology skills training programs for British Columbians is simply overwhelming,” concludes Leech. ■

Group at the January 2014 ASTTBC Council meeting opening BBQ aprons with ASTTBC new logo in support of technology education and careers, TECHNOLOGY SIZZLES… Get Cooking with ASTTBC (Standing l to r): John Clague, P.Geo (APEGBC Vice President, guest at the meeting); Bill MacHorsin, AST (Past President); Tim Smith, PEng, EngI (Public Representative); Cindy Alden (Manager, Governance & Events); Sarah Campden, AST; Keith Trudin, AST, EngI (Vice President); and, Charles Jouyer, AST (Registrar). Knitting (l to r): Brian Carr, PhD (Public Representative); Trent Bond, AST,EngI (Secretary Treasurer); Dave Rutherford, AST; RCS, CLS (President); John Leech, AST, CAE (CEO); and, Grant Loyer, AST, CMC.

ASTTBC TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS QUALIFIED REGISTERED ACCOUNTABLE

ASTTBC… the model association for Technology Professionals. Established in 1958, ASTTBC assists technologists since 1971, and technical specialists achieve professional recognition under the ASTT Act.

for more info, please visit www.ASTTBC.org

ASTTBC Connect

TECHNOLOGY SIZZLES

Ralph Sultan, P.Eng (r) receiving Honorary Membership from Dave Rutherford.
The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies BC (ACEC–BC) Executive met recently with the ASTTBC to discuss topics of mutual interest, including technology education and careers, and ASTTBC’s mandate to serve the public by regulating and supporting Technology Professionals.

The Natural Resource Forum was ramped up this year with Premier Christy Clark leading the 2014 event. The Forum provides an opportunity for industry leaders to share their vision and plans for resource development, and ASTTBC has been a regular sponsor and contributor for years. ASTTBC members contribute a great deal to the BC resource sector. It is important that the Association attend events such as this to highlight the professional role of technologists, technicians and technical specialists,” said ASTTBC CEO John Leech, AScT, CÆ.

Keeping Government Informed

ASTTBC continues to meet formally and informally with Cabinet Ministers and MLAs to discuss topics of mutual interest, including technology education and careers and ASTTBC’s mandate to serve the public by regulating and supporting Technology Professionals.

Deputy Premier Rich Coleman, the Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing (MLA for Fort Langley–Aldergrove), was guest speaker at the February Independent Contractors and Business Association of BC CEO breakfast, and ASTTBC was a guest. The Minister stressed the long term economic benefits for British Columbians as a result of LNG and called on industry and government leaders to “step up” and contribute in two ways: sign up to buy BC, as much of the work associated with LNG development will go to BC firms; and contribute to the BC Labour Market Information database.

“ASTTBC is on track to address LNG project skills needs,” said ASTTBC CEO John Leech, AScT, CÆ. “We are pursuing a number of initiatives, some under contract with the BC Government, to help meet labour market demands by adapting its professional regulatory model to provide a more equitable model for assessment of applicants for certification and registration, especially internationally-trained technology professionals.”

ASTTBC actively promotes technology education and careers to assure a sustainable supply of Technology Professionals. Noting that the BC Government now references ‘technical skills’ in addition to trades in the BC Jobs Plan, CEO John Leech is pleased that ASTTBC’s work is paying off. “These initiatives support Government’s commitment that BC residents ‘come first’, and that every consideration will be given to training for BC residents as a matter of top priority,” said Leech. “First Nations also fits into the equation as ASTTBC reaches out to First Nations communities to promote technology education and careers.”

ASTTBC met with the Honourable Peter Fassbinder (MLA for Nechako Lakes) and Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, Bill Bennett, Chair, First Nations Career Council (an ASTTBC initiative); Norma Guerin, Executive Director, First Nations Employment Society; and, Dave Rutherford, President, ASTTBC.

MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS and Reconciliation John Rustad (MLA for Nechako Lakes) met with ASTTBC and affiliated organizations to talk technology careers and efforts to enhance technology education and careers awareness with First Nations. ASTTBC President Dave Rutherford, AScT, BCLS, CSL, First Nations Careers Council Chair Bill Baglot, GradTech, and ASTTBC Chief Executive Officer John Leech, AScT, CÆ, provided a high level look at ASTTBC’s work with First Nations in BC.

Norma Guerin, Executive Director of the First Nations Employment Society, highlighted their work to develop training and job opportunities for First Nations, citing a Memorandum of Agreement signed between FNES and ASTTBC, and joint work on a Public Works Technician program. Norm Leech, Executive Director of the First Nations Technology Council, outlined the Minister FNTEC initiatives to take the Internet and IT technology to First Nations communities throughout the province. FNTEC and ASTTBC have also signed a MoA.

Minister Rustad, who is well acquainted with ASTTBC, indicated that he appreciated the briefing and stimulating discussion, and promised he would monitor collective efforts and be of assistance wherever he can. The Minister encouraged the groups to meet again either collectively or independently in the coming year.

