

THE MANITOBA TECHNOLOGIST

The Certified Technicians and Technologists Association of Manitoba

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Registrant profile:
Spencer Brason, C.E.T.





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Don't just practice — progress
Expand your skills with CPD



President's message

As we (finally) welcome the arrival of spring, we are reminded that this time of year is one of renewal, growth and connection; principles that are central to the continued success of CTTAM and our industry as a whole. One of the most important strengths of our community lies in the connections we foster between students, recent graduates and experienced industry professionals. These relationships are not simply beneficial, they are essential as they form the foundation of a strong, adaptive and forward-looking profession.



For students, connections offer clarity and direction. Engaging with industry professionals provides a real-world understanding that complements classroom learning. It helps transform theory into practice and allows a better understanding for expectations, challenges and opportunities. Whether through mentorship, networking events, or work-integrated learning, these interactions build confidence and inspire the next generation of technologists.

For graduates, particularly those early in their careers, connection is a bridge to opportunity. Transitioning from education to employment can be both exciting and uncertain. Strong ties to industry and professional associations like CTTAM provide guidance, support and access to career pathways that might otherwise remain out of reach or unknown.

For industry, the value of connection is equally significant. Employers benefit from direct engagement with emerging talent, gaining insight into new skills, fresh perspectives and evolving educational trends. By investing time

in mentorship and collaboration, industry leaders help shape the competencies of future professionals while strengthening their own organizations.

At CTTAM, we are committed to nurturing these connections. Through events, partnerships and initiatives, we aim to create meaningful opportunities for engagement across all stages of a professional's career. Our goal is to ensure that no registrant — whether student, graduate or seasoned professional — feels disconnected from the broader community.

As we move through 2026, I encourage each of you to actively participate in building and sustaining these connections. Attend an event like a training session or site tour, encourage your employer to participate in Work-Integrated-Learning with post-secondary institutions, mentor a student or junior staff member to share your experience, or simply start a conversation.

Small actions can lead to significant impact.

Shannon

Shannon Nordal, C.E.T.
CTTAM President



Shannon graduated with honours from the Environmental Engineering Technology program at RRC Polytech. She was awarded Co-operative Education Manitoba's 2017 Co-op Student of The Year, and received a national honourable mention from CEWIL Canada. In 2019 Shannon was awarded the CTTAM President's Volunteer Award for helping drive student registration numbers and participating in CTTAM's strategic planning session. Shannon works at RRC Polytech in the Civil Engineering Technology and Construction Management Department, instructing the environmental management course.



Shannon Nordal presented at RRC Polytech's inaugural Applied Research Partnerships Showcase, highlighting the synergy between industry and student innovation. The presentation focused on CTTAM's support for student career goals and the long-term benefits of professional certification, with detailed coverage on page 18.



Spring into growth: Professional progression and summer fun

As we welcome spring and its warmer weather, it is naturally a time of renewal. In the spirit of change, it is also the perfect moment to reflect on the value certification offers you, your employer and your profession.

By becoming certified, you committed to active participation in Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Engaging in these activities increases your professional competence and signals a dedication to lifelong learning, which bolsters the reputation and credibility of our entire field. Recording your two required CPD activities within your registrant profile takes less than five minutes — let's get it done before the nice weather is here to stay.

Speaking of warmer days, it's time to pull out the clubs, dust off your golf attire and build a team for one of the summer's most anticipated events. Our annual golf tournament returns on **Friday, June 26**.

For 28 years, this typically sold-out event has provided a premier opportunity to attract new clients and enhance ongoing business relationships. We are currently seeking sponsors and offer a range of packages to fit any budget. Your support allows us to provide a second-to-none golfing experience filled with networking and prizes.

Please contact Marian Parreno at 204-784-1083 to discuss sponsorship opportunities. See page 20 for more tournament details.

We are also proud to share that 2026 is off to a strong start. We have already hosted one sold-out course, our first-ever LEAN workshop. Course surveys have been overwhelmingly positive. We will continue to offer new opportunities for our registrants to grow their skills.

