Our mission is to serve the public by regulating and supporting Technology Professionals’ commitment to a safe, healthy, and sustainable society and environment. Why is this important? The learning activities that we as professionals engage in as we continue to develop and enhance our abilities demonstrates our ongoing competencies. Those who do not partake in continuing professional development (CPD) will be left behind by the competition, in work that they can bid or participate on, and likely that next great job. Moreover, the public expects that technologists, technicians and technical specialists are completely informed of issues and advancements in their practice.

In this issue of CONNECT, we focus on CPD which is an important aspect of being a technology professional. Developing your professional knowledge and competence is a lifelong endeavour, especially in this technological environment. Nothing sits still and we must embrace learning in a conscious and proactive manner.

As CEO, Theresa recently completed all of her credits to re-certify as a project management professional. She did this through partaking in online webinars and courses as well as giving presentations to our staff. President Trent Reid, in addition to his years serving on Council and other committees, continues his ongoing development through classroom studies and has generously agreed to perform more volunteer work for ASTTBC by becoming the Council Representative on the ASTTBC Foundation Board.

Volunteering is an easy twofer with regards to CPD. For those who donate their time to committee work, you are not only advancing your professional, you will also receive CPD credits for that work! ASTTBC is in need of many more volunteers for its committees and to participate in community events. To find out more about volunteer opportunities with ASTTBC, please contact techinfo@asttbc.org.

As you read this latest edition of CONNECT we ask - how are you keeping informed?

Respectfully yours,

Trent Reid, CTech
ASTTBC President

Theresa McCurry, BSc, PMP
ASTTBC Chief Executive Officer
SPOTLIGHT

ASTTBC CPD POLICY
A visual guide to ASTTBC’s updated CPD Policy
P. 4

LEGALESE
Minimize the risk of client complaint and litigation
P. 6

REGULAR FEATURES

CPD - CATCH THE WAVE!............................................................... P. 5
MEMBER SERVICES............................................................................ P. 7
INTERIOR........................................................................................... P. 8
LOWER MAINLAND............................................................................ P. 9
NORTHERN BC................................................................................ P. 10
VANCOUVER ISLAND....................................................................... P. 11
NEW MEMBERS................................................................................ P. 12
UPCOMING EVENTS.......................................................................... P. 13

Established in 1958, ASTTBC regulates standards of training and practice of technologists, technicians and technical specialists, to protect the interests of the public under the ASTT Act. For more information, please visit ASTTBC.ORG

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Keep calm and pay your dues
Upaid dues will result in membership cancellation on February 28.
As of March 1st, a $100 fee will be applied to reinstate membership. Your membership proves:
• You are qualified, registered and accountable.
• You belong to one of BC’s largest professional Associations.
• You are highly skilled and in demand.
Thank you for your prompt attention and your continued support.
SPOTLIGHT: 2019 CPD POLICY

ASTTBC TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS

In our ever-changing technological environment, the public expects that technologists, technicians and technical specialists keep informed of the latest developments in their practice. The Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) policy supports the objectives of the ASTT Act, Regulations and Code of Ethics that ASTTBC registrants commit to adhere to.

CPD Policy: Minimum 20 CPD hours per year, averaged over three calendar years.

4 ways to earn CPD hours

- Formal (Structured) Learning
- Informal (Unstructured) Learning
- Volunteering
- Employment or practice

How to record

Log into cpd.asttbc.org/login.php
Select activity
Insert completion date
CPD tracker automatically converts your hours of activity to ASTTBC CPD hours

Breakdown:

- Formal Learning
  1 hour of activity = 1 CPD hour
- Informal learning
  2 hours of activity = 1 CPD hour
- Volunteering
  3 hours of activity = 1 CPD hour
- Employment
  1 month or 150 hours = 1 CPD hour

For more information, please visit cpd.asttbc.org/login.php
CPD - CATCH THE WAVE!

Professional surfers know their success in surfing requires watching for and catching a big wave as it is forms, then staying just ahead of the leading edge as it curls and breaks. Technology professionals should be able to relate to this metaphor that has so many similarities to being successful in your career. Just think of the waves as projects and practices in your discipline or specialty. Like the surfer, you scan the horizon to identify opportunities that will carry you forward. Environmental conditions change and some days the waves are bigger and better than others.