In the News... continued on page 3

ASTTBC Foundation Bursaries Available

The ASTTBC Foundation offers bursaries to qualifying first and second year students in ASTTBC-accredited technology programs in BC. Check the ASTTBC website for eligible programs and bursary selection requirements at www.ASTTBC.org … About Us > Foundation > How to Apply for Bursaries

Deadline to apply is… July 31st 2014

Our Members are your Members, too.

Michael Sullivan
- Structural Technologist/ BIM Specialist
- BCIT School of Engineering Technology, 1995
- ASTTBC member since January 2007

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B C INDUSTRY FACES a serious tech skills shortage. This fact receives much attention in the media, but how much awareness is there among today’s youth and their parents of the job opportunities available in a career as a technology, technician or technical specialist?

For the general public, careers in the ‘applied sciences’ often mean science, engineering and medicine; while ‘technology’ often means the skilled trades, technical careers or in information technology. Technologist and technician careers reside in the middle of this applied science career continuum and too frequently get lost in the public perception.

The Technology Education & Careers Council (TECC) is working to rectify this situation. TECC is a group of senior leaders from industry, education and professional associations mobilized by ASTTBC to inform government and other stakeholders about technology education and careers.

Technology careers, like all other fields in the applied sciences, require a foundation in high school science and mathematics. Yet the vast percentage of high school graduates seeking post-secondary educational pathways with these science and math requirements plan to enter medicine, science or engineering. Refocusing their minds towards a technology education and career requires considerable information and persuasion long before they graduate from high school. TECC is supporting ASTTBC’s leadership role in advancing technology education and careers.

ASTTBC has initiated and supported a number of ways of seeking out technology careers to high school counselors, parents, high school graduates and adults seeking a career change. Some of these include the involvement of TECC. Others include the Internationally Trained Technology Professionals (ITTP) projects, sponsorship support for science and technology events across BC, the work of the first Nations Careers Council and BC Women in Technology, and dialogues with Ministry people regarding the critical shortage of technology workers and the impact of this on the British Columbia economy.

The ASTTBC report, A Strategic Direction for Technology Education and Skills in British Columbia, identified the need for BC’s education system to provide greater support for K–12 students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects. The report also proposed that Science World BC take a lead role in attracting youth into STEM studies and in promoting technology-related careers. In all this TECC was a supporter and, at times, took a lead role.

TECC is satisfied that ASTTBC is making progress. A memorandum of agreement signed by Vancouver Board of Education, BCIT and ASTTBC will result in high school technology courses leading to special consideration for students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) post-secondary educational pathways with the science and technology education and careers.

If you have made a change in your career or employment, or are doing something that your peers would find interesting, ASTTBC would love to hear from you! Please email: editor@asttbc.org
When will ASTTBC get on PTech? is the common question. The answer is not usually short or simple, but here is a brief update.

PTech was introduced into the ASTT Regulations in 2005 to signal ASTTBC's intention to introduce this new title. ASTTBC Council held on implementation awaiting a signal as to where other provincial associations were heading. With the advent of PTech in Alberta four years ago, ASTTBC saw the future and commenced work. With a historical commitment to work collaboratively with APEGBC and with a joint arrangement in regulating PTech in Alberta, ASTTBC sought a working arrangement with APEGBC.

The work of two APEGBC–ASTTBC joint task forces pointed to key common values and a joint interest in defining areas of practice for a senior technologist. While these efforts produced concrete outcomes and a fairly clear pathway forward, the two Councils decided to “put aside” PTech as an area for joint work with APEGBC and with a joint arrangement in regulating PTech in Alberta. ASTTBC sought a working arrangement with APEGBC.

For ASTTBC, the commitment to implement PTech in ASTTBC has not wavered. Since 2005 ASTTBC has been talking to the BC Government about PTech and this discussion continues. ■

THE MINISTRY of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (FST) supported ASTTBC in three projects to improve the integration of Internationally Trained Technology Professionals (ITTP) into the BC workforce. The information obtained has exceeded expectations and is proving beneficial not only to ITTPs, but also to any potential applicant for ASTTBC certification and to employers.

The first project, a one-year Canadian Work Experience, answered the question: what knowledge, skills and behaviours does a person with one or more years work experience in BC have compared to someone who has never worked in BC? The second project, Working in BC, developed training resources for ITTPs that include a workshop/webinar, study guide and videos. In 2014, ASTTBC will finalize an ITTP training book, create an e-portfolio and set up assessment methodology. All the resources developed in this project are available at www.ITTPBC.ca.

The third project, Preparation of Database Specifications, sought proposals to implement a new database for ASTTBC that will include a broader range of data capture fields, particularly for ITTPs, to provide enhanced services to applicants and improved report generation for ASTTBC, employers and the government. The knowledge gained from the BC Government-sponsored projects is now being applied to improve ASTTBC policies and services for all applicants regardless of their place of origin.