In this issue In this edition of *The Manitoba Technologist*, we feature a March 17 tour of **New Flyer Industries**, where registrants visited the new Customer Acceptance and Delivery (CAD) facility in Winnipeg. Turn to page 17 to find out more.

On April 22 we celebrated **Earth Day**. This year's theme is conscious consumption. The hope is for all of us commit to conscious practices, whether they are energy-related, material, digital and organizational all year long. We can use less when we:

- Reduce new purchases and buy second-hand items;
- Encourage repairing, sharing and borrowing;
- Limit single-use products;
- Buy less and better and
- Optimize waste-management practices.



I hope you enjoy this newsletter and feel inspired to bring a renewed sense of commitment to your professional journey well thinking about our impact on our planet.

Robert

Robert Okabe, CTTAM CEO and Registrar

Robert (Bob) Okabe, C.E.T., FEC (Hon.), IntET (Canada), has been our CEO and Registrar since July 2015. He has a Civil Engineering Technology Diploma from RRC Polytech. Bob has served as Association President, Panel of Examiners Committee Member, CCTT Director and past Chair and Program Reviewer for CTAB and TAC.



Congratulations to our newly certified

Our registrants matter

Technologists

Aaron Prince, C.E.T.
Afeez Owolabi, C.E.T.
Jacques Duval, C.E.T.
Jayden Zaharia, C.E.T.
Juliah Vanderwey, C.E.T.
Margaret DeGagne, C.E.T.

Ayshkum Engineering Inc.
TTES Consulting Inc.
Manitoba Hydro
City Mix Inc.
NAV Canada
Ladco Company Limited

Mohsen Beiti, C.E.T.
Ravi Gopal, C.E.T.
Samantha Draward, C.E.T.
Stephan Ortiz, C.E.T.
Weilun Zhang, C.E.T.

Manitoba Hydro
WSP Canada
Price Industries Ltd.
Fast Forward Automation
and Control Co. Ltd.

Technicians

Alexandr Kurbatskiy, C. Tech.
Andriy Kovalenko, C. Tech.

Danushkumar Baskar, C. Tech.
Kody Spikula, C. Tech.
Masoud Hoseini, C. Tech.

Solventum
Manitoba Water Services
Board
IHT Group
City of Winnipeg
PTI Transformers LP

Nazmus Shahadat, C. Tech.
Valeri Faraon, C. Tech.
Varun Sharma, C. Tech.

Boyko Builders

Parsons Corporation



What does it mean to be certified?

Being certified earns our registrants the right to use one of two titles, Certified Engineering Technologist (C.E.T.) or Certified Technician (C. Tech.). Our professional registrants are highly attractive to employers and are recognized for their solid training and expertise. Certified registrants may also vote in our elections, hold office and participate on one of our many committees. Registrants can access discounts on different services and can explore career opportunities at the Canadian Technology Employment Network job bank at cten.ca.

Strategic partnerships: Building on our connections

Strengthening professional ties

Strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations provide us and our associates with mutual opportunities to build brand loyalty among our registrants, while increasing our ability to attract and retain highly-skilled technologists and technicians.



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ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
AND MECHATRONICS

Unlocking Industry 4.0 Skills for Manitoba Technicians

PART-TIME PROGRAMS

Advanced Manufacturing

Master the future of digital technologies and Industry 4.0 to propel your career. Develop cutting-edge skills to harness manufacturing technology and shape the next generation of industrial processes and products.

- Post-graduate diploma
- Online hybrid delivery

rrc.ca/ama

Mechatronics

Design your future in technology with practical training in Manitoba's first mechatronics program. Gain expertise in robotics, automation and sustainable mechatronic systems for a dynamic career path.

- Post-graduate diploma
- Online hybrid delivery

rrc.ca/mec



Member profile

Spencer Brason, C.E.T.



A registrant since March 2010, Spencer serves as an Account Manager for CEL. In this role, he works closely with a diverse range of clients across Canada and the United States.

Can you tell us your employer's name, your title and provide a short job description.

I work for Controlled Environments Limited. CEL is comprised of both Argus Controls and Conviron. I work here as an Account Manager. I work closely with research and production clients all over North America.

