to ASTTBC’s member services saw more than 150 visits to the Olympia dental coverage.

Mark’s Work Wearhouse discount on ASTTBC announced. It provides a new option for technologists and technicians who are working on contract or as consultants, and for small and medium-sized firms.

TD Insurance home insurance. This program saw a 12% growth in 2008.

Manulife Financial group life insurance. We continue to hear comments that savings on this program alone can offset the cost of annual dues in ASTTBC.

C TEN online job referral network. Access to the Canadian Technical Employment Network is restricted to members of ASTTBC and our sister associations across Canada, giving employers access to a pool of qualified candidates. This service is popular with employers and members alike.

At a time of economic uncertainty, ASTTBC’s group programs add value to membership. For other great savings, please refer to the ASTTBC Member Service brochure mailed with this issue of ASTTBC News or visit www.asttbc.org.

Government Requires License for House Inspectors

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY and Solicitor General has announced that, effective March 31, 2009, all house inspectors must be licensed in British Columbia. This is a first in Canada. The Regulation provides that those certified by ASTTBC will qualify for a license. CAHPI (BC) and the National Certification Program are also named. House inspectors certified with ASTTBC will be able to apply to the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority for a license. The fee will be $100 and will be valid for 3 years.

“This is an historic day in BC, we congratulate the Minister for his leadership in getting this done,” said ASTTBC’s Executive Director, John Leech. ASCT, CAE. “Our Association and the BC Institute of Property Inspectors have been calling for licensing for years. In this respect, this represents a great step forward. We will do everything we can to make sure ASTTBC-registered house inspectors are able to get licensed without delay once the processes are fully defined.”

BCIPI President Noel Murphy, CPI, added that licensing is a first step to a higher quality of service for all British Columbians seeking house inspection services. “On behalf of BCIPI, I am pleased that the government has acted on their promise to license inspectors,” he said. “Because of the high standards established by ASTTBC in partnership with BCIPI, in my opinion, our members are among the best qualified in BC to offer services as house inspectors and they will certainly be sought out by consumers.”

The Regulation goes a long way to ensure the public has access to qualified, registered and accountable professionals. In addressing more than 60 house and property inspectors at the annual general meeting of the BC Institute of Property Inspectors, Minister van Dongen stated, “I think this new model will work well to help stabilize your sector and protecting the consumer.” He told the group, “I want to recognize the work you do, your professionalism and your contribution to making this happen.”

ASTTBC’s Executive Director does see some challenges going forward. With different certification bodies being recognized in the Regulation, there is not one common standard for licensing. Further, the complaints and professional regulation framework varies between the organizations. “We need to move quickly to a level playing field to ensure best practices,” he said. “I have assured the Minister, Ministry staff and the Director of BCPIDA that ASTTBC will continue to work cooperatively toward the highest standards of professional regulations in BC.”

Information will be made available to all ASTTBC-registered house inspectors as needed to meet the requirements of the Regulation. Information will also be posted to the ASTTBC and BCIPI web sites.

To see the Ministry of Public Safety announcement and for full details, visit www.asttbc.org/docs/govpressrelease.pdf

The Association for Technology Professionals in British Columbia
Landfill Gas Regulation Cites Qualified Professionals

Call for Qualified Professionals

The Landfill Gas Management Regulation under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Emissions Standards) Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 became effective January 1, 2009. This initiative is part of Ministry of Environment’s support for the provincial government’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gases by at least 3% below current levels by 2020.

“We are pleased to see this new Regulation includes ASTTBC members as Qualified Professionals,” says John Leech, ASCT, CPEng, President and CEO of the ASTTBC Executive Director. “It is an example where legislation or regulation provides full recognition of our members.”

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

ASTTBC Seeks Changes to Architects Act

Government called for legislation to reflect current practices

THE ARCHITECTS ACT has not changed fundamentally in almost nine decades. ASTTBC has been calling for years for amendments to this legislation that severely restricts the ability of registered building designers. The Association would like to see an exemption in the Architects Act for ASTTBC-registered Building Designers as is done in Saskatchewan.

“If we as a province are serious about addressing current and future skill shortages, we must make full use of our BC-educated and internationally trained technology professionals. To achieve this end we must change professional legislation that is out-of-step with modern realities and that is overly restrictive. I think the Architect Act is a prime example of this need for change,” says ASTTBC’s Executive Director John Leech, ASCT, CPEng.

The Architectural Institute of BC is also requesting the government overhaul their statute, including removing sections that no longer reflect current practices. Where AIBC and ASTTBC differ on their recommendations to government is the architects’ association is proposing a change that could see AIBC regulating Building Designers and Interior Designers.

In meetings with government ministers and senior bureaucrats, ASTTBC representatives stress that this model is not accepted by ASTTBC, at least as it applies to building designers.

“ASTTBC opposes any move by AIBC to assume control over the practice of Building Designers,” continues the ASTTBC Executive Director. “I have been advising government officials of AIBC’s efforts to register building and residential designers as ‘Associate Members,’ and I am letting government officials know we feel it is clearly outside the scope of AIBC’s mandate. ASTTBC is calling on the BC Government to grant an exemption for ASTTBC-registered Building Designers.”

Leech emphasizes that the Architects Act must be changed in order that BC, enables rather than restricts, BCIT and college graduates, and internationally trained technology professionals.

He points out that changes to the Act also are needed to meet government goals relating to the Agreement on Internal Trade.

