Celebrating 65 Years of Public Safety
A CPD & Schmoozapalooza Event

Time is running out – register today!
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MISSION
We serve the public by contributing to a safe, sustainable society and environment by regulating technology professionals. We accomplish this through supporting the competent, safe, and ethical practice of applied science technology in British Columbia.

VISION
Regulation of technology professionals that safeguards the public through leadership and excellence.

Land Acknowledgement
Headquartered in Surrey, BC, ASTTBC acknowledges the traditional Lands of the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwantlen, Qayqayt and Tsawwassen Peoples.

We thank our hosts for their graciousness in welcoming us to carry out our work on their land.

In so doing, we recognize their inherent Indigenous rights and title, the implementation without qualification of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and our support for the 94 calls to action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
This year ASTTBC celebrates its 65th anniversary, and we’re marking this milestone with our CPD and Schmoozapalooza event on September 21, 2023! We are excited to celebrate our accomplishments — and there have been many — over the past six-and-a-half decades.

As we look towards our future, and specifically towards a reserved practice, we decided that Back to the Future was a meaningful and appropriate theme for the event. The 1980’s movie is filled with symbolism and lessons that even the most successful leaders and professionals can relate to.

The movie is heavily focused on time, and how some decisions can feel so small and insignificant but can lead to big changes or have life-changing impacts. The movie is about destiny, time, and consequences — all very relatable to ASTTBC. The strategies ASTTBC puts in place today, along with the decisions we make, will have a profound impact on our future and it’s up to us to be mindful of our unique situation to make well-informed and evidence-based decisions to shape our path forward.

Every character in the movie has very clear goals. From Doc Brown building his time machine, to Marty McFly’s efforts to save his parents and friend, Doc, these characters have the agility and drive to not give up on what they’ve set out to do. For ASTTBC, we have clear organizational goals outlined in our strategic plan: Obtain reserved scope of practice within two-years; and, be a progressive regulator that meets the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance’s Regulation Standards. ASTTBC continues to harness our ability to be agile to drive important, and positive change to achieve our vision and reach our goals.

Another constant throughout the movie, and in fact, the trilogy, is the focus on family — or of a team. The same could be said for ASTTBC and why we focus so heavily on people — stakeholders, registrants, partners, and staff. We know that key to our success as a top organization in BC is our people and that their professionalism, willingness to learn, and their values ensure that the organization is an effective and responsive regulator.

We have some fun things planned for the event that you won’t want to miss. Aside from the exquisite food to be enjoyed, and door prize to be won, there will also be a special appearance from our friends Doc Brown and Marty McFly!

For details and to register, click here. We hope you can join us.
To celebrate 65 years of enhanced public safety, ASTTBC is hosting an event that will provide a continuing professional development (CPD) opportunity (registrants attending this session will receive one CPD hour towards their annual Indigenous awareness and reconciliation requirement), followed by Schmoozapalooza! Join fellow registrants and colleagues for an evening of celebrations on September 21.

Back to the Future’s Marty McFly and Doc Brown will also make a special appearance! We’ve got other things planned too — don’t miss out!

**When:**
September 21, 2023, 3:45pm (doors open),
and event runs from 4pm–8pm

**Where:**
Versante Hotel — 8499 Bridgeport Road, Richmond

**Tickets:**
$50 each, includes: entrance to the CPD session, hot/cold hors d’oeuvres, chef stations and exhibitor booths. **Tickets can be purchased online until September 13, 2023.**

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**CPD Session**

**Presenters**

Kate Haines,
Acting Superintendent of Professional Governance, Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance

Jason Jung,
AScT, Director, Professional Practice & Development, Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia

**Presentation description**

With more than 35 years of combined knowledge and experience in regulatory oversight and professional regulation, presenters Kate Haines and Jason Jung will discuss truth and reconciliation and how ASTTBC registrants can further support the ongoing process and shared responsibility of reconciliation under the Professional Governance Act. Attendees will be a part of the hour-long discussion which will also touch on the duty to report, familiarization reviews, and more.

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Thank you TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

[Logos of BCIT, Manulife, BCIT Alumni Association, TD]
Update From the Superintendent

As registrants, you have likely observed some changes at ASTTBC since the transition to the Professional Governance Act (PGA) in 2021. You may have also been wondering about the role of the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) in relation to ASTTBC’s regulation of applied science professionals.