In research I help clients perform experiments to build more resilient plants for better food security as well as new biotechnologies.

In the production world I help farmers grow their crops as efficiently as possible with automated controls and data acquisition and analysis.

Where were you born? Where did you grow up?

I was born in Sudbury, Ontario. I moved around lots growing up, as my father worked for Ontario Hydro. I went to four elementary schools and two high schools.



My father was the first in the family to leave the dairy farm and have a different career. Due to having to move all the time because

computers were taking over my father's job, I made it my mission to understand computers and automation.

What program of study did you take? And where?

I studied Electrical Automation — Process control, Power Generation and Instrumentation at Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology in Sault Ste. Marie Ontario.

Wow! Due to a heavy course workload and creative planning I was able to gather four college diplomas in three years.

What were your interests in high school?

I love playing sports, mostly hockey, lacrosse, skiing and biking. I regularly attended punk rock concerts with my friends. I always wished I could play in a band but have no musical talent except for being loud!

Do you have a person/mentor in your life that influenced your education and career choices?

My father greatly influenced my career choices. He was an operator of hydro electric power dams for Ontario Hydro (now OPG). Going to visit him and tour the dams always amazed me as a kid.

He eventually moved into a more business-type role at IESO. At IESO they monitor and ensure power always stays on and help set rates for a region of the North American power system. Learning from family on our family's dairy farm to watching my father work through these roles showed me that there are lots of very unique jobs in the world. It also taught me to keep learning and challenging myself to try new things.

What are your main job responsibilities?

My main job is selling and supporting plant growth chambers and control systems for greenhouses. This is very niche work. It can truly only be learned by starting to speak



About Controlled Environments Limited (CEL)

The CEL Group of Companies (CEL) comprises Conviron Canada, Conviron USA, Conviron Europe and Conviron Australia — together forming the world's leading designer and supplier of controlled environments for plant growth. CEL Group also includes Argus Controls, one of the leading suppliers of plant-centric environmental controls and automation systems used in greenhouse and indoor growing facilities. Together, Conviron and Argus provide technologies to our clients in the plant science research and commercial horticulture industry in over 90 countries.



Spencer's passion for his profession is evident in his unwavering commitment to his customers. He leverages his expertise to provide top-tier service, all while bringing a welcome sense of humour to the team.

Continued on page 9.

Member profile

Spencer Brason, C.E.T.

with scientists about what they are trying to achieve.

Whether its drought tolerant crops, more efficient photosynthesis systems, new natural pesticides and fertilizers.

Once we know what types of crops are going to be studied and the conditions they will need, we help our clients select a suitable chamber.

This chamber must fit into their facility and their budget, which usually relies heavily on grants.

We assist with coordinating logistics of getting the chambers that are built in Winnipeg to labs anywhere in the world.

We also sell control systems for greenhouses. This is unique as no two greenhouses are alike and every farm has different operational strategies or grows different crops.

In the production and farming environment they rely on massive (acres), controlled areas or zones to ensure most suitable conditions for crops while balancing the expense of energy.

In the research world they have many smaller (1,000 to 1,500 square feet) areas or zones in their greenhouses. They are constantly growing different crops which is not traditional farming, so it lends to its own unique challenges and pest management routines.

We aim to help growers get the most accurate climate control and real time information from their operation from our control systems.

How do you like to spend your time outside of work?

I enjoy playing sports, mostly hockey, skiing and biking. I often play with my three



children and enjoy watching them learn their favorite sports.

My family does lots of road trips and camping in the summer.

How do you like to start your day?

I usually start my day by going to the YMCA to lift weights, followed by a sauna and a good chat with the regulars!

How do you like to end your day?

I like to end my day by sitting in my backyard with the family watching sunset or going for a walk or a bike ride.

What's one thing you're learning now or leaned recently?

I am looking into taking improv comedy lessons, I think it would be a great time!