Technology Skills Report Flags Action Steps

Outcomes from Kelowna roundtable now available

IN OCTOBER 2008, ASTTBC partnered with Okanagan College and the Okanagan Science & Technology Council to stage a roundtable that drew attention to the technology skills shortage in the Okanagan. This was the fourth in a province-wide series of roundtables instigated by ASTTBC. The report from the Kelowna Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortage has now been published.

Okanagan College, OSTEC and ASTTBC will take the lead on four specific proposals to ‘jump start’ the outcomes from the Roundtable.

• Form a steering committee to bring together the various proponents behind similar technology and science shortage initiatives (OC, OSTEC and ASTTBC)

• Create an ‘Industry Ambassadors’ program to take the message to local schools (OSTEC)

• Launch a targeted media campaign to raise awareness of the engineering technologies careers and programs (OC)

• Offer a ‘Science Educator of the Year Award’ at the OSTEC Silicon Valley Awards (OSTEC, ASTTBC)

“At we were pleasantly surprised that results from this dialogue,” said Bruce Stevens, ASCT, one of the organizers of the event. “What we need now is for people to get involved in the action steps we have identified, or for those with initiatives that they want to champion, to teach us how we can help connect them with others who want to participate.”

Results of the Kelowna Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortage are posted at www.asttbc.com/docs/roundtable.pdf

Want to get involved?

Please contact Bruce Stevens, ASCT at (250) 491-0395 or email sales@strategiesolutions.telus.net

Shaping BC’s future… we all have a role to play!

National Technology Benchmarks Adopted

New approach more ‘user-friendly’

IN THE FALL OF 2006, a plan was developed by volunteers and staff from the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists, and from the Canadian Technology Accreditation Council to develop a new set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards that would provide Canada with a harmonized set of Technology Accreditation Standards. This plan resulted in some challenges for the Council of Registrars from the provincial technology associations as they work to adapt their processes to use the National Technology Benchmarks in the certification process for technologists and technicians.

The Educational Agency with the most accredited programs in British Columbia is BCIT. With all of its 21 accredited technology programs now undergoing the NTB review, many ASTTBC members are volunteering their services on review teams.

“If you’re a grad from an accredited program, in BC or anywhere else in Canada, I invite you to have a look at the NTB for your discipline and see if you feel that it fairly represents the outcomes which your program provided when you graduated,” says Pixie Elliot, ASCT, RPF, British Columbia’s representative on the Canadian Technology Accreditation Council Board. “You will need to look at both your discipline-specific section and the general section that lays out requirements for all technology programs, to fully appreciate the scope of the NTB requirements for CTAB accreditation in Canada, and eventually for certification through ASTTBC or any of our sister associations across the country.”

Also in the works is a new database that is being created by ASTTBC that will be based on the NTB. It will provide visibility to part-time and distance-education courses that meet the outcomes specified in the NTB. Members wishing to upgrade their certification level, or potential off-shore applicants, will be able to see what options they have for filling any gaps in their academics, or simply for upgrading or renewing their technical skills and knowledge by means of part-time, online or correspondence courses. Watch ASTT News for information when the database goes public.

Comments on the National Technology Benchmarks or on CTAB accreditation in general, are welcome. Contact Pixie Elliot, RPF, ASCT, BC’s representative on the Canadian Technology Accreditation Council Board through asttbc@telus.net.

The National Technology Benchmarks are posted at www.ntb.ca

Minister Chong Meets TECC Council to discuss skills shortage

Members of the TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION & CAREER COUNCIL (TECC) met with Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development, to discuss TECC’s role in promoting technology education and careers. Minister Chong is MLA for Oak Bay—Gordon Head.

In spite of the current softering of the economy, BC is facing a critical shortage of technology professionals in the long run. As a result, ASTTBC led the formation of TECC in 2008, a vehicle for representatives from industry, associations, education, regulatory authorities and others to advocate for policies, programs and services that will ensure a sustainable technology education and careers.

The TECC group made a few key asks of the Minister, including that technology education programming be tied to market needs. TECC Chair Sandy Innes, Vice President Human Resources at Telus, provided the Minister with the three-year goals of TECC. The Minister expressed appreciation for TECC’s work and asked to be kept posted on key developments.

For information on TECC, visit tecc.ca

Who are we?

• We build roads and generate power – but we’re not engineers.

• We design robots and troubleshoot electrical equipment – but we’re not electricians.

• We make hospitals work and clean your water – but we’re not scientists.

• We are a little of all of the above.

• We are the glue between them. We are Technology Professionals.

British Columbia Land Surveyors

The Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors invites you to consider a career as a commissioned professional land surveyor.

If you are working in the field of cadastral land surveying and are not currently registered as a Survey Student please contact the Registrar at the Association office in Sidney (250) 655-7222 to sign up today.

For more information check our web site at www.abcls.ca

Attention Geomatics Technologists and Technicians

The Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors invites you to consider a career as a commissioned professional land surveyor. If you are working in the field of cadastral land surveying and are not currently registered as a Survey Student please contact the Registrar at the Association office in Sidney (250) 655-7222 to sign up today.
THE OPPORTUNITIES NORTH: The Northern Economic Summit that was held in Prince George proved to be an ideal opportunity for ASTTBC representatives to connect with several provincial government ministers.

Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, Murray Coell (MLA for Saanich North and the Islands), spoke with ASTTBC representatives Pirie Elliot, ASCT, RPF and John Leech, ASCT, CAE about the need to enhance access to technology education in Prince George and northern BC. The Minister is aware of ASTTBC’s concern that there are no engineering technology programs north of Kamloops, and that Prince George and the north need these programs. In keeping with the message of technology programs in the north for the north, Pirie and John asked the Minister to support the College of New Caledonia to once again deliver technology programs. The ASTTBC representatives talked about alternative delivery mechanisms that would likely engage the other two northern colleges, Northern Lights College and NorthWest Community College, and possibly the University of Northern BC. Pirie also brought the Minister up to date on the National Technology Benchmarks being developed as the foundation for the accreditation of technology programs throughout Canada and for the certification of technology professionals by ASTTBC and our sister associations.

The Honorable Ida Chong, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development, took a moment out of her busy day to stop by the ASTTBC booth and assist in a prize draw presentation. She spoke with the ASTTBC Executive Director about the Economic Summit and about ASTTBC’s role in developing the human capital needed to ensure a vibrant economy, especially in central and northern BC. John Leech also reinforced with her the need for technology education programs in northern BC. The Minister agreed to follow up by meeting with members of the Technology Education & Careers Council.

The ASTTBC Executive Director spoke with Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, over breakfast at the Summit. The two connected on a number of topics, including the role of technologists, technicians and technical specialists in infrastructure projects that the province is planning. The Minister indicated support for the contribution of technology professionals. The two also discussed briefly the need for professional legislation that fully enables all qualified practitioners.

Pirie Elliot, ASCT, RPF, and John Leech, ASCT, CAE, ASTTBC Executive Director, spoke with Kevin Krueger, Minister of Community Development, about the role of ASTTBC members in community development and services. The three talked about the need for technology education programs in central and northern BC, the importance of enabling rather than restricting qualified professionals, the urgent need to change the Architects Act to recognize ASTTBC members, the importance of national accreditation to ensuring portability of credentials, and ASTTBC’s 50 year contribution to the growth and development of British Columbia. Pirie Elliot is ASTTBC’s representative on the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board.

ASTTBC was one of the sponsors for ‘Opportunities North: The Northern Economic Summit’ that was held in Prince George in June 2006. John Leech, ASCT, CAE, and Pirie Elliot, ASCT, RPF and John Leech, ASCT, CAE, attended the summit to promote their organization’s mission to connect with several provincial government ministers and representatives.

Top in Technology Award
New ASTTBC award to recognize role models

ASTTBC Executive Director chats with Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

As part of ASTTBC’s career awareness initiatives, this year the Association will begin offering the ‘Top in Technology Award’. It will recognize members whose work has been consistent with the high expectations of a professional committed to serving the public, and who have acted as a role model to other British Columbians.

Attributes typical of a nominee could include:

- Mentor/role model
- Demonstrates leadership – excels in his/her field
- Entrepreneurial attitude
- Promotes technology careers
- Uses and/or promotes new technologies
- Volunteers in the community or profession
- Elected to public office
- A new graduate who shows exceptional promise as a technology professional

Nominations should be submitted to the ASTTBC Awards Committee for review and follow-up. Award nominations are then presented to Council for final approval. Presentations will be made at the Annual General Meeting.

www.asttbc.org/about/awards/topintech.php

TechPRO
Helping the public learn about the role of technologists, technicians and technical specialists

TechPRO, ASTTBC’s online database, showcases you as a member! Aside from the recognition you receive by being on the TechPRO web site, you will be helping to promote careers in technology.

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www.techPRO.ca

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"Human capital has and will become the ultimate scarce resource. Technologists and technicians are a precious commodity because they not only know what needs to be done, but also know how to do it with the right tools and equipment.”

Dr. Roslyn Kunin, Economist
Task Group Tackles Environmental Issues
Ontario, Alberta and BC associations work together

MOST TECHNOLOGISTS, technicians and technical specialists, regardless of discipline, have professional responsibilities related to environmental matters. Many are at the forefront of environmental technologies. Environmental issues confronting members in particular and society in general will grow in importance. As a result, ASTTBC and related professional associations have a role to play in raising awareness of the issues and equipping members to respond to environmental challenges.

In 2008 the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists formed an Environment Task Group. Both ASTTBC and the Association of Science and Engineering Technologists of Alberta and BC associations quickly came on board.

Kerri Trace, BSc, AScT, a Civil Technologist with Stantec in Victoria, is ASTTBC’s representative on the task group. “One of our goals is to provide information on topical environmental issues such as new building technologies for example, and to show how we can work with other green associations,” Kerri says. “We have researched and written an article regarding energy efficiency that outlines provincial and federal programs with particular reference to LEED. Our future articles will focus on water and wastewater technologies, brownfields and carbon trading and taxing. We are looking for experts in the field to contribute their technical expertise and knowledge in these areas.”

The primary goal of the Environment Task Group is to identify and implement some tangible initiatives addressing the environmental agenda that provide value to the membership of the three associations that have joined so far.

Are you interested in volunteering as a technical resource to the Environment Task Group?
Contact Kerri Trace, BSc, AScT, a Viterra technician, at kerri.trace@stantec.com

ON THE 29th of September 2008, I had the opportunity to attend the annual BC Innovation Council Awards Dinner. Under normal circumstances, such an event would have been a great chance to network and celebrate innovation in BC, but for me, it was an especially exciting occasion as it was also my first day on the job as BCIC’s new CEO. After ten years of living in the United States and Europe, I had just moved my family back to BC and taken on the new role.