Familiarization Reviews

An early focus of our office was to establish a baseline understanding of the extent to which each regulatory body is meeting the Standards of Good Regulation and the path forward to come into full compliance. Through the familiarization review process, OSPG staff gained a deeper understanding of regulatory body operations beyond the areas that were of focus during implementation. Staff observed that there is no single approach to achieving a given standard — a variety of approaches can potentially meet a standard, enabling regulatory bodies of varying sizes and experience levels to focus on continuous improvement.

The results of the familiarization review show notable progress by all regulatory bodies in addressing concerns raised in the Professional Reliance Review. This is an early step on the path of strengthening and bringing consistency to professional governance in BC, which we expect to further evolve over time. During the familiarization review process, OSPG also identified areas for improvement for all regulatory bodies under the PGA. We acknowledge that each regulatory body coming under the PGA has started with its own experience and history. Performance management is a process of continuous improvement, and we look forward to continued evolution of modern professional governance in regulatory bodies under the PGA.

Statutory Duty to Report

Another area of focus for OSPG has been supporting registrants in meeting their statutory duty to report under section 58 of the PGA. This duty requires registrants to report the practice of an identified registrant when there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the identified registrant’s practice may pose a risk of significant harm to the environment or to the health and safety of the public or group of people. To support consistent understanding of this duty by registrants of all regulatory bodies under the PGA, OSPG developed a recorded webinar and supporting material that is now published on our website. ASTTBC registrants can earn one (1) CPD hour by completing the two-part training, which totals 60 minutes.

Reconciliation

The Province of British Columbia has committed to the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) Calls to Action, the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in Tsilhqot'in v. B.C., and to collaborating on changes to policies, programs and laws to bring these commitments into action. The Province recognizes that Indigenous nations have unique interests and values in water, land and resources and hold specialist knowledge of their traditional territories.

Through discussions with Indigenous nations over the course of legislation development, nations identified the potential role of the OSPG in facilitating cultural awareness and reconciliation among regulatory bodies, which is described in the PGA. Additionally, the PGA requires regulatory bodies to establish continuing education programs that support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in British Columbia.

Initial continuing education programs have tended to focus on the “truth” part of truth and reconciliation, with the objective of ensuring that registrants have knowledge of Canada’s colonial history and the resulting impacts on Indigenous people and communities. Additionally, we encourage regulatory bodies to develop education that is tailored to how each profession interacts with Indigenous people and communities. An architect may be engaged to design a building that has cultural significance to Indigenous people. An applied biologist may be engaged to provide services in relation to major project developments that have potential impacts on Indigenous rights and title. I encourage you to reflect on how you interact with Indigenous people and communities in your work as applied science technologists and technicians, and I look forward to exploring this topic further with Jason Jung, director, professional practice and development, ASTTBC, at the continuing professional development session scheduled on September 21, 2023.
Record your CPD! Deadline is November 30th

The annual deadline for completing and logging your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is November 30, 2023. Registrants are required to complete 12 CPD hours annually, including two hours of training or activity focused on Indigenous awareness and reconciliation, and record them through your ASTTBC account.

Why is Indigenous Awareness CPD important?

Indigenous awareness CPD helps strengthen knowledge, awareness and skills for working with, and providing service to Indigenous Peoples and communities. Increased knowledge supports ASTTBC registrants’ ability to work more safely, and effectively with Indigenous Peoples, and begin to consider their role in correcting, rebuilding and transforming systems to uproot Indigenous-specific racism. Being more aware about Indigenous Peoples and their culture not only makes you a better professional, but it also makes you a better person.

ASTTBC released our new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) website for recording CPD hours. You can login here using your ASTTBC account (the same credentials you used when renewing your most recent registration).

To help you complete your 2023 CPD requirements, we have updated several resources on our website, including:

- tutorials, frequently asked questions, guidance material, and a how-to video on recording your CPD
- resources to help you complete your minimum two hours of Indigenous Awareness training or activity
- CPD webinars to answer questions you may have as well as help you navigate the new CPD site

ASTTBC’s guideline on Continuing Professional Development provides a straightforward explanation of your CPD requirements and examples of what is considered an eligible versus an ineligible activity. All registrants should review this guideline and become familiar with the new 2023 requirements.