The 2024 Green Leaf Award from Conviron and Argus Controls was presented to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. As the dedicated Account Manager for the university, Spencer (left in photo) was on hand to present the award to Dr. Andrew Leakey – Professor of Plant Biology and Director of CABBI and the research team during their new facility's official grand opening on November 15, 2024



Grow with Conviron

About Conviron: Conviron is the world leader in the design, manufacture and installation of controlled environment systems for plant science research. Conviron's reach-in plant growth cabinets, walk-in rooms and Argus Control Systems (a Conviron company) provide precise, uniform and repeatable control of temperature, light, humidity, dehumidification, CO₂ and other environmental conditions. All environmental parameters can be remotely programmed, monitored and analyzed with unparalleled accuracy and convenience. Applications include short to tall plant growth, tissue culture, entomology, germination and other research where tight environmental controls are required.

Focused on plant science

Since 1964, Conviron has been the only manufacturer singularly dedicated to the technology and science of plant growth in controlled environments.

By integrating engineering and service expertise, they have developed a deep understanding of how plants respond to environmental factors such as airflow, climate control and lighting. They leverage their more than 50 engineers and technologists and their unique body of knowledge, gathered from their global network of clients, to build innovative solutions and provide expert troubleshooting.

Core principles

Their reputation is built on three core design principles that ensure maximum value throughout the operating life of every unit:

- *Reliability and durability:* Engineered to withstand decades of intensive research;
- *Functionality and serviceability:* Designed for intuitive use and ease of maintenance and
- *Appropriate technology:* Applying the right technical solutions to meet specific research goals.

A consultative partnership

They don't just ship equipment; they deliver confidence. Whether you need a single chamber, a lighting retrofit or an entire facility, their team follows a consultative process to ensure a successful outcome.

They work closely to:

- *Streamline planning:* Coordinate with architects to optimize facility layout, plant movement and energy conservation;
- *Technical advisement:* Provide mechanical and electrical consultants with precise interface requirements and
- *Project oversight:* Collaborate directly with general contractors during installation.

"Conviron offers a strong culture of professional development. High performance standards are balanced by access to the resources and support employees need to perform at their best."

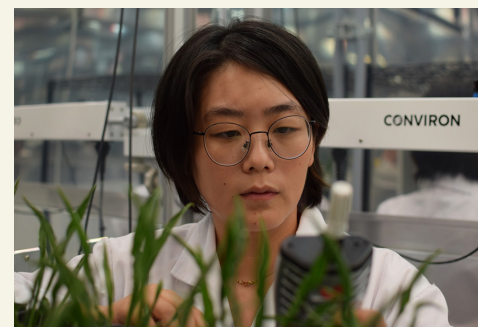
Richard Marusyk, Marketing Operations Manager

Unmatched client care

Their dedication to long-term success is backed by industry-leading client care programs that ensures that research continues uninterrupted.

Global resources

Conviron maintains a truly global network of consultative sales experts, service technicians and installers. No matter where you are in the world, their team provides consistent and reliable support required to keep facilities performing at their peak.



To learn more about their controlled environment systems, visit www.conviron.com. This article is based on content and photography provided courtesy of Conviron.

Team Manitoba headed to Toronto

2026 Skills Manitoba competition held

The 28th Annual Skills Manitoba Competition took place on Thursday, April 9, at RRC Polytech.

This competitive event featured over 500 students demonstrating exceptional expertise and determination across 40-plus skilled trades and technology contests.

Supported by 300 dedicated volunteers from industry and education, the competition highlighted the promising career paths available in Manitoba's workforce. CTTAM representatives were on-site to engage with students and share insights into our organization.

Gold medalists will now advance to form Team Manitoba, competing against their peers at the Skills Canada National Competition in Toronto from May 27–30, 2026.

Congratulations to all who participated and good luck to those competing next month on the national stage!



CTTAM Deputy Registrar, Lauren Gluck, was on-site to meet with competitors and discuss the professional pathways available through certification. We enjoyed connecting with students and attendees interested in learning how our organization supports their career growth.



Brewing curiosity: Students explore local business

Appreciation night held at Section 6 Brewing Co in Brandon

The experience

Recently, **Assiniboine College students** traded the classroom for the taproom at **Section 6 Brewing Co.** in Brandon. The evening began with an immersive tour, giving students a firsthand look at a local industry — from the technical precision of the brewing process to the entrepreneurial spirit required to run a successful business.