I am very encouraged to see the level of innovation in the province and to be part of BCIC, which plays a vital role in our technology sector. The provincial government has given BCIC the mandate to accelerate the commercialization of innovation in the areas of science and technology. Key pillars of that mandate are to grow BC’s knowledge economy, and to develop and retain talent. To this end, I believe that BCIC and ASTTBC share common goals and should continue to collaborate wherever the opportunity presents itself. We should leverage the links between ASTTBC and the BC Regional Science and Technology Network and its member councils.

In the context of creating and growing a hotbed of innovation in the province, it is important to understand the roles of technologists, technicians and technical specialists. Your contributions to R&D, product design and ultimately, the management of high technology companies, are the life blood of intellectual property creation, and are among the core drivers behind growth in the knowledge economy. Growth in the province’s knowledge economy benefits all British Columbians and plays a vital role in ensuring a prosperous and sustainable future for the next generation.

Personally, I have had the opportunity to enjoy a 21 year career with high technology companies not only here in BC, but internationally as well. It has been an amazing learning experience, which was to a large extent enabled by my education. Along the way I have been offered opportunities to learn new technologies, new cultures and management styles necessary for large and small technology companies. That said, it’s an honor to be back in BC, and to have an opportunity to give back by playing a role in the next growth phase of BC’s technology sector.

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The Marine Institute. Where you want to be.
2008 saw MANY ACHIEVEMENTS, notably in professional regulation and in corporate, member and career awareness. ASTTBC supported our technology professionals in their contribution to the growth and development of British Columbia. We also took a little time to celebrate ASTTBC’s first 50 years.

2008 focused on enhancements to professional regulation. This included: improved access to, and assessment tools for, professional certification; publication of ‘The Engineering Team in Canada – A BC Perspective’ jointly with APEBC and the Industry Training Authority to describe the regulatory framework to internationally trained professionals; a start to integrating the new National Technology Benchmarks into certification processes; enhanced services in support of Onsite Wastewater certification and practices; revamped certification policies for House and Property Inspection; improved reporting of formal complaints; and, approved policies for a Continuing Professional Development program. These are just a few of the initiatives that furthered ASTTBC’s primary work of protecting the public interest through high standards of professional regulation.

2008 saw advances in member recognition. Our members were increasingly recognized as Qualified Professionals; new Guides to Professional Practice were written; additional support for Fire Protection certification was deployed; the BC Safety Authority was engaged to address member practices which potentially overlap with those restricted under the Safety Regulations; and a submission seeking recognition for ASTTBC members within WorkSafeBC’s Occupational Health and Safety Standards was completed.

2008 proved a banner year in public awareness. Our modest efforts of recent years were significantly expanded. ASTTBC sponsored awards at four regional science and technology councils; the technology component of the QuizMe TV program at CKPG and ‘The Kids Page’ in the Free Press, both in Prince George, Roundtables on the technology skills shortage were organized in Prince George, Campbell River and Kelowna. We threw our support behind the BIG Little Science Centre in Kamloops; the Consulting Engineers of BC Awards Gala; the BC Safety Authority Awards; and the ‘Today’s Woman’ and ‘A Healthier You’ conferences. ASTTBC initiated the FIRST NATIONS CAREERS COUNCIL that will be fully launched in 2009. We conducted our first-ever Women in Technology survey with results to be published in 2009. We advertised in Business In Vancouver and BC Business Magazine, profiled ASTTBC members in the newsletter of BCIT’s alumni association and published a special feature in 27 newspapers throughout BC as part of National Technology Week. And that is not all!

2008 was a year that built on our five decades of service to British Columbians. Once again ASTTBC stretched its resources, and yet, we accomplished a lot thanks to the leadership and support of hundreds of volunteers, the contribution of enthusiastic partners and the work of dedicated staff.

2008 was a year that built on our five decades of service to British Columbians. Once again ASTTBC stretched its resources, and yet, we accomplished a lot thanks to the leadership and support of hundreds of volunteers, the contribution of enthusiastic partners and the work of dedicated staff.
ASTTBC Group Plans & Services... adding value to your registration!

For more information about the Association’s Group Plans and Services, check out...

www.asttbc.org

Highlights of ASTTBC Accomplishments in 2008

Covering the period from January 1 to December 31. For more details, visit... www.asttbc.org

In 2008 ASTTBC applied time and resources to serve the public by regulating and supporting technology professionals’ commitment to a safe, healthy and sustainable society and environment. Key activities included...

Goal #1 - Professional Legislation & Regulation

ASTTBC met with government staff and wrote to the Minister requesting an update to the Architects Act that would include an exemption for provincially-registered technologists and technicians. ASTTBC also flagged efforts by the Architectural Institute of BC to award titles for Building Designers and Residential Designers, a move that ASTTBC feels is ultra vires to the Architects Act.

ASTTBC and other stakeholders met with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General about plans by the government to require House Inspector Licensing. In the area of Onsite Wastewater, ASTTBC received a government grant to review licensing and had improving inter-provincial mobility, ASTTBC and the Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta signed an agreement to enhance portability of credentials for technologists and technicians in keeping with the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement.