If you have any questions or need support, please visit our CPD resource page.

Renewals are also approaching, with a payment deadline of November 30, 2023.
ASTTBC registrants have a responsibility to protect the health and safety of both the public and the environment, as it relates to their profession.

To support this, practising registrants are required to complete 12 continuing professional development (CPD) hours annually. CPD helps individuals, organisations, and entire industries maintain and develop knowledge, providing a competitive edge to both the individual and their employer.

Annual CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- **2 CPD hours** of Indigenous awareness & reconciliation
- **10 additional CPD hours** chosen from eligible activities
- **Record your CPD activities** by November 30 of each year

**How to record**

Log in to your ASTTBC account

From the ‘CPD’ tab click ‘Experiences’, and then click ‘Add Experience’

Select an activity and the completion date. Enter the hours, description, and save.

For full details on ASTTBC’s CPD program, refer to ASTTBC’s CPD Guideline and ASTTBC Bylaws, Schedule F.
ASTTBC
Board of Directors

Under the Professional Governance Act (PGA), ASTTBC is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors comprised of seven elected ASTTBC registrants, including Applied Science Technologists (AScT), Certified Technicians (CTech) and Registered Technical Specialists, four publicly appointed lay directors and the past chair who is an observer. Lay directors are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council in accordance with a merit-based process under section 27 of the PGA. The Board of Directors is led by a chair elected from within it.

The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring that ASTTBC’s mandate, regulation of applied science technology professionals in the public interest, is carried out effectively and in a way that protects the public and the environment.

Get to know your ASTTBC Board:

Ken joined the ASTTBC Board in 2017 serving as a director, secretary-treasurer, vice chair, and most recently, chair. He works in post-secondary engineering education and has a passion for higher education. His skills in leadership, project management, administration and technical communications reinforce him as a strong engineering professional. Ken holds an MBA with a specialty in Employee Engagement from Royal Roads University.

Brian first joined the ASTTBC Board in 2018 and served until 2022. He was re-elected in 2023 as vice chair. Brian has 45-years of experience in geomatics and geophysical operations working on land and marine projects globally. He was a director of geomatics for the Western Hemisphere and later regional operations manager in East Africa and several other countries for a large international geophysical exploration company. He has worked in Vancouver as a partner in land surveying businesses engaged in various geomatics disciplines as well as land development. He is currently self-employed in the geospatial industry working on projects in Canada and abroad.

Recently appointed ASTTBC immediate past chair, David has been an ASTTBC registrant in good standing since 1997, joined the Board of Directors in 2014 and has participated on other Boards, such as the PWABC, CPWA and PWIS. Under his leadership and guidance, ASTTBC shifted from its legislation to the Professional Governance Act, which included a governance and operational overhaul of the association to become a professional regulatory body. David has worked for the District of Saanich for the past two decades in various management positions, including his current position as senior manager, public works since 2015.
Registrant Directors

Dana joined the ASTTBC Board of Directors for a three-year term in 2022. With experience in municipal design, land development, and project coordination, he provides input in the development of long-term planning issues while liaising with regional or provincial agencies, consultants, environmental, emergency services and relevant stakeholders. Dana has worked as a senior design and inspection technologist for the City of West Kelowna since 2010, and prior to that worked as a civil designer.

Kerry has worked in BC’s private sector consulting engineering for more than 25 years and has an in-depth understanding of the engineering consulting industry. He has extensive experience in strategic planning and growth in a private sector setting, and as a business unit manager, has been key in implementing new systems related to business management, quality management, health and safety. Kerry’s decades of experience have given him expertise in construction quality control and materials testing, and his leadership skills will support him as one of ASTTBC’s newest board directors.

Randy has a background in civil engineering, project management and industrial operations and has more than 35 years of consulting and direct industry experience identifying, assessing and addressing governance, procurement, project/program and contract management, controls and risks in operations and capital projects. He has successfully led numerous public and private sector reviews and audits of international infrastructure, construction projects/programs and operations for clients in the mining, transportation/infrastructure, energy, power generation, industrial/environmental remediation, marine and healthcare sectors. Randy joined the ASTTBC Board of Directors in 2018, and previously he volunteered on the ASTTBC Practice Review Board.