A stay curious mindset

This event perfectly illustrated a vital professional truth: to stay relevant, we have to stay curious about what's next. Whether it is learning the mechanics of a local craft or discovering a new career path through a conversation, staying curious ensures that our skills and networks never go stale.



Community and mentorship

The success of the night was bolstered by the presence of Assiniboine College instructors. While they stayed behind the scenes (and out of the photo!), their mentorship provided a supportive bridge for students as they navigate professional waters.

A huge thank you to Section 6 Brewing for hosting an evening that proved not only fun, yummy but educational.



SECTION 6
BREWING CO

On April 17, CTTAM CEO and Registrar, Robert Okabe and Deputy Registrar, Lauren Gluck joined students and instructors from Assiniboine College for a technical tour and networking event at Section 6 Brewing Co. in Brandon.



Bursary winner talks about life experiences

UCN student, Isaak Becker, awarded for excellence

Isaak, a student at the University College of the North (UCN) in The Pas, is enrolled in their Natural Resources Management Technology program. Below is his journey, his inspirations and his career hopes. Congratulations and good luck to Isaak!

I was born on July 20, 1995, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and grew up in the community of Waverly West. My parents, Miriam and Grant, nurtured in me a love for nature and exploration.

Alongside my younger brother, Noah, I spent much of my childhood outdoors with our dogs, hiking, playing in the snow, and marveling at the changing seasons. These experiences helped foster a deep connection to the natural world and instilled in me the values of resilience and creativity.

In school, I was drawn to physical education and the sciences, subjects that fueled my curiosity and allowed me to understand the world around me.



Whether experimenting in the science lab or challenging my limits on the sports field, these formative experiences shaped both my academic and personal journey.

After high school, I took some time to explore different career avenues before I pursued a degree in Natural Resource

Management and Technology at the University College of the North. Transitioning from the familiar environment of Winnipeg to the small town of The Pas was challenging, but it helped me grow academically and personally. One particular field trip to a creek, where I saw sustainable wildlife management practices firsthand, solidified my commitment to conservation.

Beyond academics, I've always found joy in outdoor activities such as rugby, camping, fishing, and woodworking. These hobbies have taught me valuable lessons in teamwork, discipline, and patience, while offering me different ways to connect with nature.

Looking ahead, I am eager to pursue a career in conservation, focusing on sustainable practices that balance human activity and environmental preservation. I hope to contribute to innovative solutions that ensure a healthy planet for future generations.

My journey has been one of growth, learning, and exploration. From my childhood adventures in Winnipeg to the challenges faced at university, each experience has shaped me into the person I am today. I am excited for the opportunities ahead and optimistic about the future of both my career and the environment.

At fall camp every year the second-year NRMT class makes a plaque for the wall. This year a classmate (Randy Penner) and I made the class plaque for the wall. It's an axe (wooden) buried into a tree stump that was cut down by a beaver. A nod to the man vs/working with nature.

University College of the North provides learning opportunities to northern communities while respecting diverse Indigenous and northern values. They offer certificate, diploma and degree programs in many areas. The institution caters to different types of learners — from students who are just starting their journey into higher education to people looking for an upgrade in skills to individuals seeking a career change. Although UCN has two main campuses in The Pas and Thompson, they also offer a wide range of programs in a network of 12 centres from Swan River to Churchill. Nine of these regional centres are in First Nations communities. Find out more about UCN on their [website](#).



Career opportunities

Helping you navigate today's job market

Get connected to job opportunities in your areas of expertise as we regularly post job listings. We are also happy to add your postings to our website. Please send your listing to mparreno@cttam.com. Here is the link to our site's [career section](#). This page also has links to other job banks. Good luck on your new career hunt!



Oil, sweat and gears: 2026 Manitoba Robot Games



On **Saturday, April 25**, the floors of Tec-Voc High School hummed with electricity as builders from across the province converged for the Manitoba Robot Games. From high-stakes sumo wrestling to precision line following and rugged obstacle courses, the event was a masterclass in student ingenuity.