ASTTBC is also in the initial stages of seeking a Mutual Recognition Agreement with India. It involves an on-site visit to India to evaluate education and training with the goal of signing a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on education standards. ■

FOCUS 2015: Practice & Accountability

COUNCIL ADOPTED ‘FOCUS 2015’ to help guide ASTTBC resources in 2012 – 2015. The initiative is designed to further enhance ASTTBC professional regulatory framework in the two areas of practice and accountability. In the first year and a half, ASTTBC has initiated a number of projects to advance ASTTBC’s mandate to serve the public interest:

• Reviewed and updated several certification policies. This work will be completed for all technical specialist programs in 2014.
• Adopted a policy that ASTTBC registrants must report their CPD.
• Framed a program by which CPD reporting will be audit-ed. Rollout in 2015 – 2019.
• Acquired recognition through the BC Safety Authority for the Electrical Work Practitioner program.
• Developed targeted initiatives to assist foreign workers enter the BC job market with recognized credentials and a full tool kit.

• Engaged two part-time Compliance Officers, one for Onsite Wastewater and one for Fire Protection to assist with audits and managing formal complaints.
• Working on a new member management database to streamline processes generally and make the application process as efficient as possible.
• Developing new initiatives such as special certification for underground utility locators and public works technicians.

On the practice side, ASTTBC continues to work on a number of opportunities to secure Qualified Professional (QP) status and is exploring the best way to introduce Professional Technologist (PTech) in BC, likely similar to the model in Alberta. ASTTBC increased recognition of the Fire Protection registration program and other technical specialist programs, such as Site Improvements Surveys and Building Design.

Apply Online at Technology Registrations Canada

TECHNOLOGY REGISTRATIONS CANADA is a self-assessment and application management website that is now an integral part of ASTTBC’s registration process. Staff estimates that some 70 percent of new applications are received through the TRC site and momentum is building towards achieving the changeover to a paperless process.

Some feedback from applicants:

• “I liked the online application format. Online access facilitates ease-of-use and enables users to access it multiple times to complete the questionnaire.”
• “Yes, it was straightforward, quicker than the old process. Being able to track the progress of the application is a great feature.”
• “Thank you for developing and continuously maintaining TRC. Keep up the exemplary work!”

ASTTBC continues to work on improvements, including the addition of an online PayPal application fee payment capability.

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Annual General Meeting & Conference 2014 FRIDAY: May 23rd for information register www.ASTTBC.org/agm SHERATON VANCOUVER GUILDFORD HOTEL | 15269 ~ 104th Avenue Survey, British Columbia Canada

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TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS QUALIFIED REGISTERED ACCOUNTABLE.
WAS A YEAR OF STEPPING UP! It was a year in which ASTTBC, through collaboration and enterprise, stepped up for excellence in service to the BC public and to our members, the 10,000+ registered Technology Professionals who have committed to serve and protect the public interest.

saw ASTTBC step up to promote member professionalism, establishing FOCUS 2015: Practice and Accountability as a targeted program to improve service to the public and profession as a result of enhancements to ASTTBC’s professional regulatory framework, including policies, processes and services.

saw ASTTBC step up for BC’s economy with the Working in BC Project in partnership with the Government of BC. This initiative aimed to address the barriers facing Internationally Trained Technology Professionals, including evaluation and certification of credentials, employment strategies, and understanding the Canadian business culture. Initiatives included linking with BC employers to better understand their needs, video profiles of ITTP members, a website packed with career information, a log book to help define and build a technology career, and much more.

saw ASTTBC step up for technology education and skills training in BC by releasing the report, A Strategic Direction for Technology Education and Skills in British Columbia. This report identified the need for BC’s education system to provide greater support and encouragement for K–12 students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects. The ASTTBC report also proposed that Science World BC take a lead role in attracting youth into STEM studies and in promoting technology-related careers.

also saw the announcement of a major gift by the Association to the ASTTBC Foundation to establish the ASTTBC Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Fund to support annual science and technology education activities for K–12 students in BC. This Fund will help the youth of today become the techs of tomorrow!

saw ASTTBC step up for BC technology in its ongoing relationships, strategic partnerships and continued outreach to science and technology stakeholders, government, educators, industry and youth. ASTTBC members continued to step up to share their expertise by volunteering as file reviewers for the ASTTBC certification and registration process, and participating on committees and boards.

At member meetings across the province, we continued to be impressed by the dedication of our members to their professions, their communities and to ASTTBC. Thank you again for your support; together, we are STEPPING UP in service to the public interest and for BC technology!

President
Dave Rutherford, AScT, BCLS, CLS

Chief Executive Officer
John Leech, AScT, CAE

Edna Ruda, AScT
1 of 10,000+ Technology Professionals registered with ASTTBC
Case, if there is a PRB complaint against the member, the PRB will close the file and flag the database indicating that prior to reinstatement, PRB conditions must be completed.

If a member having more than one complaint against them at the time their membership is cancelled, ASTTBC continued to advance Qualified Professional (QP) recognition for registrants and to work collaboratively with the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC (APEGC) to address practice right of engineering, geoscience and technology teams in BC. The ASTTBC–APEGC Joint Board identified areas where an ASTC might be recognized as a QP and research commenced. In addition, a joint task force between APEGC and ASTTBC identified a number of QP opportunities and these will also be considered and advanced. ASTTBC continued to be an active participant in the BC Government’s Professional Reliance initiative, considering models for identifying QP status.

The BC Safety Authority gave final approval to an ASTTBC special certificate as an Electrical Work Practitioner (EWP) for registrants in electronics, telecommunications and biomedical engineering technology.