The applied science and engineering technology environment also changes and to succeed as a technology professional you must keep on top of the changes rather than getting swamped or missing the wave completely. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is all about keeping in shape and staying on top of the waves of change.

The Professional Governance Act (PGA) has the potential of creating waves of opportunity for ASTTBC registrants. The PGA also includes a CPD requirement. The revised ASTTBC CPD policy that came into effect January 1, 2019 positions ASTTBC to be on top of the change.

The requirement for members to remain current in their field is found in the ASTTBC Code of Ethics, Principle 6: “Members of ASTTBC shall keep informed to maintain proficiency and competence, to advance the body of knowledge within their discipline and further opportunities for the professional development of their associates.”

Record your waves of CPD activity here.
For upcoming CPD opportunities try surfing this page.
It is an unfortunate reality that complaints against regulated professionals in all fields are on the rise. Dissatisfied clients and other members of the public may file complaints with a professional’s regulatory body as well as initiate litigation in cases where they have suffered loss or injury. While it is often not possible to prevent a complaint of professional misconduct or civil action from being filed, you can significantly minimize that risk and the potential exposure for serious regulatory or civil consequences in the following ways.

First, focus on clear, respectful and professional communication. The overwhelming majority of complaints filed with self-governing regulatory bodies stem from miscommunication and unrealistic client expectations. Be clear on the scope of your engagement, what you can and cannot do for a client, and what your professional services will cost. Confirm the terms of your retainer in writing with your client to prevent misunderstandings and unwarranted assumptions from developing. Keep your client up to date on the status of your work. Ensure that you return communications from your client and others in a timely manner, even if just to say that you will return the message shortly. Clients who feel ignored are far more likely to voice their displeasure with your regulatory body.

Second, focus on providing competent professional services. Properly and precisely qualify any opinions that you provide. Identify areas that you have not investigated and explain why. Ensure that you have complied relevant statutory and other regulatory requirements. Refrain from taking on work that lies outside your experience or area of expertise. Refer prospective clients to other professionals where you do not have the knowledge or experience to confidently perform the work. Recognize that time and budget constraints can improperly compromise services. Properly train and supervise your staff.

Stay abreast of changes in technology, regulation and practices through continuing education. Part of being a professional is a commitment to professional development and continued learning over the course of your professional career. With the proliferation of online courses and webinars in recent years, it has never been easier to become a lifelong learner.

Finally, it is critically important to maintain complete and accurate records. Keep copies of all non-transitory communications with clients and third parties, field notes, working documents, reports, and other work product material. Ensure that your records are legible, properly organized, dated, and clearly set out your reasoning process in case you are later called upon to explain your actions. Courts and professional regulatory bodies will rely heavily on records that were made contemporaneously at the time as one of the best sources of evidence given the frailties of human memory.

As a professional, your focus is on providing the highest level of service that you can for your clients. Following these steps will not only assist you in achieving that but, importantly, it will also serve to minimize the risk of professional misconduct complaints and civil actions and help you navigate those processes with greater ease if they arise.

For more information, please contact Angela at 250-480-7475 or aw@lw-law.ca.
ASTTBC has carefully selected value-add service providers who offer special rates to our members in areas that matter most to technology professionals and their families.

Our Affinity Partners Program offers exclusive rates on products and services with trusted providers, such as:
- Willis Towers Watson
- TD Insurance Meloche Monnex
- Manulife
- Dreyer Group Mortgage Brokers
- Olympia Benefits

TechCLUB provides member discounts on travel, training, and more. Access these savings by logging into TechClub!

Hotel discounts
- Accent Inns
- Hotel Grand Pacific – Victoria
- Sandman Hotel Group

Car rentals
- Hertz Car Rental
- Zipcar

Travel discount service
- Collette
- Local Hospitality

Training programs
- CSA Group
- Epic Education
- Fiore Training Group
- The Art of Leadership

Entertainment
- BC Lions
- Broadway Across Canada
- PNE Playland
- Vancouver Whitecaps

Additional Products and Services
- ATI Insurance
- Endless Savings & More
- Mark's Commercial
- Quinella Auto

ASTTBC TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS

2018 ASTTBC Member Survey – Sneak Peek!

The 2018 Member Survey collected your thoughts and opinions to set ASTTBC’s strategic direction and enhance your member experience. Thank you for your participation!