Prakash is a materials technologist with experience working in the construction industry. After nearly 30 years with Amec Earth & Environmental Limited, Prakash joined Metro Testing Ltd. where he works as a senior materials engineering technologist. He has served on the ASTTBC Board since 2022, and is also a member of the Appeals Board, past member of the ASTTBC Awards Committee, designate mentor for EGBC, past-president of the Society of Punjabi Engineers and Technicians of BC, past vice-president of the Uganda-Canadian National Association (UCNA), as well as past BC regional coordinator of “Initiatives of Change”. He has been a keynote speaker at various events including BCIT Career Nights. Prakash is a composer, musician, singer, and author of ‘Life in Four Continents’.

Carlo has been an ASTTBC Board Director since 2022 and is currently a project manager for the Aboriginal Housing Management Association. Carlo has worked for several organizations focused on delivering essential services to the community and is committed to achieving a sustainable service delivery in any role he has taken. Carlo is known for his attention to detail, his thoughtfulness when it comes to critical problem solving, and his positive attitude. He has worked on multiple major capital construction projects where his technical knowledge and support have been instrumental in the success of the projects. Carlo has a building engineering diploma from BCIT and multiple professional designations, and previously worked for BC Housing, the Government of BC – Ministry of Education and the Capital Regional District.

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**Lay Directors**

**Roslyn Kunin**

Roslyn Kunin is a consulting economist and expert on the development of rural and small towns, and Indigenous communities, and is credited with increasing the public understanding of BC’s economic and political landscape through public service positions, board membership and regular commentary in the media. She also broke gender barriers when she became the first woman to get a PhD in economics at UBC. Roslyn has chaired and served on several boards throughout Canada, including as an ASTTBC lay director since 2018.

**Mary O’Callaghan**

Mary is a principal with Devonshire Advisory and provides consulting services to clients throughout BC. Her practice focuses on governance, strategic planning, and organization development. She also assists family businesses to transition ownership and management of their business to the next generation of family members. Mary retired as a partner with KPMG’s management consulting practice where she led the People and Change practice in Vancouver. She holds Bachelor of Science (Honours) and Master of Business Administration degrees from the University of British Columbia, is a Fellow Certified Management consultant and is a certified Family Enterprise advisor. Mary currently serves as chair of the Board of Directors of the College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia, and served previously on the Board of the Minerva Foundation for BC Women, and on the Council of the Institute of Certified Management Consultants in BC.

**James Coble**

James joined the ASTTBC Board as a lay director in 2014 and brings with him more than 17 years of progressive leadership experience and a proven record of directing and managing student support services in the post-secondary sector. He applies creative and strategic thinking to make budget-informed, evidence-based, and difficult decisions while taking student and employee perspectives into consideration. His ability to foster productive relationships with students, colleagues, the community and ASTTBC stakeholders have been immeasurable, along with his willingness to address challenging situations. His excellent understanding of the complex issues related to post-secondary leadership in general and student service provision have served him well in his career at Okanagan College.

**Olubatobi (Tobi) Abisoye**

Tobi is ASTTBC’s newest lay director, who joined the organization in 2023. His career began with an electricity (hydro) regulatory organization, and he has since delved into corporate governance, compliance, commercial law, privacy, and immigration. With a Master of Laws degree and over a decade of legal work experience, Tobi’s qualification as a seasoned legal professional is firmly established. He is passionate about contributing to the public good and is enthusiastic about utilizing his expertise as a board member to support and advance ASTTBC’s mission.
According to a business communication poll by Grammarly, younger (millennial and Gen Z) workers are the least satisfied with the current state of communication in their workplaces. Poor communication at work has a disproportionate negative impact on younger workers, affecting their stress, confidence, productivity, and engagement. Neurodivergent workers and those whose English is a second language are also more likely to experience communication uncertainty leading to frustration and reduced productivity.

