



QUALIFIED. REGISTERED. ACCOUNTABLE.

Technology Professionals: Value to the Public Interest

Annual Report of the Public Representatives 2014
May 22, 2015

Serving as Public Representatives on the Council of the
Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC:

Brian Carr, PhD, BSc
James Coble, MA

Role of Public Representatives on the ASTTBC Council

Public Representatives provide professional regulatory bodies with input on decision-making and ensure a third party oversight over the work of a self-governing body such as ASTTBC.

Public Representatives are expected to:

- represent the interests of the public by raising issues related to decisions being prepared for implementation by Council that have the potential to impact the public.
- solicit appropriate stakeholders to assure adequate consultation and guidance to inform opinions and recommendations to Council.
- provide a Public Representatives Report to the BC Government, public and ASTTBC members.

Purpose of the Public Representatives Annual Report

The Annual Report focuses on ASTTBC initiatives in 2014 that serve the public interest by enhancing the professional recognition and practice rights for technologists, technicians and technical specialists registered and regulated through ASTTBC. It is an independent statement, and is presented to the ASTTBC Council without need of their approval.

The report will be forwarded to the Minister of Advanced Education, the Minister Responsible for the *ASTT Act*, all Members of the BC Legislative Assembly and the BC Members of the Parliament of Canada. It is also available to other interested stakeholders and will be posted to the ASTTBC website for public access, along with previous Annual Reports.

A condensed version will be presented at the ASTTBC Annual General Meeting on May 22, 2015. A summary will also be included in ASTTBC e-NEWS and ASTTBC Connect.

Council Governance

ASTTBC Council meetings run openly, transparently, professionally and efficiently. The Public Representatives are afforded the opportunity to fully engage and participate in providing contributions, opinions and recommendations to Council governance, and decision-making relative to issues of public interest.

Commendation: ASTTBC Council is to be commended once again for their respectful and open treatment of Public Representatives, with special thanks to ASTTBC's CEO and President.

Public Representative Perspective of Key Advancements and Challenges

This report will focus on the select items that are deemed by the Public Representatives to be of key interest to the public, and that are outlined in the ASTTBC Annual Report of 2014.

Professional Legislation and Regulation

ASTTBC has continued dialogue with APEGBC and government towards implementation of the designation of Professional Technologist (PTech), which already exists in four other provinces. The Public Representatives trust that ASTTBC will establish appropriate terms of qualification and rights to practice for this designation, and offer their support for this initiative.

APEGBC continues to express mixed reaction to this designation.

***Commendation:** The Public Representatives commend ASTTBC Council for its pursuit of the designation of Professional Technologist (PTech) in British Columbia.*

***Recommendation:** The Public Representatives recommend that ASTTBC and APEGBC continue dialogue, and ensure that the focus is on serving and protecting the public in the technology, engineering and geoscience arenas. Further, we encourage both organizations to focus on the “big picture” and establish a framework in which the public can best be protected through enhanced practice rights for all members of these teams.*

Rights to Practice

ASTTBC continues to advance Qualified Professional (QP) recognition for ASTTBC members, and being an active participant in BC government’s Professional Reliance initiative. There are a number of other initiatives involving ASTTBC that are noted in the ASTTBC Annual Report for 2014. The Public Representatives fully support these efforts of ASTTBC Council, Registrar, and CEO.

***Commendation:** The Public Representatives congratulate ASTTBC Council for its success in concluding 2014 initiatives, and offers its encouragement in seeking satisfactory conclusion for those initiatives that remain ongoing.*

***Recommendation:** The Public Representatives encourage ASTTBC Council to continue efforts of advancing Qualified Professional (QP) recognition.*

Professional Standards and Regulation

ASTTBC has continued to work with Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario towards the establishment of Technology Professional Canada (TPC). It is encouraging to be informed that this new body will roll out in 2015. The Public Representatives have expressed concern in the past regarding the present lack of a national forum where all ten provinces sit at the same table, but are pleased that contact efforts between TPC and the remaining Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (CCTT) members took place in 2014.

ASTTBC has also continued to work with the three other provinces on setting national competency standards under which TPC will certify technologists, technicians and technical specialists, and accredit post-secondary programs taught in the public and private sectors.

The Public Representatives are aware that this matter has been ongoing now for several years, and hope that a satisfactory conclusion is on the foreseeable horizon. More importantly, the Public Representatives are pleased that while this discussion has been ongoing for some time, a process of certification within British Columbia, and the mobility of ASTTBC certified workers across Canada, has continued.

The Public Representatives believe that, in the interest of public safety and protection, it is best if all provinces sit at a single table when discussing issues of national concern.

***Recommendation:** The public Representatives support ASTTBC in successfully concluding its efforts towards the formation of TPC on the understanding that:*

- *the best interests of public safety and protection continue to be paramount in the certification process of technologists, technicians and technical specialists;*
- *dialogue between ASTTBC and all provinces not involved in the creation of TPC takes place;*
- *once TPC is running, serious attempts are made for all provinces and territories to eventually be members of a single national forum;*
- *the mobility of credentials across Canada and internationally is a fundamental principle;*
- *ASTTBC continues to liaise with public and private BC post-secondary institutions offering ASTTBC-pertinent technician and technologist programs to ensure that public safety and graduate consistency is maintained, using appropriate benchmarks under which program accreditation and professional certification are measured;*
- *ASTTBC continues to manage appropriate competency benchmarks, preferably national, to certify technologists, technicians, and technical specialists, and to accredit programs offering schooling towards these careers. It is also recommended that such benchmarks be accessible free of charge to the public and private post-secondary institutions.*

Professional Recognition

ASTTBC has been active in seeking employer recognition of career opportunities under its realm, and the advantages of certification. It has also been highly proactive in marketing educational pathways, career opportunities, and rewards of such careers within the school system, to both females and males, to aboriginals and recent immigrants, to the population at large, and to government.

Commendation: The Public Representatives congratulate ASTTBC and its CEO for the energy and resources they put towards the promotion of technologist, technician and technical specialist careers.

International Recognition and Certification

ASTTBC continues to be an active participant with government and APEGBC in reviewing, and recognition of, foreign credentials with the objective of eliminating barriers, while maintaining standards of professional expectations and practice.

Commendation: The Public Representatives congratulate ASTTBC, and the work of its Registrar, in eliminating unnecessary barriers and biases towards foreign workers coming to British Columbia, while continuing to ensure public best interest, protection, and safety in granting certifications.

Other Initiatives

The Public Representatives applaud ASTTBC and its staff for all other positive accomplishments in 2014 that are too numerous to isolate in this report, and for exhibiting a determined, yet professional, demeanour throughout.

The **Annual Report of the Public Representatives 2014** is respectfully submitted by,

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