Goal #2 - Rights to Practice

In 2008 two more Guides to Professional Practice (one for Fire Protection and the other for Architectural Technology – Building Design) were prepared to draft stage and circulated for input. ASTTBC completed a contract to develop an interview process for Internationally Educated Professionals. The objective was to streamline the process for applicants.

Goal #3 - Professional Standards & Regulation

Externally, ASTTBC worked with related technology associations to develop new National Technology Benchmarks. Internally, ASTTBC started reviews on professional practice examinations, peer review and practice audit, and on the process and use of interviews for certification. Regulation Section 4.7 relating to the Practice Review Board & Discipline Committee was rewritten to ensure thatAMENTP tools and procedures will not subject to challenge on a point of procedure in court. A draft policy on the Registered Technology Manager (RTMg) program was submitted to Council and is expected to begin in 2009.

ASTTBC reached agreement with ABCFP on the proposed transfer of the FOREST MEASUREMENTS REGISTRATION BOARD to ABCFP. It is anticipated that the transfer will be completed by May 2009. ASTTBC developed a new House Inspection Certification Policy for those seeking registration in this field and a new category of registration – Provisional Certified House Inspector – was added. Staff met the new Fire Commissioner to discuss ASTTBC’s Fire Protection Technician Certification program and the need for province-wide certification. This year, Pitt Meadows and Coquitlam joined 11 other municipalities that call for certification of practitioners. A new ‘Verification of Fire Alarms’ certification was developed for this group. A new brochure about the Onsite Wastewater Registration Program was distributed to ROWP practitioners, health authorities, real estate boards, UBCM regional directors, the Building Officials’ Association of BC and others throughout the province.

A change in underwriters for the ASTTBC Errors & Omissions Insurance Program resulted in an average rate decrease of 20% for most renewing members, and approximately 74% for House and Property Inspectors.

The ASTTBC Practice Review Board investigated 45 complaints in 2008 (case histories can be seen on www.asttbc.org).

Goal #4 - Professional Recognition

ASTTBC was active on many fronts to promote the role of technologists, technicians and technology specialists. In the area of government relations, Association representatives met formally or informally with...

• the Premier
• both the Minister and Deputy Minister for Advanced Education and Labour Market Development
• the Minister for each of... Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; Agriculture and Lands; (then) Economic Development; Public Safety and Solicitor General; Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat; Healthy Living and Sport
• the Leader of the Opposition
• MLAs Dave Hayer; Dennis McKay; John Rustad; Rob Fleming
• MP Hedy Fry

ASTTBC was once again a Platinum Sponsor of the Consulting Engineers of BC Awards Gala and representatives from both associations also met during the year. ASTTBC Council members, staff or volunteers attended the annual meetings of CEBC, ABCIS, BCOSCA, BOABC, ASET and OMECTT. ASTTBC received the SAFERhouse ‘Partner of the Year’ award. Association staff met with stakeholders such as the City of Richmond, TELUS, Terasen, Health Sciences Association of BC and Union of British Columbia Municipalities. In collaboration with APEBC and the Industry Training Authority, ASTTBC produced ‘The Engineering Team in Canada – A BC Perspective’, an information brochure for overseas professionals, students and the public. The Association made presentations at the YWCA Employer Services Department and at SUCCESS to assist Internationally Educated Professionals.

In the educational arena, ASTTBC met with the BC Deans of Technology and mounted exhibits at open houses or job fairs at BCIT and the colleges. BCIT, Okanagan College and Camosun College all introduced a ‘fast track’ process for student membership in ASTTBC, resulting in a 70% increase in student registrations.

Advertising for the year included ads in the BCIT ‘Ambassador’ alumni newsletter, the BC College of Teachers magazine and in community newspapers in conjunction with both the Minerals North Conference and the BC Natural Resource Forum. ASTTBC was also in ‘Outlook 2008’ and ‘BC TECH Guide 2008’.

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Goal #5 – Member Services
A new affinity partner agreement with Olympia Trust will provide cost and tax savings on health and dental coverage, making it ideal for members who work as consultants or who run small-to-medium-sized businesses. Group discounts were negotiated on tickets to Playland and the PNE, and to the Vancouver Arts Club Theatre.

A Member Compensation Survey questionnaire was developed at the end of 2008 and this survey will be run early in 2009.

Information meetings were held with members in Nanaimo, Victoria, Kelowna, Prince George and Kamloops. ASTTBC e-News continued to be broadcast monthly and the twice-yearly ASTT News had a circulation of 10,000. Inserts on topics ranging from the AGM registration form, CTEN brochure, money-saving programs and the Engineering Team in Canada brochure were included.

Several institutes under the ASTTBC umbrella provide services to specific groups of members. The BC Institute of Property Inspectors completed work on a new ‘Standards of Inspection for Multi-Family Residential’, hosted several educational sessions and offered other member services. BCPI offered much support to ASTTBC in the government review of licensing for home inspectors. The Steel Detailers Institute of BC rounded out its AGM with professional development workshops and wrapped up the year with a golf tournament. The Building Designers Institute of BC was placed under Council direction. Members will be consulted as to their interest in the future of BDIBC. Other activities included sponsoring the WorkSafeBC 2008 Construction Safety Symposium.

Goal #6 – Technology Education & Careers
The TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION & CAREERS COUNCIL was launched in June. The goal is to champion an action plan to deal with the technology skills shortage.