While poor communication can have a negative impact, the opposite is true for good communication — we have heard that from ASTTBC registrants. The factors involved in good communication ranges from platform, mode, empathy, content, and tone. In the above-mentioned poll 53 per cent of knowledge workers say tone is more important than the content of the communication. As high as 71 per cent of respondents had difficulty with choosing the right words to avoid offending others and 56 per cent were unsure about finding the correct tone for their communication. In fact, the poll goes on to say that neurodivergent workers spend an average of just over five hours per week resolving miscommunication and three-and-a-half hours for neurotypical workers.

Communication is Vital to Our Collective Success

Written by ASTTBC CEO, Theresa McCurry

Vital to our credibility and effectiveness as an organization is communication. We have heard this from employers about the top skills they seek in their staff as evident with our survey in 2017 — communication has always been in the top three despite the practice area. I believe with the pandemic and the seeming distance that was created in our regular workdays’ communication has become even more important. ASTTBC has fully embraced hybrid and remote work; this distance has us communicating with an increased emphasis on writing and asynchronous communication.

I have heard that communication contributes to mental health, inclusiveness, confidence, retention, and culture. In speaking to registrants and other regulators I note that over and over again a key element of communication that is repeatedly emphasized, is tone. ASTTBC has listened to registrant feedback and is placing more emphasis on how our messages are framed and how they are perceived by registrants, because we know that this can make all the difference in our collective success.

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Good or even great communication can build relationships and enhance credibility and I know there are barriers, in fact plenty of them. It could be using a word that someone else interprets negatively. A delayed response to an email could be interpreted by a colleague as an incorrect assumption about why you’ve done that. And the problem with written communication is we lack all the clues and cues which are non-verbal. Which is why ASTTBC is placing more emphasis on the intentionality of our communication. We know that by taking our time to communicate well, by considering our audience and also re-reading materials before they are sent benefits everyone.

Finally, when you receive a communication from ASTTBC please give us the benefit of the doubt, knowing these barriers perhaps you can look and listen for positive intentions. And as always, we do welcome your feedback so that we can continuously improve.
Join the Young Professionals Group – Engage and Make a Difference!

 Calling all ASTTBC Young Professionals – we have exciting volunteer opportunities available for members of the Young Professionals Group (YPG) to actively participate with BC post-secondary institutions! The YPG is looking for members to attend both in-person and/or virtual events, where you can engage with students, share early career experiences, and discuss the benefits of your ASTTBC registration.

The YPG is looking for volunteers for the following locations:

- BCIT (Burnaby)
- KPU
- Okanagan College (Kelowna)
- Thompson Rivers University (Kamloops)
- Selkirk College (Castlegar)
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Langley)
- Okanagan College (Kelowna)

You don’t have to be an alumnus of these schools, but you must be willing to engage in conversations and interact with students and peers. For more information, please message Alex Minett at aminett@thurber.ca.

About the YPG

ASTTBC’s Young Professionals Group is dedicated to fostering the growth and development of individuals who have worked in the applied science technology profession for less than 10 years or who are under the age of 40. The group is currently looking for members from all regions to join the YPG committee for a low-commitment, monthly, one-hour meeting. Being part of the committee is a great way to learn more about what ASTTBC does and how it can improve and shape the future of young ASTTBC registrants with the benefit of earning CPD hours. For more information, reach out to the committee at asttbcypg@gmail.com.

Highlight a Colleague

Over the coming months the YPG would like to highlight the careers and stories of our younger members throughout the organization. Do you or a colleague have an interesting job? Interesting career challenges? Achievements? Or a unique career path that has led you to ASTTBC? If so, please message Serge Fjetland at sfjetland@sechelt.ca.
Growing up in Oldham in the north of England, Alex Minett was surrounded by structures that recalled the city’s history as a boomtown of the industrial revolution. Brick-built cotton mills with towering chimneys were fascinating reminders that Oldham was once the world’s leading cotton spinning centre producing more than France and Germany combined.

And while the textile industry fell into decline in the middle of the last century and the last cotton mill in Oldham closed its doors in 1998, the majestic old buildings left their mark on Alex and pointed the way to what would become a career in materials and civil engineering technology – but by a somewhat circuitous route.

Alex initially started out to be an electrician but securing an apprenticeship in 2008 when the global recession hit was difficult, so he enrolled for a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in construction studies (similar to a technical diploma in Canada).