Member participation
- 625 in 2016
- 1,365 in 2018

218% increase

Top 3 rated performance areas
1. Public understanding of role of technologists, technicians and technical specialists
2. Doing enough to advocate that jobs be filled by ASTTBC registered members
3. Recognition of members as professionals by employers

Top 3 activities for ASTTBC to continue
1. Increase communications with members
2. Hold community level member meetings
3. Enhance ASTTBC’s CPD Program
OKANAGAN COLLEGE WATER ENGINEERING GRAD MAKES A SPLASH WITH LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

ASTTBC Student Member, Scott Brost stepped into Okanagan College’s Water Engineering Technology (WET) program two-and-a-half-years ago looking to launch a new career that would help his community thrive. On January 12th, he picked up his diploma having already landed a full-time job with the City of West Kelowna.

“It feels amazing to graduate, especially knowing that I’ve already got a full-time permanent position right out of the gates,” says Brost. “It’s a big weight off my shoulders and lets me know that all my hard work in the classroom and in my co-op terms paid off.”

The College’s WET diploma program combines theoretical with applied learning and includes three co-op terms. Students can choose from two streams of specialization, water and waste water technology and environmental monitoring.

“A lot of our students are able to find full-time jobs in their field before graduation or just shortly afterwards,” says Allison O’Neill, WET Department Chair and Professor.

“The WET program at Okanagan College, combined with three integrated co-op work terms, sets students up for success. It’s not uncommon to hear of co-op employers offering permanent positions to students.”

Brost was hired in his first year as a co-op student at the Regional District of Central Okanagan Waste Water Treatment Facilities. He spent his second co-op term at the City of West Kelowna’s (COWK) Powers Creek Plant and his last co-op term was in COWK’s Water Utilities department. He was offered a full-time position in the COWK’s Water Utilities department prior to graduation as a Public Works Utility Operator 1.

“This program is so aligned with regional employers’ needs and the co-op terms are absolutely fantastic,” explains Brost. “I am fortunate to move forward with my career and hit the ground running with such an amazing employer who is doing a lot of innovative work in the industry right now – it’s an exciting place to be.”

The 2018 British Columbia Labour Market Outlooks predicts 903,000 job openings in the province between now and 2028, with nearly 80 percent requiring workers with some form of post-secondary education.

This year, the College will see more than 21,000 learners attend – the equivalent of more than 8,745 full-time students – at its campuses from the Shuswap to the South Okanagan.

CPD OPPORTUNITY:
ICBA – Trenching and Excavation Safety March 14 Kelowna
For more information, please click here.

TECHJOB:
Engineering Technologist, Ducks Unlimited Kamloops
For job details, please click here.

For more TECHJOB postings throughout the province, please visit this page.
Community Fire Prevention has been servicing Metro Vancouver for over 30 years. Since 2008, the company has grown from a single-man operation to a team of more than 50 full-time employees. The Port Coquitlam based company is an industry leader in fire prevention sales and inspection and has recently become a distributor and programming provider of Mircom Fire Detection Products and Alarms.

The substantial growth has also allowed Community Fire Prevention to expand its list of services, including full-service electrical, mechanical, and newly created emergency preparedness division. The company has a positive reputation with its growing client base and the local AHJ (Authorities Having Jurisdiction) who view Community Fire as a professional leader amongst safety providers.

Owner Brett Johnston commented, “It has been an amazing journey this past 10 years of ownership. To think back 10 years ago our “head office” was a corner desk inside my home, to the team and culture we’ve created today. I am so proud of all of the individuals within our company and how far we have all come since this story began.”