In 2008, ASTTBC sponsored student competitions at Camosun College and Okanagan College, and the Wood WORKS! province-wide Catapult Competition. The Association underwrote the technology section of the ‘QuizMe’ TV show and ran a 30 second spot promoting careers in technology on PGTV. Continued support was provided to the BIG Little Science Centre in Kamloops, an investment that pays off in media coverage and the opportunity to talk about technology careers on radio and TV. Representatives manned an exhibit at the Richmond School District Science Fair, spoke at Kelowna School District’s Career Expo and attended a workshop on Scientists in the Schools in Nanaimo. ASTTBC was a sponsor of the Okanagan Science & Technology Council’s awards dinner. ASTTBC sponsored and presented awards at several science and technology events such as the Mid-Island Science, Technology & Innovation Council Awards; ‘A Healthier You’ conference in Prince George; and the ‘Today’s Woman’ conference in Prince George.

National Technology Week served as Canada’s showcase for careers in applied science and engineering technologies. ASTTBC ran a two-page National Technology Week feature and TechACTION ads in 27 Black Press newspapers around the province, reaching 700,000+ readers. The Association posted 14 video clips on women in technology on its web site, promoted a student design competition and facilitated various activities designed to enhance career awareness.

ASTTBC’s charitable foundation, the Foundation for Education & Advancement in Technology, again provided $24,000 in student bursaries. A 500x50 campaign was launched to increase FEAT’s Technology Legacy Fund to $500,000 in celebration of ASTTBC’s 50th anniversary.

Goal #7 – Public Policy
ASTTBC co-hosted roundtables in Prince George, Campbell River and Kelowna to address the technology skills shortage. More than 500 ASTTBC members participated in the Engineers Canada–CCITT Labour Market Study. This year, ASTTBC members formed the FIRST NATIONS CAREERS COUNCIL to encourage technology education and careers in First Nations communities. ASTTBC arranged and sponsored a special lunch with Minister John van Dongen as keynote speaker in a lead-up to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Summit 2008. The Association joined consultations on the government’s Green Building Code and the Modernization Project.

Goal #8 – Governance & Management
2008 was ASTTBC’s 50th Anniversary. Celebrations were kicked off at the AGM in May. ASTTBC’s Awards & Recognition Celebration in October was a ‘red carpet’ gala to mark the anniversary. Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, was the guest speaker and many colleagues from CCTT and the other provincial technology associations attended.

As of December 31, 2008, ASTTBC membership stood at 7,656 and Technical Specialist members reached a total of 1,730. Net overall growth was 4.4%. ASTTBC finished the year with a surplus of $1,259.
Public Representatives on Council
Non-members add to transparency of professional regulation

In May 2006, ASTTBC appointed two Public Representatives to its Council, the Association's governing body. Representatives drawn from the public provide valuable input and help bring the perspective of the broader community to bear on the governance of the Association.

**JIM BLAKE**, MBA, CA, is Chair, Board of Directors of the Prince George Airport Authority. Prior to that he spent 25 years at the College of New Caledonia, first as Chief Financial Officer, then Vice-President and later as Acting President. This experience gives him a unique perspective on the need for skilled technology workers in northern British Columbia.

"It has been a struggle to keep technology programs going at CNC, but I think that is changing," says Jim. "There is an increasing need for medical technicians with the expansion of the Prince George Hospital, forestry is looking for a different skill set these days, mining is on the upswing and the UNBC is conducting research that will drive the need for skilled techs.

When the Prince George airport began negotiating in 2001 to become an independent authority, Jim Blake was asked to sit on the Board. Since then, the airport has seen constant growth. In February 2009 the airport opened the third-longest runway in Canada, an expansion that positions it to offer refueling services to aircraft flying the Great Circle Route from Asia to the eastern and southern USA.

Jim sees his role as a Public Representative on the ASTTBC Council as primarily ensuring that the actions Council takes are in the public interest.

"We can play a part in ensuring that the Association acts in a responsible and fair way toward both its members and its members and the public," he says. This is the second time Jim Blake, MBA, CA, has volunteered as a Public Representative. He also spent six years on the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board.

**JOHN MURPHY** is Manager, Western Canada, Underwriters Laboratories of Canada, located at their Richmond testing facility. John began his career as an elevator technician in Scotland and immigrated to Canada in 1977 where he continued in the elevator industry with BC Building Corporation. His passion for public safety lead to a 22-year career in senior management in the regulatory sphere for the provinces of British Columbia and Ontario. His experience as a project manager in standards development and, in his current position with UL in conformity assessment, provides a broad knowledge of the inter-relationship between standards, certification and regulation.

"At UL, our Public Safety Mission is our core value," says John Murphy. "Technical competency of our engineers and technologists at UL is paramount to meeting our quality standards and ensuring we are safe for consumers. In today's rapidly changing marketplace, our goal is to be the highest quality, fastest, most customer-friendly conformity assessment organization in the world."

John sees his roles at UL and as a Public Representative on the ASTTBC Council as very complementary. "ASTTBC and UL share a passion for public safety and recognize that the highest standards in technical competency, professional practice, regulatory compliance and business ethics are the key elements of achieving this goal," he says. "ASTTBC Council continues to raise the bar in all aspects of governance. Introducing Public Representatives is one example of Council's commitment to consider the impact of its decisions on the public in terms of safety and consumer protection."

