



#6 Fall 2025

Nanaimo Mayor, Industry and TPBC

The need to enhance awareness of engineering and applied science technology and applied biology education and careers was the primary focus of a meeting in Nanaimo with Leonard Krog, the Mayor of Nanaimo, the Associate VP for Vancouver Island University, industry leaders and a Past President of the Association of Professional Biology



PHOTO: (Left to right): Domenico Iannidinardo, Strategic Natural Resources Group and Past President, Association of Professional Biology; Richard Horbachewski, Associate Vice President, Vancouver Island University; Lee Rowley, Managing Partner, Herold Engineering and Co-Chair, Technology Education & Careers hub (TPBC); John Leech, CEO, Technology Professions BC; Nanaimo Mayor Leonard Krog; Bill Sims, City of Nanaimo and TPBC Community Representative; and, Bob Colclough, WR Colclough & Associates and TPBC Board of Directors

BC Tech CEO and TPBC CEO Talk Talent



Jill Tipping, CEO for BC Tech and TPBC CEO John Leech enjoyed coffee together as a first step to learning a bit about each others' organization. A key focus was learning about current priorities for BCTech and TPBC. Not surprising, 'talent' topped the list for both BCTech and TPBC. "When I was CEO with ASTTBC we had a very collaborative relationship with BC Tech", said Leech. "We had a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) in place and cooperated in a few areas of common interest, notably promoting tech education and careers." Jill and John agreed to look at possible linkages and areas where the two organization might support each other.

John gifted Jill a wooden feather carved by Indigenous artist Alex Mountain.

ASTT Act - Celebrating 40 Years

It was 40 years ago that the *ASTT Act* was brought into law, an historic day for engineering and applied science technologists and technicians. TPBC recognized this historic event. For this post > <https://techprobc.org/current-tpbc-news-bytes>

TPBC Officers Guiding TPBC

The 5 'officers' of TPBC (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and CEO) meet from time to time to review the progress of TPBC and formulate future directions, all of which goes to the TPBC Board for their consideration. *Pictured here are (right to left): Dan Mooney, Treasurer; Geoff Sale, Secretary; Dave Rutherford, President; Keith Switzer, Vice President; and, John Leech, CEO.*

TPBC Board Highlights

The TPBC Board met last in September and at that meeting carried out the business of the organization.

A few highlights from the meeting:

- Allan Cheek Long Service Award approved; criteria to be posted
- Marsh Heinekey Education Leadership Award approved; criteria to be posted
- Endorsed an approach of waiving dues for post-secondary technology students
- Reviewed TPBC's linkages with ASTTBC; agreed to keep ASTTBC apprised of TPBC programming and initiatives and to seek ASTTBC input as appropriate
- Received reports from the President and the CEO; reported on the go!
- Received a letter from the Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills dealing primarily with enhanced awareness of education and careers awareness
- Indicated supported for the CEO as he works (on loan from TPBC) in support of the Association of Professional Biology, the advocacy and services organization for applied Biology. John was appointed Executive Director of APB.



Annual Dues 2026

Yes, it is that time of year again... dues invoices for 2026 will be sent in November to all members. TPBC trusts you see the benefit of supporting this advocacy and services organization. *We encourage you to submit your dues payment as promptly as possible and in this way save our volunteers the time it takes to send out reminder notices. THANKS. We appreciate your support and assistance.* If you have not as yet taken a few minutes to have a look at information posted to our website we encourage you to do so. We suggest looking under **ADVOCACY** and **NEWS...** for the latest in our work to represent the interests of our profession.

NEAT – Promoting our Profession

National Engineering and Applied Sciences Technology Week (NEAT) – Nov 24 to 28 - was launched by Technology Professionals Canada in 2024. The purpose of the week is to promote engineering and applied science technology education and careers. TPBC will join in this year to help promote our



profession. *“We in BC need to do a lot more to enhance awareness of our profession,”* said TPBC Board President Dave Rutherford. *“NEAT provides yet one more opportunity for TPBC to engage in support of our profession.”* Watch for announcements on how TPBC will help promote education and careers tied to our organization.

BuildBetterBC – Issues Addressed

TPBC continues to address issues of the day through BuildBetterBC. Since our last issue of ConneXion TPBC has talked about:

- The need for techs in the construction sector (BBBC#3)
- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (BBBC#4)

Have a look <https://techprobc.org/build-better-bc>

MLA Liaison... 4 and Counting

It was a busy summer for making connections with BC MLAs. One-on-one chats occurred with MLAs **Paul Choi** (Burnaby South-Metrotown) >top left<, Hon **Raj Chouhan, Speaker, BC Legislature** (Burnaby-Edmonds) >Top right<, **Janet Routledge** (Burnaby North) >Bottom left< and **Dana Lajeunesse**(bottom right) (Juan de Fuca-Malahat) >bottom right<



BCIT Endorses Accreditation of Programs Leading to ASTTBC Registration

Technology Professions BC (TPBC) is pleased that BCIT has issued a statement of support for accreditation. At present BCIT has three of their technology programs accredited by Technology Accreditations Canada: Biomedical Engineering Technology, Forest and Natural Areas Management and Geomatics Engineering Technology. . *“In discussions with folk at BCIT we are encouraging BCIT to renew accreditations of all engineering and applied science technology programming. There was a time when all BCIT programs that aligned with our profession were fully accredited. We will work with BCIT in any way needed to realize a return to full accreditation,”* said Leech.

BUILD IT... THEY WILL COME

The strategy of *Build it... They will come* is working, even better than originally anticipated. The TPBC Board decided early on after incorporation of TPBC that we will build the foundation of the association before actively recruiting members. A 5-minute scan of the TPBC web site will provide you with info on TPBC's advocacy initiatives, programs being developed, and connections with Governments other NGOs and industry. We ask that you make a point of walking through our web site at least once a month. And then send us your suggestions or feedback. YOUR VOICE will help as TPBC serves as the voice for our profession. Send a note to info@techprobc.org.



TPBC Produces 4 Bookmarks



Four bookmarks have been printed as part of TPBC's advocacy work, one for TPBC and one each for Indigenous relations, women in technology, and people with disabilities. The bookmarks have been well received by TPBC volunteers and those who have received these promotional items.

Members wanting hard copies of one or more bookmarks are asked to send an email to info@techprobc.org. In your email please be specific as to which bookmarks you are wanting and the number of each.

Construction Association Endorses TPBC

*“On behalf of the **Vancouver Island Construction Association (VICA)** and our members, we are pleased to express our strong support for Technology Professions BC (TPBC) and its efforts to advocate for engineering and applied science technology education and careers. Many of our members—and a significant portion of the broader construction industry—are Applied Science Technologists (AScTs) or Certified Technicians (CTech), whose credentials and contributions are vital to the success of our sector. TPBC’s focus on credential recognition, professional development, mentorship, and inclusivity aligns with our industry’s need for a skilled, mobile, and diverse workforce. We believe TPBC’s work will strengthen standards, support workforce mobility, and enhance the construction sector’s access to qualified technical talent across British Columbia.”*

Rory Kulmala, CD, MDA, ASCT, PMP
CEO, Vancouver Island Construction Association

TPBC is YOUR advocacy and services organization in BC