Building the future

Beyond the trophies, the Games serve as a critical launchpad for K-12 students. By tackling mechanical and electrical hurdles, participants build the confidence needed for future careers in technology and engineering. Our future CTTAM registrants!

The incremental problem-solving required to get a robot through a sand pit or out of a sumo ring mirrors the real-world challenges these students will face as professionals.

Powered by volunteers

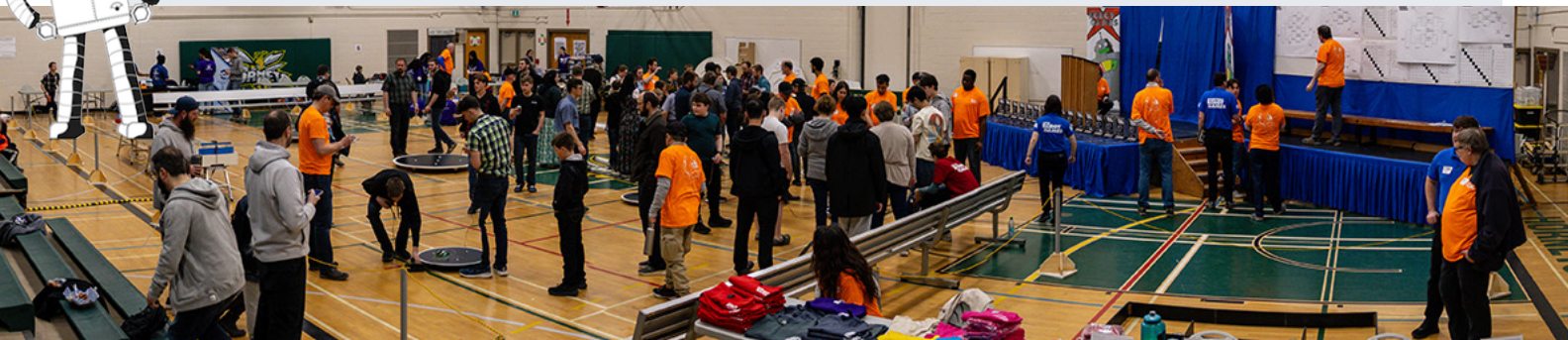
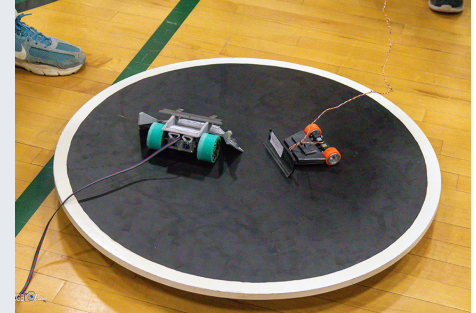
None of this would be possible without an army of volunteers.

A huge thank you to the **CTTAM registrants** who assisted with the event set-up, game day operations and tear down. Your efforts ensured the day ran smoothly and that every competitor had a great experience seeing their robots in action.

Game sponsor

In addition to providing hands-on support, CTTAM was a proud sponsor of the high-stakes mini-sumo competitions, further investing in the next generation of Manitoba's technical talent.

For specific inquiries about volunteering or registration, you can check the FAQ page on the Manitoba Robot Games [website](#).



Photos courtesy of CGBVIEWS Photography. View their website.

RRC Polytech students excel at IASC-SAIT 2026 Student Games

CTTAM sponsorship helps drive students' success

The games were held from March 20 to 21 at the The MacPhail School of Energy, in Calgary. The IASC-SAIT International Student Games 2026, is the largest student-led industrial automation games in the world.

This exciting two-day event brought together students, educators and industry partners from around the globe to celebrate hands-on learning, collaboration and technical excellence in industrial automation.

The competition featured thirteen international teams from India, the United States, Ireland, Spain, Brazil and Canada (including NAIT, SAIT, BCIT, Lambton and RRC Polytech).

A global collaboration

In a unique format designed to test teamwork, students from different colleges joined forces to form four-person teams. Together, they tackled complex challenges in industrial automation.

RRC Polytech students were members of the teams that secured 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th place medals in the competition.