“I think that ASTTBC plays an integral part in the safety of all of our communities. Without clear guidelines, rules, and expectations set out for companies and or Registered Fire Technicians the world of fire prevention is a very scary place,” shared Brett Johnston. “It also creates concern for local AHJ’s who would have to then investigate each individuals’ credentials and or level of experience on a single case by case basis, which would create further backlog in their already busy world of inspections and permits. ASTTBC provides a professional platform for consistency, training standards and a formal certifying body to represent the Fire Industry as a whole.”

Community Fire employs 28 ASTTBC Registered Fire Protection Technicians.
The annual BC Natural Resources Forum (BCNRF) is considered to be the most diverse and important conference in northern BC. Delegates learn first-hand about the latest innovations, trends and opportunities in the province's dynamic resource sector. The 2019 attendance broke records with the largest contingent of First Nations, resource professionals, service providers, supply leaders and all levels of government.

ASTTBC CEO Theresa McCurry was invited to sit on the Innovation and Technology Panel, moderated by Joel McKay, CEO of Northern Development Initiative Trust. The panel included Andrew Czornohalan, Operations Director, Rio Tinto; Fazil Mihlar, Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Jobs, Trade & Technology; and Jill Tipping, President & CEO, BC Tech Association.

During the panel, ASTTBC promoted the critical importance of recognizing an individual’s competencies, to enable people to achieve professional success and contribute to their work environment in meaningful ways. This is a core feature of the ASTTBC’s certification process. In addition, it was emphasized that the willingness of all stakeholders to collaborate and innovate then becomes key factors for success technologically changing environments.

ASTTBC CEO Theresa McCurry adds, “Engineering and applied science technologists, technicians and technical specialists play a crucial role in developing and supporting BC’s economic growth by contributing approximately $6 billion per year to the BC economy. These professionals are responsible for protecting the public interest, maintaining safe workplaces, providing strong infrastructure design and development, and applying competent, responsible practices in the built and natural environment.”

**CPD OPPORTUNITY:**

ACEC-BC Mixer  
February 28  
Prince George  
For more information, please click [here](#).

**TECHJOB:**

Engineering Assistant,  
Transportation/Engineering & Public Works  
City of Prince George  
For job details, please click [here](#).

For more CPD postings throughout the province, please visit [this page](#).

**2019 BC NATURAL RESOURCES FORUM STATISTICS**

- 1,100+ EVENT ATTENDEES
- 475+ REPRESENTED ORGANIZATIONS
- 74 TRADESHOW EXHIBITORS

**2019 ATTENDEES**

- Prince George - 28%
- Northern BC - 25%
- Southern BC - 19%
- Lower Mainland - 25%
- Other Provinces - 9%
- International - 1%
STUDENTS & EMPLOYERS TO BENEFIT FROM MORE ENGINEERING SPACES AT VIU

An additional 40 engineering diploma and certificate seats at Vancouver Island University will give more students access to the technical skills needed for good-paying jobs in the booming tech industry.

“There hasn’t been any significant investment in tech programming for more than a decade,” said Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. “Adding more tech spaces at Vancouver Island University is part of our provincial tech-expansion plan that’s adding thousands more spaces to give students the skills to succeed and ensuring that the tech sector is supported with homegrown talent.”

Funding of $100,000 will allow Vancouver Island University to develop and implement additional student spaces in the university’s fundamentals of engineering certificate, and a new engineering design and practice diploma program.

“The B.C.’s tech sector is growing exponentially, and companies in every corner of the province need skilled workers,” said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology. “These additional spaces at Vancouver Island University’s engineering programs will help local companies find the talent they need to get their product to market and generate good-paying tech jobs.”

The new, two-year diploma in Engineering Design and Practice builds upon the certificate, targeting those students who wish to gain employment in the local tech sector, but may not want to continue immediately to a full engineering degree.

The diploma provides these students with specific and practical employment skills, with emphasis on the design and fabrication processes.

“Adding an engineering transfer pathway to VIU helps fill an educational void, by allowing students to continue the engineering education they started at VIU, building on what they’ve learned in the first-year certificate,” said VIU engineering transfer student Allan Stenlund. “The second-year diploma allows them to work on more in-depth projects, giving them the opportunity to significantly amplify their capabilities, expanding the scope of their skills and expertise, and their opportunities.”

