

FALL 2026

Deputy Minister Post-Secondary on Techs Practice



The TPBC Board has deliberately stayed on the sidelines on the matter of professional practice rights for ASTTBC-registered technologists, technicians and technical specialists out of consideration for the role of ASTTBC and knowing that the matter has been in discussions with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS). The Board decided to change its course given that ASTTBC remains the only profession under the Professional Governance Act (PGA) without a structured scope and reserved practice. TPBC President Dave Rutherford and CEO John Leech jointly penned a letter to then Minister, The Honourable Jessie Sunner. As the Minister was on leave from duties the Deputy Minister Trevor Hughes wrote in response to the TPBC letter.

"The Ministry anticipates contacting interested organizations with an opportunity for consultation respecting proposed changes to the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians Regulation at an appropriate stage of policy development. However, to respect Cabinet confidentiality requirements, and the policy development and drafting process, I am unable to provide additional information regarding the process, timing or content of any potential future amendments at this time.

"I appreciate Technology Professions BC's (TPBC) interest in this issue and acknowledge the experience and perspective described in your letter. The Ministry is aware that TPBC is a strong supporter of Government's policy direction to establish a reserved practice for ASTTBC registrants. TPBC's support will be incredibly valuable, especially when it comes to helping enhance public and industry support for the future reserved practice."

TPBC will follow up with the designated Minister under the new BC Government.

Member Patron

Looking for an opportunity to make a difference in promoting tech education and careers? We have one opportunity you may wish to consider, becoming a Member Patron. The initiative was launched in the early days of TPBC and to date a total of 10 members have each contributed $1k to help move the needle on this important work. ALL FUNDS are set aside for education and careers promotion. Read more: https://techprobc.org/member-patron



Steve Cardwell Elected to Vancouver School Board



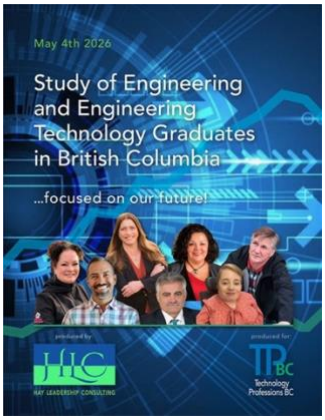
We send congrats to our own 'Dr Steve' on his election to the School Board. Steve is Chief Technology Education Officer at TPBC, contributing to TPBC's work in promoting and enhancing technology education and careers, with an emphasis on K-12 and the transition to post-secondary education. Steve also serves as a Director on the TEChub Board, a group of education and industry leaders supporting and assisting TPBC.

Steve has been a leader throughout his career including serving as President of the BC School Superintendents' Association (BCSSA). He served as a Director on the Science World Board, a member of the BC Technology Education Careers Council, the Canadian Education Association Council and Editorial Board, and as a trustee on the Board for Learning Forward. Steve recently completed his term as a Board Governor at Vancouver Community College.

TPBC extends thanks to Steve for eagerly pursuing service that benefits the community. More more> https://techprobc.org/steve-cardwell-runs-for-school-board-in-vancouver/

Tech Education Needs to Enhance Progamming and Strategic Management

A Report prepared by Andrew Hay, PhD, PEng (Retired), LSME indicated that graduate levels for engineering technologist programs has all but flat-lined over the past 15 years, an alarming statistic. Unchecked BC will face serious skills shortages at a time when BC and Canada move ahead with major as well as 'the usual' projects where tech skills are essential. TPBC has been calling for action by the BC Government and will raise the matter as a priority for the new BC Government once in place. TPBC is also taking our message to the national level.



TPBC points to priority solutions:

1. TPBC to secure the funding needed to carry out a study of supply and demand and project ahead 20 years. TPBC has a proposal from Signal49 Research (formerly the Conference Board of Canada) and has offered this as a practical 'get it done' method to gather the much-needed Labour Market Information (LMI);
2. TPBC to work with the BC Government to commit to producing an annual update of graduation statistics;
3. BC Government (with federal support) to work with TPBC to launch a special program to elevate the profile of 2 year Diploma of Technology (DiplT) and one or two year Technician Certificate in engineering technology education programming;
4. TPBC to work with the BC Government to put in place for technology education a program management system similar to that in place for Trades through SkillsTradesBC. The management initiative to prescribe education needs, numbers being educated and funding tied to outcomes; and,

5. Require national accreditation of technology programs to qualify for government funding. While almost all programs in BC are nationally accredited there are programs where accreditation has not been renewed. TPBC is in active communications with institutions who have let accreditations lapse, with a goal of having the institutions agree to seek full national accreditation of all technology programs through Technology Accreditation Canada.