"Committing these funds underlines our continued commitment to applied education and the critical role it plays in creating meaningful learning opportunities beyond the classroom."

Robert Okabe, CTTAM CEO/Registrar

Congratulations to all the participating students for representing Manitoba on the world stage!



RRC Polytech students applying technical knowledge and teamwork during the IASC-SAIT Student Games.



Article and photos courtesy of RRC Polytech.

THE MANITOBA TECHNOLOGIST

The Manitoba Technologist is published by the Certified Technicians and Technologists Association of Manitoba (CTTAM). The opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Association. This newsletter acts as a moderator without approving, disapproving or guaranteeing the validity or accuracy of any data, claim, or opinion appearing under a byline or obtained or quoted from an acknowledged source. Articles, suggestions or constructive criticism regarding this publication, CTTAM or other matters of interest to engineering and applied science technicians and technologists should be sent to CTTAM. We recognize that Winnipeg is on Treaty 1 territory, the territory of the Anishinaabeg, the Nehiyaw, the Oji-Cree, the Dakota and the Dene Peoples and on the Homeland of the Métis Nation.

CTTAM office

870 Pembina Hwy (2nd floor)
Winnipeg, MB R3M 2M7
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admin@cttam.com

Office hours

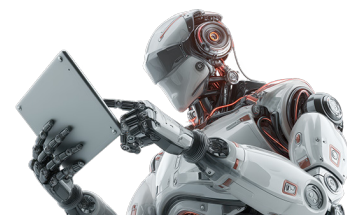
Our office is open from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday
Note: Appointments are required to meet CTTAM staff in person

CTTAM staff

Robert Okabe, C.E.T., FEC (Hon.), IntET (Canada)
CEO and Registrar

Lauren Gluck
Deputy Registrar/Registration Inquiries

Marian Parreno
Registration Program Coordinator



Milestones in modernization: 50 years of transformative technology

Technology touches so many aspects of our lives



Since 1975, technological progress has dramatically transformed how we all live, work and communicate. Searching the web, we thought it would be interesting to read about these inroads. Below is a list gathered by artificial intelligence (AI). Did AI get it right?

Computing and information technology

- **Personal computers** (PCs) — Popularized by companies like Apple and IBM in the late 1970s and 1980s, this invention brought computing into homes and offices. *Editor's note: CTTAM's first computer was installed in our office in 1987.*
- **The internet** (infrastructure of globally connected networks) — Expanded globally in the 1990s, connecting billions of people across the world.
- **World wide web** (service using web browsers and HTTP) — Invented by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989, making the internet accessible through websites. *Editor's note: CTTAM updated its website in the spring of 2023.*
 - **Smartphones** — Revolutionized by Apple in 2007, combines communication, computing and entertainment.
 - **Cloud computing** — Allows data storage and processing over the internet.
 - **Artificial Intelligence** (AI) — Advanced by companies such as OpenAI, enabling automation, language models and machine learning applications.



Communication and media

- **Social media platforms** — Which ones do you use? *Editor's note: CTTAM regularly posts on Facebook, X, Instagram and Linked-In.*
- **Streaming services** — How many do you subscribe to?
- **Video conferencing** — Tools like Zoom became popular during COVID-19.

Medicine and biotechnology

- **MRI scanning improvements** — Enhanced diagnostic imaging. *Editor's note: Hope any wait times are short!*
- **CRISPR gene editing** — A genetic engineering technique in molecular biology by which the genomes of living organisms may be modified.
- **mRNA vaccines** — Used in COVID-19 vaccines.
- **Robotic surgery** — Robots improve precision, which can lead to quicker recovery times.

Space and transportation

- **Reusable rockets** — Can reduce space travel costs.
- **GPS technology** — Now standard in vehicles and smartphones.
- **Electric vehicles** (EVs) — Do you own one?
- **High-speed rail** — Canada is working on developing a network to connect Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal, Trois-Rivières and Quebec City.



Energy and environment

- **Solar power advances** — More efficient and affordable panels.
- **Wind turbines** — Large-scale renewable energy production.
- **Battery technology** — Lithium-ion batteries.
- **Smart grids** — Digitally managed electricity networks.