“The engineering expansion is great news for the mid-Island engineering community,” said Lee Rowley, principal, Herold Engineering. “Having more opportunity for more engineers and technologists to begin their training locally allows a more affordable start to their careers. It also gives local firms the chance to hire well-trained employees, who are familiar with the career opportunities and lifestyle Vancouver Island provides.”

CPD OPPORTUNITY:
PWABC – 2019 Women in Public Works
March 5 Nanaimo
For more information, please click here.

TECHJOB:
Field Technologist,
Koers & Associates Engineering Ltd.
Parksville
For job details, please click here.
### NEW MEMBERS

#### Applied Science Technologist (AStCt)
- Marc Biggelaar
- Graham Blasko
- Ken Chen
- Lance Costain
- Santiago Del Mundo
- Albert Diaz Ng
- Joseph Doxey
- Kathleen Gilbert
- Andrea Harvey
- Damon Huculak
- Shivaji Jathan
- Alyssa Jebb
- Tyson Klaus
- Benjamin Koops
- Tanner May
- Adam Pitcher
- Amarpal Puar
- Eric Ristau
- Jean Royer
- Jeffery Schmidt
- Nadine Schmidt
- Gaurav Schwager
- Mark Sture
- Lukas Zifcak

#### Certified Technician (CTech)
- Jesse Fossum
- Antonio Giaconelli
- Lorne Hadley
- Michael Maidment
- Michael Mangan
- Tomaz Penko
- Shira Rosenberg

#### Technical Specialist
- Esayas Abraha
- Hamed Ahmadi
- Mehran Amini
- Arash Amini
- Tyler Axton
- Ryan Bachinski
- Kerri Birtch
- Daniel Blais
- Jarryd Boisvert
- Jarett Borsoi
- Nicola Bradshaw
- Michael Buchanan
- Nerissa Castro
- Adam Crape
- Darryl Crape
- MC Harvey Cuevas
- Ryan Davis
- Jasdeep Dhillon
- Aaron Einer
- Barry Eli
- Stacy Gagne
- Buyuan Guo
- Jordan Hamelin
- Drew Hetland
- Cody Houser
- Michael Jo
- Pekka Kauppi
- Brian Kidwell
- Amanda Lambert
- Jonathan Lee
- Tzu Yu Lee
- Trevor MacDonald
- Alexander Macfarlane
- Paul Marquis
- Oscar Martinez
- Robert McCrea
- Alan Modin
- Duncan Olufson
- Anthon Ondrovcik
- Tyler Pedersen
- Luke Pitzman
- Jonathan Raedcher
- John Robson
- Philip Rowsell
- Raman Sharma
- Farnaz Shivaei
- Richard Sie
- Gurmukh Singh
- Hongquan Su
- Reece Toews
- Max Tremblay
- Mahmoud Valizadehasl
- Justin Vankoll
- James Velo
- Jian Bo Wang
- Hao Wang
- Ming Wai Wong
- Sarbast Zangana
UPCOMING EVENTS

2019 ASTTBC AGM, Conference & Technology Awards Luncheon
Thursday, June 13th | 8:00am - 4:30pm
Pacific Gateway Hotel, Richmond, BC

For more info visit: asttbc.org/agm

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Feb 20
BCIT Big Info Night

Feb 21
Small Business BC Awards

March 1
National Engineering & Geoscience Month

March 1
Okanagan College Spaghetti Bridge Contest

March 4
BC Science Outreach Workshop

March 4
BC Woodworks Wood Design Awards

March 6
BCIT Presentation Idol

March 6-8
CHBA Builders Super Week

March 11-13
BC Tech Summit

March 14-16
WCOWMA-BC Conference

March 20-22
BC Land Surveyors AGM
Just the facts
about Engineers Canada-sponsored insurance plans

Over 90,000 of your peers and their families enjoy these benefits. You can, too.

Here are more key facts about these valuable plans:

+ You have exclusive access to insurance plans created specifically for engineering professionals.
+ Engineers Canada and Manulife continually assess the plan benefits and rates to ensure they’re highly competitive.
+ They’re innovative, with recent enhancements like the job loss waiver of premium – the first of its kind in Canada.

Learn more about how these plans can benefit you.

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