His sights were set on a job on a construction site, but a tutor he was working with saw more potential in Alex and convinced him to complete his NVQ and then continue studying for a foundation degree in construction management at a local university.

Then, encouraged by his tutor who knew about Alex’s fascination with the old mills and canals in Oldham, he enrolled for a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering at Leeds Beckett University in Leeds, England. Alex continued to enhance his construction knowledge and technical skills while studying by undertaking a variety of drafting and site-based technical positions when he could fit them in.

“My tutor said I should go into civil engineering because I would get to play with concrete and work on canals, the things he knew I was interested in,” says Alex.

He chose his study modules carefully to focus on those aspects of civil engineering that interested him most – concrete, steel and brick and block masonry, how they aged and how they could be restored when needed.

“I wasn’t that interested in the structural side of new buildings or new roads. I liked the concrete technology aspect, how materials deteriorate and their service life and their sustainability,” says Alex.

After completing his degree Alex travelled the world for seven years working in ski towns as a maintenance manager and a project manager for a hotelier – and he “did a bit of yacht building” in New Zealand.

When he ended up in Victoria, British Columbia two years ago Alex met a materials engineer through LinkedIn who worked for Thurber Engineering Ltd., a Canadian company specializing in geotechnical, environmental and construction materials engineering and testing services for a variety of industries.

“We had similar interests professionally and personally and we got on well. We had a similar sense of humor, and we were both interested in quite specific aspects of the work we wanted to do — corrosion study and concrete technology, the repair specifications for concrete structures, and the condition of old concrete structures,” he says.
Soon afterwards, Alex was offered a position at Thurber – and it suited him well.

“It was a long road, but I found my niche,” he says.

At Thurber, Alex’s role is to provide technical knowledge and services to the company’s clients, which can include undertaking a corrosion or condition survey/assessment and then preparing a report of the findings and/or repair specifications.

It requires a deep technical understanding of how reinforced concrete structures behave in their environment, how corrosion of steel occurs and what repair specifications and systems will enhance the life of structures. About 60 per cent of his time is spent on older structures that need to be assessed for repairs, maintenance, and service life determination.

“For example, if it’s a steel pier we will visit the site and measure the remaining thickness of the steel piles using ultrasonic gauges, we will look at the condition of coatings, look for the types and quantity of corrosion on the steel,” explains Alex. “We do a lot of concrete condition survey as well. So, we will go and look at a bridge, we will look for cracking and for healed cracking, we will sound the deck and listen for delamination’s of the rebar, we will take some samples of the concrete to find the depth of the chloride ingress and do some crack mapping. That’s about 60 per cent of what I work on.”

He says he enjoys the full project life cycle.

“I like being involved in writing the proposal, roughing out the budget, getting it reviewed, altering it based on what somebody else thinks. And then I like being involved during the field work if I can or going out with some of the other field technicians and doing some of the field work,” says Alex. “But the real satisfaction comes from closing out the project, knowing that what we’ve delivered is what the client wants.”

While Alex doesn’t consider his job to be overly stressful, he acknowledges the high level of responsibility attached to inspecting and reporting on structures that could cause considerable damage and threaten public safety if they fail.

“Usually, other consultants are involved as well, so we will speak to a structural engineer, or a marine engineer, or an environmental professional if required,” he says. “We have to be accurate so there’s a lot of internal review with senior staff and engineers and a lot of internal conversations, especially with service life modeling where somebody’s told us that 10 years ago, they think they had 15 years left on this structure, what do we think? Can we get it to 20, can we get it to 30? One of the big challenges is every scenario is unique. If the only data we have to support us comes from our field observations and testing, and we don’t have external data for comparisons, it gets tough, but it’s interesting work.”

Alex is currently studying for his Master of Sciences (MSc) in Advanced Concrete Technology at the University of Leeds fulfilling a desire to obtain a qualification from a classic English red brick university. He also volunteers as Chair of ASTTBC’s Young Professionals Group (YPG), a strategic program that supports younger ASTTBC registrants by offering networking and professional development opportunities.

Things are very different today. Pencils and early CAD programs are long gone. Now manager, infrastructure, with Associated Engineering based in Kelowna, BC, Heather and her team use state-of-the-art software to design, implement and manage projects.

