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Alberta first in Canada to recognize professional technologist designation

Updated engineering regulation increases standards

Edmonton... Changes to the *Engineering, Geology and Geophysical Professions Act* create a new Professional Technologists (P.Tech) category of engineering practice and provide the tools to ensure knowledge, experience and quality of work meet the highest standards.

The Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta (ASET) and the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) will jointly establish and enforce a code of ethics for Professional Technologists and be jointly responsible for licensing, investigation and enforcement.

While ASET membership will continue to be voluntary under the revised legislation, ASET now has all the responsibilities as a self-regulating professional association. It will govern the conduct and competencies of Certified Technicians and Certified Engineering Technologists in their practices.

Revisions to the Act also allow the creation of a new Professional Licensee category of APEGGA membership. This replaces the existing Registered Professional Technologist (R.P.T.) designation. Professional Licensees will be regulated solely by APEGGA.

"This is groundbreaking for Alberta's engineering sector, and it's a first for Canada," said Hector Goudreau, Minister of Employment and Immigration. "I'm confident the new provisions will serve current and future Albertans in these professions very well."

APEGGA and ASET have long recognized the relationship that exists between engineers and technologists in the workplace. This governance framework, jointly developed by the two associations, is reflected in amendments to the *Engineering, Geological and Geophysical Professions Act*, receiving Royal Assent in 2007, and proclaimed October 14, 2009.

"Our professions have worked hard and collaborated admirably in developing these new standards over the last couple of years," said Barry Cavanaugh, CEO of ASET. "These amendments strengthen the engineering industry, enhance the public's access to qualified engineering professionals, and provide the ability for technologists with the necessary knowledge and experience to develop independent practice."

"We welcome the opportunity to assist in the protection of public safety and well-being by working with ASET to license P.Tech.s.," said APEGGA President Jim Beckett, P.Eng. "This new regulatory model is a welcome addition that further ensures only those qualified to do so are practicing engineering and geoscience in Alberta."

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