ASTTBC launched the Registered Reserve Fund Analyst (RRFA) registration as a new Technical Specialist initiative.

Goal #3 – Professional Standards & Regulation

ASTTBC continued to maintain its solid foundation in professional regulation and professional accountability, including the handling of formal complaints against ASTTBC registrants. ASTTBC modified existing certification policies for AsCT and CTeCh, and enhanced several Technical Specialist certification policies.

Focus 2015: Practice & Accountability

2013 saw the rollout of Focus 2015: Practice & Accountability, a ‘professional reliance’ program emphasizing professional accountability. ASTTBC Council approved a policy that all registrants must report Continuing Professional Development and that ASTTBC will audit CPD activity. This initiative will roll out over a five-year period, with priority focus on fields where ASTTBC registrants offer a service directly to the public.

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ASTTBC assisted local governments as they worked to introduce a Bylaw requiring ASTTBC certification to test and inspect fire protection systems. Fort St. John and Prince George are two municipalities that were added in 2013.

ASTTBC secured an agreement with the BC Construction Safety Alliance in 2012 only to have the agreement withdrawn by BCCSA without notification in 2013.

ASTTBC fostered our working relationships with many groups, notably APEGC, Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of BC, Technology Professionals Canada, Surrey Board of Trade, Small Business BC, members of the Technology Education & Careers Council, Canadian Technology Accreditation Board, various regulatory bodies and several post-secondary institutions delivering technology education in BC.

Highlights of ASTTBC Accomplishments in 2013

Covering January 1st to December 31st. For more details, visit www.ASTTBC.org

Goal #1 – Professional Legislation & Regulation

ASTTBC sought the support of the ASTTBC–APEGC Joint Board in moving forward with a new legislative model. The APEGC members of the Joint Board were not open to advancing this element of the Terms of Reference. ASTTBC will continue to pursue a legislative model that best serves the public interest and delivers the most effective way to govern all members of the Engineering and Geoscience Teams. For now, ASTTBC accepts that the current Two Act – Two Association model will be the basis upon which to enhance professional regulation and practice.

ASTTBC considered various options in moving forward with implementation of PTech in BC. One option being considered is for ASTTBC to implement within the ASTT Regulations as was first contemplated eight years ago when PTech was added to the ASTT Regulations. Other options include a joint working arrangement with APEGC.

Goal #2 – Rights to Practice

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ASTTBC further developed peer review by extending current practices for Property Inspection to other fields.

ASTTBC enhanced the Construction Safety Officer program by enhancing competencies, modifying policies and processes, and approving the Registered Construction Safety Officer (RCSO) title.

ASTTBC developed the framework of competencies for a possible new Professional Technician registration program, which will likely launch in 2014. ASTTBC worked in collaboration with the Public Works Association of BC (PWABC) and several First Nations groups, including the First Nations Employment Society (FNES), Musqueam Band, and Prince George Nekchako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association (PNGNEA), to define the public works needs of First Nations communities.

Charles Joyce, AsCT, ASTTBC Registrar (r), talking in up with representatives from the Construction Safety Officer program at the Association AGM in 2013.

Henry Murphy, AsCT, with Premier Christy Clark at Canada Day Celebration in Kelowna.

ASTTBC CEO John Leech (l) talks with City of Surrey Traffic Engineering techs Rajesh Reddy, AsCT, TSOS, and Taylor Spragg.
Goal #5 – Member Services

In 2013, ASTTBC launched the TechJobs Career Listing and Job Posting service for members and employers. The initiative proved most successful, with significant development in the first year and further expansion anticipated in 2014. ASTTBC developed, in collaboration with the BC Government, several new initiatives/services to assist Internationally Trained Technology Professionals (ITTTP) as they enter the BC job market and settle their families.

ASTTBC continued to inform and connect with members and the science and technology community via our monthly online ASTTBC e-News, targeted emails, the bi-annual ASTTBC Connect publication and postings on our website. Our following on Twitter (@ASTTBC) continued to grow in 2013, with followers including ASTTBC members and friends, MLA’s, employers, professional associations, regulatory bodies, science and technology councils, educators, and organizations promoting science and technology education and careers.

ASTTBC continued to look for opportunities to distribute, or make available through other agencies, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for members in management training professional development. ASTTBC delivered workshops and lectures by webinar during the Annual General Meeting, and webinar use increased by teams and committees in 2013. The ASTTBC channel on YouTube currently features a total 88 videos, has 27 subscribers and generated more than 10,000 views. In 2013, ASTTBC’s Member Benefits Program updated techCLUB seasonal products and services a negotiated group discounts for members, and improved recognition of program providers.

The results of a Compensation Survey and a Retired Members Survey were posted on the ASTTBC website.

Goal #6 – Technology Education & Careers

In January 2013, ASTTBC released a 40-page research paper on technology education and careers and labour market demand in BC, called A Strategic Direction for Technology Education and Skills in British Columbia, and advanced this discussion throughout the year.

