

News Release

For Immediate Release
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New study may help shape future of engineering technology and applied science technology profession Member, student, academic and industry stakeholders urged to participate

ASET is calling on members, students, academia and industry stakeholders to participate in an unprecedented study about the technical disciplines that may ultimately influence the course of the engineering technology and applied science technology profession in Alberta and some other Canadian provinces.

Easy-to-use online surveys each targeting an individual stakeholder category are now live thanks to the efforts of Technology Professionals Canada (TPC), an alliance of the provincial professional associations (PPAs) from Alberta, BC, Ontario and Saskatchewan which together represent approximately 85 per cent of the profession in Canada. The stakeholder categories are technicians and technologists, students enrolled in engineering technology and applied science technology programs, academia, and industry/employers.

The goal is to obtain stakeholder feedback to understand the value they hold for specific certifications, where new disciplines are needed to reflect emerging technologies and, alternatively, whether a professional designation without an associated technology would be sufficient to meet market needs.

“With regard to the history of the profession in Alberta, I don’t think a survey of this scope has ever previously been initiated. From the beginnings half a century or more ago, our organizations typically defaulted to adopting engineering disciplines as they existed then and have followed them since. Most technicians or technologists worked in teams supervised by professional engineers. But the profession has since evolved and certified technicians and technologists are increasingly working without that supervision,” said ASET CEO Barry Cavanaugh.

The targeted surveys will ask participants key questions which will provide valuable data towards formulating policy and launching a dialogue within the profession and industry about the future of the disciplines, how they are defined, and other issues.

For instance, ASET member technicians and technologists will be asked if they believe that additional disciplines and accreditation criteria should be developed, and if it would be a benefit to them to be certified specifically within an emerging technology. They will also be

asked if there would be inherent risk in being certified in a broader sense rather than specifically within a technical discipline.

Cavanaugh is optimistic that the data garnered from the surveys will be put to good and practical use.

“We may look at reformulating a discipline to suit what people actually study and what in reality employers want. We may raise the question of what’s necessary to establish credentials when you cross disciplines during your career. And of course, we may examine the criteria by which we determine a new discipline, and whether the traditional engineering disciplines are truly always applicable in engineering technology,” added Cavanaugh.

Stakeholders have until end of business day March 1 to participate.

ASET member technicians and technologists: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TPCPROF>

ASET student members: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TPCSTUDENT>

Academia: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TPCACADEMIC>

Industry: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TPCINDUSTRY>

What do engineering technology and applied science technology professionals do?

Technicians install cable and phone, monitor traffic, work in labs, and do drafting design and construction supervision. Technologists own or manage businesses, manage projects, return well sites properly to nature, and facilitate the development, design, construction, inspection and repair of commercial buildings. They ensure fast-acting telephone networks, smart bus connections, perfectly clean water to drink, reliable natural gas service and electrical power, smooth roads on which to drive, and responsible oil and gas exploration/production and processing/and distribution.

Some professionals work for governments in intelligence agencies while others literally blow things up – designing the charges and managing sophisticated controlled blasts. Many own and/or manage large, successful engineering enterprises, and even work in non-traditional areas such as biomedical and geomatics.

Representing approximately 18,000 technicians and technologists across Alberta, ASET provides its members the certification that top employers demand. ASET members play an integral role in driving the Alberta economy and their innovation is one reason why the province maintains its competitive advantage. ASET members represent a wide range of sectors including avionics, biomedical, chemical, computers, electrical, environmental, geological, instrumentation, oil and gas, and telecommunications. www.aset.ab.ca.

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Media Contact:

Michele Penz, Calico Communications for ASET

1.778.888.2249 calicocomm@telus.net