Heather spends much of her time responding to request for proposals for engineering projects, many of them from different levels of government. It’s an exacting job requiring careful attention to detail and a clear understanding of the scope of work being requested.
In writing a proposal Heather needs to demonstrate that the company has the expertise and experience to meet the criteria that will be considered in the selection process.

“I typically manage the proposal right through to submission,” she says. “Then, if we are awarded the project, I may take on the role of project manager and set up the contract with the client and any sub consultants we might include in the work.”

The projects Heather manages encompass a wide spectrum of engineering work from transportation to infrastructure and require her to coordinate with specialists throughout Associated Engineering.

Heather’s career began, in the late 1980s after graduating from the British Columbia Institute of Technology with a diploma in Building Technology. Since then, she has added to her knowledge as technology evolved taking the industry from pencils and ink to graphical design.

As a manager, Heather’s big challenges have moved from learning new technical skills to liaison with clients, managing staff and communicating regularly with all people impacted and involved in the projects.

“Clients need to understand what we are doing and why, and we need to stay within the scope of the project,” she says. “Our team, on the other hand, is there to support our clients and help them achieve their goals and objectives. So, it’s important to communicate with the team so that goals and objectives are realized.”

But even with good communication on all sides Heather says the job can be challenging.

“Getting proposals in on time can be stressful, so can ensuring that project deadlines and deliverables are met, and we stay within the project scope, on schedule and budget. It all takes careful management and a focus on the details,” she says.

Apart from the technology advances in the industry since she started, Heather says there has also been a big shift toward interdisciplinary teams on a project.

“A lot of the teams now include people with different skills such as specialists in environmental and agricultural sciences,” she says. “There might also be biologists, foresters and arborists, and even an archeological specialist if needed. There’s a lot more emphasis on a whole package for a project.”

Many of the people who make up the package are Applied Science Technologists, like Heather.

“I think people generally don’t recognize the contributions of a technologist. Career paths tend to be seen either as the trades or the professions,” she says. “But in reality, technologists fill a whole range of positions in between the two in a wide range of fields. Just about any building you enter, any community you walk the street in, any laboratory you go into, a technologist has contributed to make it happen in some way.”

Heather isn’t sure why technologists tend to be less visible to the public.

“We are probably not extroverts in many cases; we tend to embed our thinking in the details, and immerse ourselves in our work,” she quips noting that technologists are often the type of people who enjoy immersing themselves in the details of a project and take pleasure in seeing it through to completion.

In July, the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) announced the appointment of Jennifer Figner as provost and vice president, academic. In this role, Jennifer leads the creation and implementation of the academic priorities for the institute and champions crucial academic initiatives across all BCIT campuses.

Jennifer has been serving as BCIT’s interim vice president, academic since December 2022 and served as associate vice president, academic operations for nearly four years prior. In these roles, Jennifer was instrumental in leading a successful academic response to the COVID-19 pandemic and forwarding the strategic Education Plan for the Institute, which included spearheading the BCIT Agile and Work Integrated Learning framework — a significant strategy in provincial workforce development and recovery.

Congratulations Jennifer!
Technology Professionals Canada Joins Sydney and Dublin Accords – Reinforcing its Commitment to Global Technology Education Standards

At the recent meeting of the International Engineering Alliance, Technology Professionals Canada (TPC) was successfully appointed the signatory for Canada for both the Dublin and Sydney Accords.

This achievement means that Canada continues to have its accredited engineering technology programs recognized at an international level. This significant accomplishment is a testament to TPC’s commitment to advancing global standards in engineering technology education and ensuring that Canadian graduates possess the necessary skills to excel in the rapidly evolving engineering and applied science landscape.

The Dublin and Sydney Accords are international agreements established to facilitate the mutual recognition of qualifications in the field of engineering technology. These Accords promote superior education and align industry work competency standards among the participating countries. This is key for the creation of a framework for the international mobility and professional recognition of graduates from programs that are accredited by Technology Accreditation Canada (TAC).

The Dublin and Sydney Accords will be administered on TPC’s behalf by TAC. TAC is the sole accreditation body for the engineering technology and applied science profession in Canada.