ASTTBC celebrated National Engineering & Geoscience Month in March 2013. A special feature was published in the Kelowna Courier newspaper. ASTTBC sponsored a number of events for youth, such as the Spaghetti Bridge and Math contests at Okanagan College, the APEIBC – ASTTBC Drawing Contest, and BIG Little Science Centre in Kamloops.

ASTTBC celebrated National Technology Week November 2nd – 8th 2013 to create awareness about technology careers. NTW was promoted through ASTTBC e-News, ASTTBC Twitter, in radio ads and by a contest on the ASTTBC website. ASTTBC was Lead Sponsor of the 8th Western Canada RoboCup Junior Competition at Okanagan College.

At the 2013 Technology Awards & Recognition Celebration, ASTTBC launched ‘Technology Sixties... Get Cooking with ASTTBC’ as the new campaign slogan to promote technology education and careers.

Goal #7 – Public Policy

In 2013, ASTTBC continued to enhance linkages with other key stakeholder groups, believing that through cooperation and collaboration ASTTBC will better serve the public interest.

In partnership with the Government of BC, ASTTBC advanced the ‘Working on BC Project, which aims to address the barriers facing Internationally Trained Technology Professionals, including evaluation and certification of credentials, employment strategies and understanding the Canadian business culture.

ASTTBC developed and delivered a set of information and training materials that were targeted to ITTPs, employers and industry partners, such as immigrant settlement providers. More info at www.ITTPBC.ca

The Technology Education & Careers Council (TECC) continued to support ASTTBC in our effort to enhance awareness of technology education and careers. The role of TECC is to provide strategic leadership and advocacy in advancing the importance of technology careers and education in BC in response to the skills requirements of industry. (See ViewPOINT by Sid Siddiqui, TECC Chair, on page 3)

The First Nations Careers Council (FNCC) continued to explore joint opportunities with other stakeholders to work together to enhance technology careers within First Nations communities.

ASTTBC enhanced programming and services for BC Women in Technology (BCWIT) to promote the advancement of women in engineering and applied science technology careers.

The first ASTTBC TechGREEN Awards were presented at the 2013 Technology Awards & Recognition Celebration to recipients who demonstrated leadership in green living, sustainable best practices, energy conservation and environmental initiatives.

ASTTBC Highlights 2013, continued on page 8…
ASTTBC continued its successful approach to keeping the BC Government up to date with ASTTBC’s rules, responsibilities and program. ASTTBC had formal and informal meetings and conversations with a number of BC Cabinet Ministers and MLA’s in 2013, including:

- Harry Bains, MLA, Surrey-Newton
- Hon. Shirley Bond, MLA, Prince George-Valemount, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (Minister Responsible for Labour)
- Jagrup Brar, then MLA, Surrey- Fleetwood
- Hon. Stephanie Cadieux, MLA, Surrey-Cloverdale, Minister of Children and Family Development
- Hon. Christy Clark, MLA, Westside-Kelowna, Premier
- Hon. Rich Coleman, MLA, Fort Langley-Aldergrove, Deputy Premier, Minister of Energy and Mines (Minister Responsible for Housing)
- Mike Farrellworth, MLA, Port Coquitlam
- Hon. Peter Fassbender, MLA, Surrey-Fleetwood, Minister of Education
- Gordon Hodg, MLA, Surrey-White Rock
- Doug Horne, MLA, Coquitlam–Burke Mountain
- Marvin Hunt, MLA, Surrey-Panorama
- Leonard Krog, MLA, Nanaimo
- Jenny Kwan, MLA, Vancouver-Mt Pleasant
- Hon. Dr. Terry Lake, MLA, Kamloops–North Thompson, Minister of Health
- Richard Lee, MLA, Burnaby North
- Mike Morris, MLA, Prince George-Mackenzie
- Michelle Mungall, MLA, Nelson–Creston
- Hon. Mary Polak, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Bruce Ralston, MLA, Surrey–Whalley
- Hon. Linda Reid, MLA, Richmond East, Speaker
- Hon. John Rustad, MLA, Nakusp, Minister, Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
- Shane Simpson, MLA, Vancouver–Tanyard
- Michelle Stilwell, MLA, Parksville–Qualicum
- Dr. Moira Stilwell, MLA, Vancouver–Langara
- Sam Sullivan, MLA, Vancouver–False Creek
- Ralph Sultan, MLA, West Vancouver–Capilano
- Jane Thornthwaite, MLA, North Vancouver–Seymour
- Hon. Amrik Virk, MLA, Surrey–Trinchead, Minister of Advanced Education
- Hon. Andrew Wilkinson, MLA, Vancouver–Quilchena, Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens’ Services
- Hon. Naomi Yamamoto, MLA, North Vancouver–Lonsdale, Minister of State for Small Business
- John Yap, MLA, Richmond–Steveston

ASTTBC continued to host member meetings around the province in 2013. ASTTBC Chief Executive Officer John Leach, AStC, CAE, met with members, business leaders and educators. In some cases, the TOP in TECHNOLOGY and other ASTTBC Awards were presented to recipients in their home communities and garnered attention by local media. Both the 2013 Annual General Meeting & Professional Development Day and the 2013 Technology Awards & Recognition Celebration (TARC) were enhanced by the energetic and growing support of our event partners.

