

**April 11, 2007**

## **New Engineering and Geoscience Professions Regulatory Model Endorsed**

**Edmonton** – Members of The Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta (ASET) and The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) have endorsed an historic memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two associations that will lead the way to significant legislative changes. The memberships endorsed amendments to *The Engineering, Geological and Geophysical Professions Act* (EGGP Act) to create a new one act, two associations regulatory model for engineering and geoscience in Alberta.

The new regulatory model will further enhance public safety and well-being at no additional cost to taxpayers.

A majority of the votes cast by APEGGA and ASET members, in a special ballot held separately by each association, favoured the proposed amendments to the EGGP Act as outlined in the MOU. The MOU had been unanimously approved earlier in the year by the elected councils of both associations following six months of discussions with the aid of a government-appointed mediator.

With their members' endorsement, ASET and APEGGA will now ask the Provincial Government to amend the EGGP Act and Regulations to accommodate the changes outlined in the MOU. They include:

- shifting ASET from the *Societies Act* to full legal registration within the EGGP Act
- development of a new category of ASET member to be known as a Professional Technologist, who would be granted a licence to practice engineering independently within a defined scope of practice and within the bounds of existing codes and standards
- development of several joint ASET/APEGGA boards and committees that would regulate the Professional Technologist category of membership

“This is an historic day for both organizations. After years of sometimes spirited discussions, we have reached an agreement that both associations can support. The proposals included in the MOU will serve to enhance public safety and well-being in Alberta,” said APEGGA President David Chalcraft, P.Eng.

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"Legislation giving ASET a regulatory role is a significant development long awaited by Alberta's technologists and will make our professional members accountable to the public," added ASET President Larry Stone, C.E.T.

"I'd like to congratulate both ASET and APEGGA for their accomplishment in reaching an agreement on a single governance framework," said Honourable Iris Evans, Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry. "Both organizations are to be commended for their commitment to serving Albertans and further enhancing public safety in engineering and geoscience activities."

The Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta (ASET), is a 43-year-old, non-profit organization that issues professional credentials to applied science, information and engineering technicians and technologists in Alberta and the Territories. ASET's credentials are well known within business, industry and government and are highly sought after, since they indicate a high level of education and experience. As a constituent member of the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists, ASET uses national standards in its certification process and in the accreditation of technical training programs at Alberta institutes and colleges.

The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA), with over 48,000 members, is the largest self-regulating professional association in Alberta. Responsible for regulating the practices of engineering, geology and geophysics in the province of Alberta, the association was established by provincial legislation in 1920. APEGGA members play a significant role in every segment of the economy and their technical and management expertise ensure Alberta remains at the forefront of technological innovation.

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