

May 28, 2025

2025 joint statement on progress towards reserved practice for technology professionals

A joint statement issued by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Engineers and Geoscientists BC, and the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC.

Following the May 2024 joint statement of support for a reserved practice for registrants of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC), the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, through the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG), has continued to collaborate on a vision for reserved practice with ASTTBC and Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC).

This statement communicates the progress that has been achieved since May 2024 and provides an update on next steps.

Progress to Date

Since last spring, steady and positive progress has been made by a joint collaborative ASTTBC-EGBC-OSPG working group. Through regular meetings and ongoing discussions, development of a proposed scope of practice for ASTTBC registrants has continued, guided by four policy principles (see [May 8, 2024 joint](#) statement).

Over Summer 2024, input was gathered from registrants of both organizations to better understand how work flows between applied science technologists, technicians, and engineers, and to understand current perceptions about this initiative. EGBC and ASTTBC partnered to host four focus groups, facilitated by a third party, which helped illustrate current working relationships, levels of awareness on the topic, considerations, and general questions from participants. EGBC and ASTTBC also conducted independent surveys with their respective registrants to collect feedback on this initiative, which both received high engagement.

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ASTTBC held meetings and conducted a survey with subject matter experts about reserved practice; this information, along with the information collected during the focus groups and surveys, fed into the work of the joint working group. In addition, ASTTBC met with interested employers, regulators and associations to educate them on this initiative, seek their feedback, and learn what support they would need to prepare for reserved practice.

Through these engagements, ASTTBC and EGBC heard general support for establishing a reserved practice for technologists and technicians. Respondents also acknowledged the complexity of this change, and emphasized the need for clarity around practice boundaries, as well as a desire for more detailed information. This feedback has been carefully considered and informed how the working group approached defining the proposed framework for reserved practice.

ASTTBC, EGBC and the OSPG remain committed to working together to advance a reserved practice for ASTTBC registrants.

The decision to establish a reserved practice is a decision Cabinet ministers have the authority to make. If provincial elected leadership supports a reserved practice, the next steps would be to amend the Applied Science Technicians and Technologists Regulation. Recognizing that the public, industry, registrants and employers would need time to prepare, advance notice of the changes coming into effect would be provided. When establishing reserved practices for other professions under the *Professional Governance Act*, a one-year delay in coming into force allowed the opportunity for feedback on the regulation, as well as time to prepare for the change.

A progress update on government's decision making process is tentatively planned for Fall 2025.