In 2013, the ASTTBC Foundation provided $26,800 in bursaries and awards for technology students across the province. The ASTTBC Foundation Board approved the launch in 2014 of the ASTTBC Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Fund, made possible by a major gift pledged by ASTTBC of $25,000 each year from 2014–2018.

2013 Revenue & Expenses

OUTSIDE OF FOCUS

Full audited statements are available at www.ASTTBC.org

Change in ASTTBC President at AGM 2013.

The Public Representatives on ASTTBC Council presented their fifth annual report at the AGM 2013. The report was subsequently sent to the Minister Responsible for the ASTT Act and posted on the ASTTBC website. Wendy Grant-John, MBA, LLB (Honorary), stepped down as a Public Representative, while Brian Car, PhD, and Tim Smith, PGeo, Envl., continued to serve on Council.

As of December 31st 2013, ASTTBC membership stood at 10,286 including 8,209 technologists and technicians in all disciplines, and 2,077 registrants in Technical Specialist groups. ASTTBC ended the year in a solid financial position with a modest surplus of $115,452.

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2012 financial numbers released in the companion information 2013.
ASTTBC 25th Technology Awards Celebration

The 25th Annual ASTTBC Technology Awards & Recognition Celebration on November 2, 2013 provided an opportunity to showcase the best in BC through ASTTBC’s Technology Awards Program. Each year ASTTBC recognizes the achievements of Technology Professionals for their contributions to the growth, development and application of technology, technological education and careers, and sustainability.

Our Technology Awards gala is also a way for ASTTBC to say ‘Thanks’ to our many volunteers and partners who contribute to the growth and development of the Association. ASTTBC members, dedicated volunteers and committed partners are the very heart of our success!

A successful Silent Auction at this event raised over $10,000 for the ASTTBC Foundation. Funds raised provide bursaries and awards for technology students, and volunteers and partners who contribute to the growth and development of the very heart of our success!

ASTTBC Celebrates National Engineering & Geoscience Month

National Engineering & Geoscience Month (NEGMM) in March is an annual celebration of engineering and geoscience across Canada. As technologists, technicians and technical specialists are a vital part of BC’s engineering teams, ASTTBC promoted awareness of the engineering, geoscience and technology professions, and highlighted career choices in these fields.

ASTTBC sponsored many events and activities in the science and technology community, and promoted technology education and careers. Here are some of the highlights:

- Radio ads and public service announcements on Radio NL in Kamloops and stations in other communities with the message ‘Technology Sizzles… Get Cooking with ASTTBC’
- Advertorial in special NEGMM section of the Kelowna Courier
- Co-partnered with APEGBC to sponsor 2014 NEGMM Drawing Contest to engage kids in science.
- Title Sponsoring of Okanagan College Annual Spaghetti Bridge Building Contest.
- Gold Sponsor of 2014 Wood Design Awards in BC, WoodWORKS BC.

Full details are posted at www.ASTTBC.org > Technology Careers > National Engineering Month

Nominate Someone for an ASTTBC Award

DO YOU KNOW OR WORK WITH an outstanding Technology Professional who is worthy of recognition for his or her contributions to technology, the profession of technology or through volunteering?

ASTTBC has a number of awards that recognize exceptional leadership and achievement, which are presented at our AGM in May, at the Technology Awards & Recognition Celebration in November, and at regional meetings year-round. Here are some examples:

- Professional Achievement
- Service Award
- Professional Leadership Award for Women in Technology
- TOP in TECHNOLOGY
- TechGREEN

To nominate a well deserving person, including yourself, contact Cindy Alken, Manager, Governance & Events, ca@asttbc.org
Tanya Steele, CSO, (c) receiving ASTTBC Professional Leadership Award for Women in Technology from ASTTBC President Dave Rutherford, AStT, BCSc, C.S.S, at TARC 2013.

TechProfile

Tanya Steele, CSO, Advances Professionalism

TANYA STEELE, CSO, is a Construction Safety Officer and Director of Training & Client Services for ER Plus Risk Management Group Inc. Her instruction has been described as passionate, energetic, relatable, powerful and funny. She uses her field experience as an OFA & Safety Officer of over 20 years to offer her students real life scenarios and solutions to draw upon. She has recently had an article featured in the BC/Alberta Construction Magazine for Effective Training. Tanya also teaches the Construction Safety Officer Course offered at ER Plus Risk Management, which is recognized by ASTTBC.

Career Highlights

• Highland Valley Copper Mine – Safety, Security and Rescue
• Film Industry Stunt Standby – Ambulance
• ER Plus – Safety Training, Consulting and Temporary Work Placement of OFA/CSO
• BCCSA – COR Auditor Instructor

Professional & Community Activities

Chair Canadian NAOSH Committee; Canadian Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE) Executive Board Director; VRCA Education Committee Board Member; CSSE Outreach & Accreditation Committee; and, Former President of the BC NAOSH Steering Committee for Health & Safety Week.

In November 2013, Tanya was presented with a Professional Leadership Award for Women in Technology at the ASTTBC Technology Awards & Recognition Celebration.

