



APEGA Legislative Review: ASET Proposals on Scope of Practice for Technologists

Background

In 2014, APEGA began a legislative review to modernize the *Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act* (the Act), which had its last major update in 1981. As the regulator of engineering and geoscience in Alberta, we need to ensure the Act continues to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Consultations with stakeholders, including the Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta (ASET), have been ongoing since the legislative review began.

APEGA and ASET agree on some of the recommendations submitted to government as part of the legislative review. However, ASET has a divergent perspective on several critical areas, including scope of practice and joint regulation of Professional Technologists.

For the latest information, please visit apegalegislativereview.ca.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is ASET involved in the legislative review discussions?

Under the Act, APEGA and ASET jointly regulate the province's more than 800 Professional Technologists (P.Tech.s). Joint regulation of the P.Tech. designation has been in place since 2009.

How does joint regulation work?

Joint statutory boards and committees make decisions affecting the licensing and practice of P.Tech.s. The boards and committees are made up of an equal number of APEGA-appointed members and ASET-appointed members, as well as one public member appointed by the provincial government. This joint regulation is unique in Canada and only exists in Alberta.

What changes is ASET proposing to the Act?

ASET is proposing three main changes to the Act:

1. ASET wants to eliminate APEGA's involvement in joint regulation of P.Tech.s.
2. ASET wants to expand the scope of practice for P.Tech.s.
3. ASET wants to introduce a new, independent scope of practice for Certified Engineering Technologists (C.E.T.s). (This is a designation that ASET regulates separately from APEGA.)

QUICK FACT

What is the purpose of the *Engineering and Geoscience Act*?

Protection of public interest and safety are the primary purposes of the Act, APEGA, and ASET. The Act is provincial legislation that grants Alberta's engineering and geoscience professionals, including Professional Engineers, Professional Geoscientists, Professional Licensees, and Professional Technologists, the right to self-regulation.

What is APEGA's position on the elimination of joint regulation of P.Tech.s?

APEGA does not support this proposal.

P.Tech.s practise engineering and geoscience within a defined scope of practice, based on their education and experience. APEGA, as the provincial regulator of engineering and geoscience, must be involved in the regulation of P.Tech.s.

The proposed removal of APEGA-ASET joint regulation would create two regulators of engineering and geoscience, acting independently. This introduces the risk of unclear and inappropriate scopes of practice, which could jeopardize public safety by causing confusion over the roles and responsibilities of different professionals.

What is APEGA's position on expanded scope of practice for P.Tech.s?

APEGA does not support this proposal, which would give P.Tech.s the authority to authenticate and take responsibility for work beyond their education and experience.

The proposed expanded scope of practice would give P.Tech.s the same scope of practice as an APEGA Professional Licensee (P.L.), without additional education or experience, and without an individual assessment of competency.

What's the difference between a P.Tech. and a C.E.T.?

P.Tech.s are licensed with a scope of practice that enables them to problem solve using routine application of existing codes and standards and established methodologies. They may work independently and authenticate their work within their limited scope.

C.E.T.s perform technical tasks and problem solving in technological areas under supervision of an APEGA Professional Member or a P.Tech.

What is APEGA's position on the introduction of a new, independent scope of practice for C.E.T.s?

APEGA does not support giving C.E.T.s the right to independent practise without oversight or accountability. This is not in the public interest and threatens public safety. No other province provides an independent scope of practice to C.E.T.s.

Currently, C.E.T.s must work under the direct supervision of a Professional Engineer, Professional Geoscientist, Professional Licensee, or Professional Technologist.