**2008 Revenue & Expenses**

**ASTTBC** reported many achievements in 2008 and did so within the projected budget. A narrow surplus of $1,259 was reported with revenue of $2,217,277 and expenses of $2,216,018. ASTTBC continued to meet its obligations under the ASTT Act and to provide a variety of services to the public and members while maintaining a healthy financial position.

Full audited statements are available at www.asttbc.org

### REVENUE

- Membership Dues $1,793,160 $1,694,529
- Registration Fees 106,487 78,266
- Professional Affairs 145,384 156,739
- Education & Seminars 74,620 73,354
- Publications & Member Services 39,621 44,909
- Institutes 16,626 19,894
- Interest 37,539 39,105
- Other 3,880 10,858

**Total Revenue** $2,217,277 $2,117,639

### EXPENSES

- Administration & Interest $158,681 $126,232
- Professional Affairs 1,204,512 1,189,012
- Office & Equipment (includes amortization) 170,505 188,103
- Governance 147,609 111,136
- Professional Affairs & Practice 137,671 99,599
- National Association Dues & Expenses 115,079 98,478
- Public Affairs & Recruitment 101,585 139,086
- Education & Training 123,517 68,053
- Publications & Member Services 49,727 60,425
- Institutes 27,352 22,877
- Reserve Expenditures 0 3,497

**Total Expenses** $2,216,018 $2,103,563

**Excess (Deficiency)** $1,259 $14,075

2007 financial numbers restated in March 2008
In the fall of 2008, ASTTBC conducted a survey among its female members focusing on the challenges that women in technology face as they choose a career, enter the workforce and as they develop their technology careers. From ASTTBC’s 829 female members, there was a 23% response rate. “This is a great response and we are pleased that so many people took the time to participate,” said Nancy Fowler, ASTTBC project leader. Of the 191 respondents, 36% volunteered their time to pursue this subject further. I think that is amazing!”

A team of women, made up of technology practitioners, is analyzing the survey results. The twelve individuals represent ASTTBC female members across age, discipline and location. Given the magnitude of the information received in the survey responses, analysis will not be completed until spring 2009. “Our initial look at the data tells us that we have some great material, and we are anxious to share our findings and recommendations with government, educators, industry and all of our members,” continued Nancy.

“The findings will drive ASTTBC’s next steps. Some activities are already underway to address some of the preliminary findings. For example, a Women in Technology Forum is being planned. Following are some preliminary statistics from the survey and a sneak peek at some of the responses:

- Response rate: 23% (191 of 829 recipients)
- Age group responding: 26% 18 to 30 yrs, 27% 31 to 40 yrs, 31% 41 to 50 yrs, 16% 50+ yrs
- Age at which decision was made to follow a technology career: 34% selected 9 – 12 yrs and 41% selected 13 – 17 yrs
- Important age to capture a girl’s interest in technology / science: 39% selected 9 – 12 yrs and 41% selected 13 – 17 yrs
- Subjects most enjoyed in school: 72% selected the Sciences
- Importance of high school mathematics: 47% say it is very to extremely important
- Career goals: 57% choose to stay hands-on in technical field
- Importance of high school science for success in college: 44% say it is very to excellent support
- Age group responding: 26% 18 to 30 yrs, 27% 31 to 40 yrs, 31% 41 to 50 yrs, 16% 51+ yrs
- Subjects most enjoyed in school: 72% selected the Sciences
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- Career goals: 57% choose to stay hands-on in technical field
- Importance of high school science for success in college: 44% say it is very to excellent support

Preliminary results from the ASTTBC survey were also reprinted in the January 2009 newsletter of the Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology. The SCWIST newsletter provides news and views from and for women working in science, engineering and technology.

Full details will be posted to...

www.asttbc.org/careers/womenintech.php
### First Nations Careers Council

**Empowering First Nations People to Achieve Awarding Careers in Applied Science Technology**

**Clawing Tradition & Technology**

Logo contest draws unique entries

The First Nations Careers Council is a newly formed group of ASTTBC members whose goal is to encourage First Nations students to seek post-secondary education leading to professional careers in the fields of engineering and applied science technology. The FNCC needed a logo that would symbolize its goals and came up with the idea of a logo contest.

“My submission was centered on the idea that there is still knowledge out there to be learned after graduation,” says winner Jennifer Poggin. “I hope it inspires students to learn as much as they can about their traditional knowledge and the scientific world we live in.”

First Nations motifs are prevalent throughout the design by the Prince George artist. For example, the four colors of the medicine wheel are included. The white in this section holds the turtle. “This represents that wisdom and it takes time to get there,” says the artist. The logo blends in science and technology symbols such as an atom and a DNA strand. Electronics and engineering are represented. Education is included through a gold cap and an open book set as the base of the logo.

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### ASTTBC Sparks Two Student Study Prizes

**College of New Caledonia matches ASTTBC gesture**

ASTTBC provided a $1,000 study prize for one female high-school student attending the "Women's Show" in Prince George in October 2008. The money was awarded to help cover the cost of any technical program at a college in BC. At the conference lunchtime, ASTTBC Council member Nancy Fowler, AbTc, drew the winner. Patricia Daduca will be enrolling in a program at the College of New Caledonia in 2009. The College of New Caledonia agreed to match the ASTTBC prize with a second $1,000 draw. The winner of that prize was Lakin Peck.