TPBC is working on a report on the foregoing which will be delivered to the new BC Government. TPBC is also in communication with the federal government who have generously directed funding to trades training. TPBC believes similar consideration is urgently needed for engineering technology education.

TEChub Board Lends Support to Concern on Tech Graduation Numbers

The Technology Education and Careers hub, an advisory body to TPBC, has indicated its serious concern about the graduation numbers from engineering technologist programs over the past 15 years. Board Vice-Chair Lee Rowley, PEng, M.I.Struct.E.,MICE., LEEDAP, said *"The TEChub Board has reviewed Andrew Hays Report and believes there is much to be done to address the low graduation levels at BC institutions*." TEChub is of the view that TPBC and the BC Government should move immediately to work collaboratively on the strategic management of engineering and applied science technology education. TEChub also points to simple steps such as revitalizing the BC Deans of technology, a provincial working group that in the past provided a forum for monitoring program delivery, standards, promotion and accreditation.

TPBC Talks With Education Leaders

The TPBC CEO John Leech met recently with the Presidents of BCIT, Camosun College, Okanagan College (Vice President) and Vancouver Community College for the purpose of focusing attention on the Technologist graduation levels and the need to mobilize in support of engineering and applied science technology education. John met with Jeff Zabudsky (President, BCIT), Lane Trotter (President, Camosun), Sam Lenci (VPresident, Okanagan) and Ajay Patel (President, VCC). ". *"I had a great conversation with these leaders and left pleased with their response. I am confident we can work together to realize changes in the current situation such that BC can count on a steady and reliable source of qualified engineering and applied science technologists and technicians."* John is pursuing meetings with other post-secondary leaders in BC to build strong support for tech education and careers.

TPBC and BCSEG Sign Letter of Collaboration

The CEO of BC Society of Engineering and Geoscience (BCSEG) and TPBC CEO met earlier in 2026 to sign a *Letter of Collaboration*, signalling that the two organizations may choose to cooperate on matters of common interest. The Letter starts out by saying that the two organizations *"have an interest in collaborating to support shared objectives related to professional standards, industry engagement, and sector advancement in British Columbia."* The Letter goes on to indicate, *"BCSEG and TPBC each play important and complementary roles in supporting the safety, professionalism, and ongoing development of the built environment and technical sectors. Thorough collaboration, our organizations can strengthen alignment, reduce duplication of effort, and enhance value for stakeholders , members, and the broader public."*

The document frames the 'Purpose of Collaboration', 'Nature of the Relationship', Commitment of Good Faith' and 'Term' of the Agreement. TPBC welcomes this development and looks forward to working with BCSEG in areas of common interest.

Professional Advisors Provide a Valuable Service to TPBC

TPBC continues to add to our roster of key advisors, and thank each one for dedicating a bit of time to assist TPBC deliver on our programming. We thank Bob Colclough, AScT (Retired) (Self-employed); Ron Ennes, RTS, RULT (Underground Utilities and Water and Wastewater Education & Consulting); Pej Namshirin (Biomedical Engineering Technology); Frank Rizzardo, AScT (Large Business Leadership); and, Allan Williams (International Business). For more information visit https://techprobc.org/about/people/

TPBC CEO Appointed to Workforce Table

TPBC CEO John Leech was recently invited to sit on the LookWest BC Maritime Workforce Table to add the voice of the technology professions to the discussion. The Table is Co-Chaired by Assistant Deputy Minister, Post Secondary Education and Future Skills, Joanna White and Alex Rueben, CEO, Association of British Columbia Defence and Maritime Industries. The mandate of the Table:

> *The Look West BC Maritime Workforce Table (Table) is intended to serve as a strategic forum to align workforce, education and industrial objectives in support of British Columbia's maritime defence priorities under the DIS. The Table will convene senior leaders from industry alongside key post-secondary and training partners to provide strategic insight into workforce needs, pressures, capability gaps, and emerging opportunities within the maritime sector and feedback from employers about what is working well and where improvements can be made.*
>
> *Participants will identify key workforce issues, explore opportunities to align training with projected industrial demand, and advance coordinated approaches to talent development that support sector competitiveness, supply-chain resilience, and long-term growth.*

National Engineering and Applied Science Technology Week (NEAT)