Bylaw Requires ASTTBC Fire Protection Certification

THE CENTRAL INTERIOR City of Prince George is the latest to adopt a Bylaw requiring those inspecting, testing and maintaining fire protection systems to be ASTTBC-certified. ASTTBC Chief Executive Officer John Leech, AStT, CAE, advised that ASTTBC would now get to work on certifying fire protection technicians. “I applaud the decision made by the Prince George City Council to enhance public safety by requiring those inspecting, testing and maintaining fire protection systems to demonstrate full competency, get registered with ASTTBC and be professionally accountable for their work.”

Prince George now joins with 20 other BC municipalities that have adopted a Bylaw requiring ASTTBC certification. “Registered Fire Protection Technicians (RFPT) in Prince George will join with over 800 in BC who have for many years accepted professionalism and all that goes with ASTTBC registration, including practice audits to confirm ongoing competency,” said Leech. “ASTTBC will work with individual technicians as well as business owners and other stakeholders to get everyone on board with the new standards.”

RFPT

Bylaw Requires ASTTBC Fire Protection Certification

You Told Us...

“I felt motivated to inform ASTTBC that I’m very thankful for my membership. I completed my Masters of Business Administration in June 2013. This was all made possible because of my ASTTBC membership as an Applied Science Technologist. The prerequisite education for the Masters programs at the University of Althabasca was an undergraduate degree or a professional membership. My membership has opened doors I never thought possible and I’m very grateful.”

Chris Lowe, AStT, MBA, Power Generation Department Manager, MTS/Quinte Energy, Calnes-Dried Power Ltd.

“I am very aware of the value and benefits of my registration with ASTTBC. I’m grateful for the benefit the Association has extended to me thus far in the short length of time I’ve been in BC, and have taken advantage of the opportunity to volunteer with the Okanagan Region of ASTTBC to show my support and gratitude.”

Laure Neilson, AStT

“I moved to Kelowna without any work secured, and because of my technical training and background I was able to find employment. I am currently employed by a large heavy civil construction contractor. The technologies are truly an incredible education and highly transferrable. I am more than happy to do my part for my professional association.”

Keith Meldrum, AStT, RTMge, Estimation/Project Coordinator, Artison Contractors Inc.

“The ASTTBC communication email with the photos of the Technology Awards gala reminded me that I wanted to send a note to ASTTBC to congratulate the organizers, and the whole of the Association for that matter on an excellent, interesting and fun event. I had a great time, and want to say well done!”

Cameron Gaty, PEng, Principal, Urban Systems

“It has been a pleasure to work with you and your team at ASTTBC. Your professionalism and attention to the partnership has been amazing and I will miss working with you.”

Salima Jethani, Export Development Manager, Ministry of International Trade

“Thank you for your support of the Innovators Speakers Series at Science World. We look forward to working with the ASTTBC team again.”

Jennifer Ingham, Vice President, Development, Science World BC

The Marine Institute of Memorial University is a world leading centre for marine and ocean-related career education and research. Our Master of Technology Management or Bachelor of Technology programs can provide you with the strategic planning, decision-making and technology management skills needed to advance your career in an organization. Designed for busy, working professionals, these online programs will help you navigate the challenges and dynamics of industries driven by technological innovation. Learn with us and watch a world of opportunities open up.

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Perform or Need to Perform Electrical Work? A New Option

NOW FOR SUITABLY QUALIFIED and experienced Applied Science Technologists and Certified Technicians there is a new option for those who perform or need to perform Electrical Work – certification by ASTTBC and licensing by the British Columbia Safety Authority (BCSA) as an Electrical Work Practitioner (EWP). This recognition allows you to legally perform that limited and specialized electrical work, typical for those in the Electrical, Electronics and Biomedical disciplines.

An EWP licence is not, nor is it intended to be, a substitute for, or equivalent to, the permitted broad scope of work of a trade-qualified electrician. It is designed to enable certain members of ASTTBC to perform that limited scope of special electrical work that is usual to their discipline.

If you are unsure of your legal position in regards to Electrical Work, please contact BCSA for specific information and clarification and/or WorkSafe BC Regulations Part 19 for definitions of who is qualified to perform electrical work.

For more information on this program …

[Links to ASTTBC website]

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FOCUS 2015: Practice & Accountability

Technical Specialists Update

Building Design
With recent decisions by AIBC to roll all ‘Associates’ into three classes, the building designers are again looking to ASTTBC to lead their quest for professional rights to independent practice. ASTTBC convened a webinar for designers and is ready to launch a new advisory body that will help guide our work going forward.

Construction Safety
The ASTTBC Construction Safety Officer Certification Program has undertaken a series of significant changes over the past few months, all designed to ‘raise the bar’. Some important features:

- A completely redesigned CSO Certification Policy that is ‘Competency and Learning Outcome’ based.
- Certification will now be a three-tiered process, starting with ‘Provisional’ CSO to full CSO and finally leading to ‘Registered’ CSO.
- Requirements for ‘on the job and in the role’ experience have been raised to reflect the critical role a CSO plays in the construction environment.
- Each category of designation requires strict adherence to the ASTTBC Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Policy and all reclassifications will include an audit of the applicant’s CPD record.