By becoming a signatory to the Dublin and Sydney Accords, TPC has demonstrated its adherence to rigorous academic standards. By aligning ourselves with these international standards, we are focused on empowering graduates with the skills and qualifications that are universally recognized, increasing their opportunities for professional growth and global employment.

In addition to the Accords, TPC is also the recognized member for Canada for the engineering technology related agreements which include the International Engineering Technologists Agreement and the Agreement for International Engineering Technicians. These agreements are international benchmarks of working competence standards required for those people who wish to be recognized as qualified practicing engineering technology professionals. TPC is committed to fostering a global community of engineering technology professionals.

StrongerBC Future Skills Grant

The StrongerBC Future Skills Grant is open to British Columbians aged 19 years or older — regardless of financial need — and covers up to $3,500 per person for eligible short-term skills training at public post-secondary institutions.
REGISTRANTS UPDATE

New ASct:
Darren Simpson
Gorpreet Chris Samra
Jordan Bakla
David White
Aaron Holt
Justin Martin
Matthew Rykers
Kyle McCormick
Carlos Morena Beltran
Reubien Kular
Kristopher Kerkermeier
Brandon Denis
Leonel Perez Aular
Nelson Hein
Pilsun Song
Oktay Hasanzadeh Gharehtappeh
Alexis Mazerolle
Jui Ting Lu
George Ryan Chapman
Michelle Jones
Robert Oyler
Jaco Esterhuizen
Mohammed Khan
Andres Ruiz Restrepo

New RTS:
Alan Seery
Shane Valcourt
Travis Fraser
John Kenneth Masangkay
Leonse Kunnel Babu
Arpan Singh
Te-Yang Wang
Daniel McCormick
Shaun Healey
Peter Travis
Graeme Hunt
Marek Gomolka
Anh Dao
Pamela Witt
Nathaneal Lott

New CTech:
Hendrikus Van Der Meulen
Joselito Esperame
Christopher Peters
Matthew Brinkworth
Harley O’Connor
Steven Williams

Retired:
Robert Bowman

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Campbell River School District
Campbell River

Utilities Technologist
City of Squamish
Squamish

Senior Technologist (Building Envelope)
Strata Engineering
Burnaby

Junior or Intermediate Structural Technologist (Buildings Group)
Herold Engineering Limited
Nanaimo

Building Science & Restoration Technologist/Drafter
RJC Engineers
Victoria and Nanaimo

ASTTBC registrants:

Did you know
that registrants are required to notify ASTTBC of any change of name, address, email, place of employment, or other contact information previously provided, within two weeks of any change.

Did you know
that if you’ve received a criminal conviction, you must let ASTTBC know immediately.
To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Engineers Canada-sponsored Term Life Insurance Plan, we’re offering you and your spouse or partner a 75% rate reduction on new or additional coverage until March 31, 2024. First-time applicants can also get an extra $50,000 of coverage at no cost for up to 2 years!

Engineers Canada-sponsored Term Life Insurance has provided financial protection to engineering professionals since 1948. Get a 75% rate reduction on coverage that provides a tax-free benefit to help you and your family deal with the unexpected.

1 Premium rates have been reduced by 75% for new or additional Member Term Life and Spouse Term Life coverage. Premium rates will increase on April 1, 2024. Please see manulife.ca/Celebrate75 for further details. The premium rate reduction does not apply to existing Term Life coverage.

2 To be eligible for the offer of $50,000 of additional Term Life coverage at no extra cost for up to two years, Members must meet the Engineers Canada-sponsored Term Life eligibility requirements: be aged 18 to 65; be applying for Engineers Canada-sponsored Term Life Insurance for the first time without having previously been declined for Term Life coverage by Manulife; be applying and approved for $25,000 of Term Life coverage or more. Available to Members only (not available on Spousal coverage). For complete details, see manulife.ca/newmember.

3 Odds of winning depend upon the number of eligible Entries received. Limit one (1) Entry per entrant. Total of twelve (12) Prizes available. Winner(s) will receive an Apple® Gift Card valued at approximately CAD $750. Correctly answered skill-testing question required. No purchase necessary. Contest closes February 29th, 2024 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time (ET). See full contest rules at manulife.ca/rules75. Apple is not a participant in or sponsor of this promotion. Apple® is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

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