

New Developments & Websites for TAC and TPC

TECHNOLOGY ACCREDITATION CANADA (TAC) and the organization that founded it, Technology Professionals Canada (TPC), have seen a number of new developments over recent months, including the successful achievement of another milestone in TAC's progress and the launch of websites by both organizations.

TAC, which is poised to officially begin accrediting engineering technology and applied science programs at post-secondary educational institutions in January 2015, completed a successful pilot project site visit at a Canadian college in August. The site visit involved a TAC audit team comprised of members from Ontario and BC, all of whom completed TAC's comprehensive online training program. Observers from TAC and the provincial professional association Registrar were also in attendance.

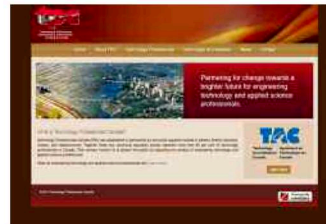
The site visit's purpose was to confirm the legitimacy of the college's submission, which the audit team had reviewed previously. The audit team met with college administration, faculty, representatives from program advisory committees and alumni, and received exposure to college classes, labs and support services. They examined equipment, students at work, and safety components such as appropriate signage and student accessibility to equipment and labs.

"As an observer, I was pleased with the activities and outcome of the site visit. TAC will be examining feedback from all those participating in the pilot to assess what works and what doesn't so that we can make any necessary changes to the accreditation process," said Barbara Chappell, TAC Executive Director.

At press time, the audit team's efforts were focused on the preparation of a preliminary report for the college. The college will, in turn, have a chance to clarify questions and/or provide further information in response to this before the audit team issues its final accreditation report and decision.



Earlier in the summer, both TAC and TPC debuted their websites. The TAC website – www.technologyaccreditation.ca – introduces stakeholders and the public to TAC, and the benefits it offers the profession. It explains the importance of accreditation while providing the requisite instruction and documentation for educational institutions to apply for accreditation. As well, it describes the criteria and steps for becoming an auditor. The TAC news section brings viewers up to date on the latest TAC news releases, announcements and media coverage. *"The website is further affirmation that TAC is officially open for business,"* said Barbara Chappell, TAC Executive Director.



Around the same time, TPC unveiled its website refresh with a smart design and updated content at www.technologyprofessionals.ca. It's a significant move forward in advancing the profile of TPC which first emerged on the engineering technology and applied science profession scene four years ago. *"The goal was to revitalize a website that was outdated and required more functionality. We are pleased with the result,"* said TPC Managing Director Jaime Briltz.

The TPC website conveys in detail what the profession does, as well as educational requirements and designations. It connects visitors to employment opportunities and educational institutes that offer training for the profession, and discusses the importance of accreditation and the TPC-commissioned Canadian Standards Association (CSA) 2011 report. ■