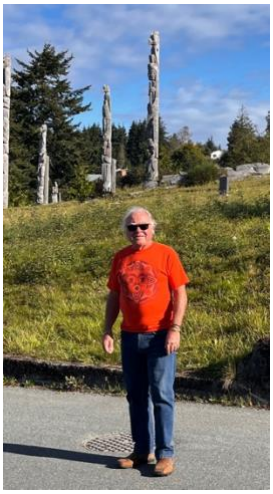
Presented by Technology Professionals Canada and provincial member organizations from **November 23–27, 2026**, this nationwide event highlights over 400,000 engineering and applied science technology careers. It features a virtual capstone competition for students (with virtual events in November) and a national webinar on **November 26, 2026** at 1:00 PM EST titled *"Managing Without a Title – Practical Leadership for Non-Management Roles"*. [1, 2]. For more information:

Prime Minister Carney on NEAT

"*This week provides a unique opportunity to celebrate the remarkable contributions that engineering technology and applied science professionals make to our nation. It is also a time to recognize the importance of education and lifelong learning in the field, and showcases programs offered by Canadian colleges and polytechnics.****"***

National Day For Truth and Reconciliation

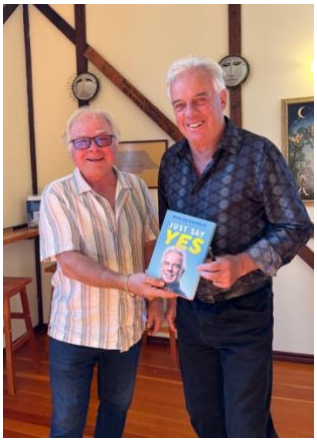
Technology Professions BC is steadily building its program on our relations with Indigenous Peoples. TPBC has posted a **Statement on Indigenous Peoples** and developed an icon / logo to help build our presence and strengthen TPBC's commitment to enhancing our relations with our Indigenous neighbours. In 2025 and again in 2026 Dawn McGrath, an Indigenous leader and member of the TPBC Board, led a workshop on engineering and applied science technology education and careers at *Gathering Our Voices*, an Indigenous conference for youth. Dawn was the recipient of the inaugural *Doug Duncan Leadership Award*, presented this Spring at the Skeetchestn Indian Band Council meeting.



Going forward TPBC will post profiles of Indigenous techs involved in technology education and careers, offer a mentoring program to enhance experiences for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous techs, and link with employers in support of programming that will enhance the engagement of Indigenous Peoples.

As TPBC develops our relationship with Indigenous Peoples, we pay respect to our Indigenous neighbours and joined in support of *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.* TPBC CEO, John Leech, was recently in Alert Bay observing the many totem poles raised by the 'Namgis First Nation.

A Chat with Bob McDonald of Quirks & Quarks



Bob visited the Sunshine Coast and CEO John Leech managed to grab about 10 minutes of his time to talk technology education and careers. Never pass up an opportunity to spread the word!

Bob presented to a local audience on his career and personal journey of starting with YES. Naturally I purchased his book and encourage you to do the same. In some ways a bit better message of 'Just Say YES' rather than 'Getting to Yes'... Bob believes one is best served when starting with YES and leaving it to others to offer an alternate view... even a 'No'.

Bob has hosted the CBC show Quirks & Quarks since 1992 and says he'll continue for as long as CBC will have him. The show has accumulated 80+ national and international journalism awards. Oh, and Bob does not have a PhD (a common question) however he has 11 and counting honourary doctorates.

This science translator has met with great success... and so do the engineering and applied science techs associated with technology professions. In my chat with Bob I highlighted their skills and crucial role, noting there is a real need to enhance the profile of these mid-

level careers, in much the same way that trades careers have been the focus of governments… for years. NOW is the time to invest in tech education and careers. We need funding for more current labour market info… a program to enhance awareness of tech careers, and grow the number of grads (which have flat-lined in the last 15 years). We are asking the feds and BC governments to give us a YES.

Community Reps Needed

TPBC continues to move ahead with the support of many volunteers. We THANK each and every one and would like to add YOUR NAME to our roster.



While there are many volunteer opportunities at TPBC we are currently looking for Community Representatives (CRs) in a number of towns around BC. Have a look at OUR PEOPLE on the TPBC web site https://techprobc.org/about/people/
and then send us a note indicating your interest in helping out… as a CR or in any other capacity.

We WELCOME your help. Send your email and areas of interest to info@techprobc.org.

FEEDBACK REQUESTED

A prize for a brief comment on our work

We want to hear from you… to know what you think of our progress thus far… to get your thoughts on the **ConneXion** newsletter… and anything else that you wish to offer. Please be brief (max 50 words suggested).

To add a little SIZZLE we will award a few prizes for the 3 top submissions. Send in your thoughts by end of day November 30, 2026.

Spin with TPBC and WIN!

Take a 300 second spin around TPBC's website > https://techprobc.org. If you see an omission, incorrect statement or you wish to point to information that needs to be added, please drop us a note. We'll put your name into a draw for some sweet swag.