As a direct result of these improvements, the hard work of the CSO Certification Board and the strong support of our accredited trainers, registrations increased almost 20% in 2013.

Fire Protection
Renewal initiative to refresh and enhance ASTTBC’s professional regulatory framework and better engage stakeholders is now going full steam ahead, including:

- Established a renewal advisory group to help drive the initiative.
- Framed a program for mandatory reporting of CPD; rollout later in 2014 – 2015.
- Developing a program to conduct field audits of RPTPs.
- Outlined an approach for engaging other stakeholders, notably Fire Prevention Officers’ Association, Fire Commissioner’s Office and Fire Chiefs’ Association.
- Set a course to enhance communications with RPTPs and improve the website.
- Engaged a new Manager, Fire Protection Registrations and a new Compliance Officer.

www.CTEN.ca
Find highly qualified technical personnel who are job-ready with education and experience.

House & Property Inspection

- ASTTBC met with Minister Coleman and other regulatory bodies who offer certification leading to licensing by Consumer Protection BC (CPBC).
- ASTTBC looking to find common ground with other key certification groups such as CAHPI/BC.
- Working with CPBC and other certification bodies to define what it is we can do now to frame more effective certification and licensing regime.
- Enhancing communications with other key groups such as the Real Estate Council of BC responsible for licensing realtors.
- Video developed and posted / distributed to promote ASTTBC CHI and CPI as the ‘go to’ professionals.

Ontsite Wastewater
Solid progress on initiatives to address FOCUS 2015, including:

- Plan for rolling our mandatory reporting of CPD.
- Conducted comprehensive survey of Registered Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP) members and posted.
- Established Ontsite Wastewater Advisory Roundtable to guide ASTTBC decision-making.
- 80% of work completed on a new ROWP Practice Guide; anticipate final draft by summer.
- Scheme to do a random audit of some maintenance providers developed; rollout later in 2014.
- Hired a new Manager, Ontsite Wastewater Registration Program and a Compliance Officer.
- Ron Hein, ROWP, the former Manager, was appointed Director, Practice and Compliance

Site Improvements Surveys
ASTTBC met with the Association of BC Land Surveyors and will work with ABCLS to develop common messaging to go to regulatory bodies and, in this way, reduce confusion as to ‘who can do what’.

Employers…
Ask for our Employer Liaison package to learn how Technology Professionals registered with ASTTBC can benefit your enterprise.

TechJOBS Career Listings Online

Looking for a new challenge or job opportunity? ASTTBC has a job listing service called TechJOBS where you can view active listings at … www.ASTTBC.org/jobs.

In addition to the CTEN national job posting service, TechJOBS is a member service whereby employers post new career opportunities on the ASTTBC website every week. The high number of unique and return visitors to the page has kept it one of the top visited pages.
ASTTBC connects with Minister of Advanced Education Amrik Virk at SPEATBC dinner. (l to r) Geoff Sale, ASTT Manager, Internationally Trained Professionals Program; Prabhat Jethi, ASTT Eng.; SPEATBC Manager at Metro Testing; Minister Virk; and, Tony Chong, P.Eng., APEGBC Chief Regulatory Officer and Deputy Registrar.


Enhanced Bronze Sponsor of the CHBA BC Annual George Awards Gala on February 1, 2014 in Vancouver.

ASTTBC initiated and sponsored many events and activities during National Engineering & Geoscience Month (NEGM) in March. (See story on page 9)


John Leech Reflects on 40 Years with ASTTBC

“I was most fortunate 40 years ago when the Association hiring committee selected me as their first full time Registrar. Over the past four decades I have literally enjoyed many careers with one organization. I have seen our Association grow from 1,000 to more than 10,000 members and transition from a budget of $70,000 a year to $3 million.

There is much to be thankful for, and to also realize that we, at ASTTBC, make a difference in the lives of Technology Professionals, and with the public, government, regulatory bodies and employers. It has been my privilege to serve ASTTBC, our members and the public. The volunteer leadership at ASTTBC is second to none and their contribution keep me humbling. Every day is a treat. I have the very best job in BC. Thanks, ASTTBC!”

BC Women in Technology Update

Technology has become BC’s second-fastest growing career sector, yet Statistics Canada research shows young women’s pursuit in technological fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) remain low. Young men in high school with lower marks in science and math are more likely to choose a STEM career than young women with high marks in these areas. This suggests factors other than aptitude are influential in women’s choice in career paths.

To help us better understand and identify the possible influences women face in STEM careers, we surveyed our female members and asked for their feedback on challenges they encountered when choosing a career in technology; when preparing to enter the workforce in a technology career; and as they developed in their technology career. Twenty percent of our female membership participated in the survey and the results are posted at … www.ASTTBC.org > Services > Publications > Member Surveys

ASTTBC’s female membership has risen slightly in the last few years from 9% of total membership in 2008 to 9.7% in 2013. ASTTBC is committed to promoting awareness about women in technology careers and continues to work in partnership with industry and other stakeholders to do so. BC Women in Technology (BCWIT) is a core group of women members of ASTTBC who provide support and information to promote awareness about women in technology careers to women seeking new career opportunities.

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