



Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists
Conseil canadien des techniciens et technologues

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CCTT Communiqué

On the Current State of the CCTT Federation

By now most everyone knows that our colleagues from ASTTBC, ASET, SASST, and OACETT have resigned from CCTT. Officially that event took place on September 18, 2010 just before the start of the CCTT Annual General Meeting in St. John's, NL. On that date, the requisite 160 days notice of resignation, as required by the CCTT By-laws, had run out.

There are two obvious questions that arise: How did all this come about; and what does the future hold for CCTT? This communiqué offers the CCTT perspective on these questions. The views of the resigning provinces can be found on their websites.

In the previous year, significant time and money was spent undertaking a governance review of CCTT operations. This culminated in an agreement on a new governance model that was approved and implemented by the CCTT. Despite this review, three of the larger provinces (BC, AB, and ON) remained unhappy with the CCTT and the concept of a strong national federation to represent Technicians and Technologists. Their view was that individual provinces could best represent members of the profession.

This issue was dramatically illustrated through a disagreement on how best to safeguard professional designations. The CCTT position was that a consistent, strong national strategy was best while those who resigned argued that individual provincial legislation was sufficient.

This disagreement culminated in court action by Newfoundland and New Brunswick against British Columbia over the P.Tech designation. Some seven years previous this designation was proposed as a national standard and adopted by AETTNL and NBSCETT. The mark was to have been registered by the CCTT but BC registered the mark pre-emptively (though they did not use it) thus preventing national registration. Despite years of discussions BC relinquished the mark only after the litigation was begun.

While this issue was not directly connected to the CCTT in any way it has been cited as a major reason for the fracture.

There seem to be subtler reasons at play here, as well. There is, for example, the question of power politics. The large provinces provide the lion's share of CCTT revenues. Yet they still have the same voice in the affairs of the federation as even the smallest member of CCTT. It appears that they are uncomfortable with this state of affairs.

What of the future?

CCTT will live by a very specific principle during these times and all the way through to their conclusion: no certified technician or technologist will be under-serviced or denied any opportunity during this period and, indeed, beyond. In keeping with this principle, the work of the Council of Registrars, which represents all provinces, will continue. No registrar will be denied access to the International Qualifications Database; National Technology Week will remain national in scope. The work of the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board will not be curtailed and measures being put into place to permit all provinces to have professional representatives on this board. Scholarships and honours such as the National Achievement Award will be made available to everyone across the country.

CCTT remains an incorporated entity and continues to serve as the voice of technicians and technologists in Canada. We have strong ties and good relationships with the federal government and continue to promote the profession at that level.

Canada is unique in the international arena by having Technicians and Technologists represent themselves and not be “included with” Professional Engineers. The CCTT, as a national organization, is the signatory to mobility agreements for Technicians and Technologists in the international arena and will remain so.

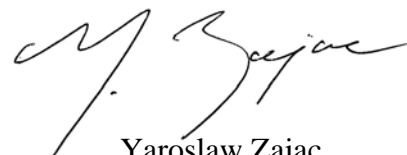
Indeed, those provincial associations who remain members are determined to ensure that CCTT remain a vital and on-going concern and they are expressing that determination with concrete funding support.

For its part, CCTT intends to “do well by doing good”. Federal government funding for programs that encourage young people to consider careers within the technology professions is being sought. And our on-going work to encourage the growth of a skilled workforce in Canada continues unabated.

Nor has CCTT given up on dialogue with the departing provinces. It is that continuing dialogue that will facilitate mutual understanding and, thus, hope for the future reunification of the entire federation.



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Chair, CCTT



Yaroslav Zajac
Executive Director, CCTT