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### ASTTBC Sponsors Northern Technology Award Association continues raising profile in north

**Opportunities North:** The Northern Economic Summit at the end of January 2009, was a forum aimed at shaping the economic future of the province. Business, government and community leaders discussed the choices, challenges and potential of the provincial economy. Prominent speakers joined Premier Gordon Campbell and cabinet ministers at the Summit. ASTTBC was one of the sponsors for the Prince George event.

This year the annual Northern BC Business & Technology Awards’ gala was held at same time as the Summit. Tower Radio received ASTTBC’s Technology Provider of the Year award. It was the second time Tower Radio received an award from ASTTBC. The recognition in 2008 came from its work on the 911 emergency services system for the regional district of Kitimat–Stikine, an area of more than 100,000 sq km. ASTTBC Vice President Doug Carter, CTech, was joined at the concurrent events by ASTTBC staff and members from the Prince George area. “It was a great opportunity to be invited to attend this event as a representative for ASTTBC and the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board,” said Pirie Elliot, AScT, RPF. “I appreciated the opportunity to attend the sessions as well as the Northern Technology Awards’ reception.”

ASTTBC ran a full page, full color ad in the event feature and a smaller black and white ad in northern BC newspapers shortly after ‘Opportunities North’ and the ‘Northern BC Business & Technology Awards’ reception.

For more info on the event, visit... www.businessnewstechshow.com
ONE OF THE CHALLENGES for all professional regulatory bodies is to meet government expectations for full national labour mobility by April 2009. Federal legislation known as the ‘Agreement on Internal Trade’ aims to reduce barriers to the movement of persons, goods, services and investments within Canada. This is complicated by the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement between the provinces of BC and Alberta.

What does AIT mean for ASTTBC members? For AScTs and CCTTs, transfers from and to other provinces will not change much as ASTTBC generally has an AIT compliant agreement with our sister associations across the country and the process for applicants has been greatly simplified. The main impact will be on ASTTBC’s technical specialist groups. The AIT requires that any individual who is licensed or registered by a statutory authority in Canada must be accepted for registration and licensing by the appropriate regulatory body in the province to which they are transferring. However, many of these technical specialist groups have no statutory equivalence in the other provinces, while those disciplines that do, may have different competency standards. This creates a problem in regards to the Association’s mandate to protect the public interest from a health and safety perspective. An example would be onsite wastewater practitioners who transfer to BC from, for instance, Alberta or Nova Scotia where they were government licensed. Under AIT, the receiving association would be required to automatically grant registration as an ROWP without an individualized assessment. This creates a problem in regards to the Association’s mandate to protect the public interest from a health and safety perspective.

The School of Engineering at CNAQ offers two- and three-year engineering technician and technology diploma programs in Mechanical, Chemical Processing, Electrical and Telecommunications Engineering Technology. The curriculum for these programs is based upon local industry requirements and the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board’s National Technology Accreditation Database. Initial accreditation for three of these engineering technology programs is currently underway. The School employees 50 technical faculty, many of whom are certified as CTEch, AScT, CET or PTEch from CCTT constituent members associations. CNAQ is always looking to hire Canadian certified technical professionals

CCTT Launches Monthly e-Newsletter

CTT Launches Monthly e-Newsletter

Newsletter formatted for wireless devices

Innovation

January 2009 saw the first issue of ‘Innovation’, a monthly e-newsletter featuring shorter articles on current events affecting Canada’s community of technology professionals. Published by the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists, ‘Innovation’ is the title because that is what technicians and technologists do. Recognizing that we live in an era of instant communications, often facilitated by the pervasive Blackberry, the editors know that timeliness, frequency and compatibility with wireless devices is a must. If a topic interests the reader, simply click on it for the full story. Otherwise scroll on. CCTT did away with printed newsletters years ago. Now CCTT has moved away from a quarterly electronic news magazine, to the concise monthly format.

To subscribe visit:

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Ne ed to Build a Team of Highly Qualified Technical Personnel?

Hired certified Technology Professionals!
ASTTBC Staff News

Association benefits from experience and fresh ideas

WHEN THE CALENDAR flipped to 2009, three staff at ASTTBC became multi-decade veterans… John Leech, AScT, CAE, Executive Director, joined the organization in 1974. Cindy Aitken and Betty Bell have both been with ASTTBC for 20 years. "More than half of our Staff have been with us for at least five years and many for more than a decade," says John. At the same time, he notes the past two years we have brought in the specialized talents of new people to meet the growing needs of the organization."

Late in 2008 Ron Hein, ROWP, took on the role of manager of ASTTBC’s Onsite Wastewater Registration Program and Peter Link, CTech, CPI, took over responsibility for the BC Institute of Property Inspectors. Prior to that Bruce Stevens, AScT, was contracted to ramp up the Construction Safety Officer program and Brian Stegavig became manager of Fire Protection Registration.

Early in 2009, after 10 years as Executive Director of FEAT, Ted Nodwell, Manager, Communications, handed responsibility for ASTTBC’s charitable foundation, to Jason Jung, AScT, ASTTBC’s Manager, Technology Careers. In February 2009 Anne Sharp joined the staff as Manager, Marketing for ASTTBC as well as Director, Development for FEAT.

Collaboration contributes to ASTTBC’s success

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS who share common interests has made a difference to ASTTBC’s success over 50 years. Many accomplishments have come through joint efforts by ASTTBC with regulatory bodies, employers, education institutions or trade and technical societies.

Members of the BC Institute of Property Inspectors discuss the new licensing for home inspectors with John van Dongen, Minister of Public Safety and Protection Registration.

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