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Technology Accreditation Canada Continues to Gain Momentum

In late January, Technology Accreditation Canada (TAC) accredited its 10th engineering technology program, capping off a very significant year of progress in 2016. Six programs were accredited during the year, with fifty-three new accreditation applications received.

Throughout 2016, a number of accreditation procedures were improved and tools created to streamline the accreditation process to reduce the amount of time spent preparing for the preliminary audit and site visit. As a result, customer feedback has been positive, noting the process's flexibility, support and value, particularly the recommendations and best practices identified in the audit report.

A twenty-three person multi-stakeholder committee worked over the course of the year to revise the Program General Learning Outcomes for Technologists (PGLOY). In late November, this first stage of the CTAC Review Project was completed with the publication of the revised PGLOY.

2017 promises to be a very busy year for TAC. Already the organization has received fifteen new accreditation applications and has fourteen site visits scheduled for late winter and early spring. For continued customer support, two webinars will be available shortly, the first covering the TAC accreditation service and its value, the second providing guidance on how to complete the self-assessment package.

A Standards Development Steering Committee will be struck early this year to address a number of key issues identified during the PGLOY review. With this work completed, the Project will move forward with the review of several CTAC (Canadian Technology Accreditation Criteria).

“While we’re very pleased with our results to date, we are more focused than ever to serving the best interests of engineering technology and applied science students through partnering with post-secondary educational institutions across the country”, commented TAC Board of Directors Chair, Peter Portlock. “With 85 trained auditors on our registry, TAC has excellent capacity to handle the strong demand for our accreditation services”.

The process of accreditation is recognized worldwide as an objective method of assessment and an important tool to identify program strengths and challenges. It also provides faculty an excellent team-building opportunity. This independent seal of approval, represents excellence in education and the high standards of the profession graduates will be joining. Achieving accreditation provides students, parents and the institution's administration confidence that the program has met the standards.