Robotics and automation

- **Industrial robots** — Widely used in manufacturing.
- **Drones** — Used in delivery, film and defense.
- **3D printing** — Enables rapid prototyping, custom manufacturing and in-home production.



The Act Change Project: Unifying engineering regulation

EngGeoMB and CTTAM have been exploring opportunities to strengthen their relationship and increase collaboration between the two associations.

Editor's note

Expanding the affiliation between Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba (EngGeoMB) and CTTAM represents a strategic move toward a more integrated, efficient and collaborative environment that matches the needs of both organizations. Importantly, there has been no discussion of amalgamating the two organizations, nor is amalgamation an objective of either association.

Last April, EngGeoMB engaged with our Board of Directors to review potential changes to their *The Engineering and Geoscientific Professions (EGP) Act*.

Currently, EngGeoMB holds exclusive rights to reserved practice, meaning only EngGeoMB licensed engineers and geoscientists can perform certain types of work in Manitoba and use their key titles — P.Eng. and P.Geo.

In contrast, CTTAM registrants hold the protected titles of C.E.T. and C. Tech. Our act does not currently include a reserved practice, meaning certification is not a legal requirement to work in our certified disciplines.

Registrants with specialized education and training will continue to be eligible for the Specified Scope of Practice License (Eng.L.). This eligibility will not be impacted by the *EGP Act* changes. The new act will establish practice rights that allow technologists and technicians to perform certain works.

Primary opportunities for growth

During discussions, the CTTAM Board noted that its registrants perform valuable technical roles that often overlap with engineering and geoscientific tasks, highlighting the need for clearer professional boundaries. Clearly outlining technologists and technicians' right to practice in the *EGP Act* will aid in clarifying the specific roles and responsibilities between professional engineers and geoscientists and engineering technologists and technicians.

Why now

Because EngGeoMB has already secured the Manitoba Government's agreement to update the *EGP Act* — and possess the necessary resources, processes and personnel — establishing CTTAM's right to practice through the *EGP Act* is a significantly more efficient approach for us.

For CTTAM, this avoids the need for major adjustments to the Act, requiring only consequential amendments to acknowledge the relationship with the *EGP Act*.

This approach requires EngGeoMB and CTTAM to collaborate closely to define the scope and boundaries of CTTAM's authorized practice areas.

Your feedback is needed

To support this work, two open houses were held and an Act and React series was distributed to both CTTAM and EngGeoMB registrants and members to gather feedback on this proposed approach.

CTTAM registrants can complete a very short survey to voice your opinions. Click on the survey link [here](#).

"While reopening a regulatory act is a complex task, it is a vital opportunity to better support our registrants by formalizing rights for technologists and technicians engaged in engineering and geoscience work."

Robert Okabe, CTTAM CEO and Registrar



For more information on the Act Change Project, please visit the [Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba website](#).



Tour spotlight: New Flyer

Registrants recently visited New Flyer. New Flyer was founded in 1930 and is now the largest transit bus manufacturer in North America, with fabrication, manufacturing and service centers in the Canada and the United States.

A sincere thank you to New Flyer for the fascinating and informative tour of their facilities.

New Flyer, a subsidiary of NFI Group, is a global leader in transit manufacturing. They recently reached a major

milestone with the opening of their new Customer Acceptance and Delivery (CAD) facility in Winnipeg. This 150,000-square-foot expansion allows for the first complete, start-to-finish Canadian production of heavy-duty transit buses in 15 years.

Industry leadership and innovation

New Flyer specializes in a wide range of sustainable propulsion systems, including: Zero-emission battery-electric and hydrogen fuel cell buses. Electric hybrid, natural gas and clean diesel solutions.

Their strategic focus on *Building in Canada for Canada* strengthens the domestic supply chain and supports hundreds of highly-skilled manufacturing jobs in Manitoba. With a global headquarters in Winnipeg employing nearly 3,000 people, New Flyer continues to be a cornerstone of our province's heavy-duty manufacturing sector.



Registrants visited the New Flyer facility, located in Transcona, on Tuesday, March 17. Thank you all who participated and earned a CPD credit!

Investing in technology students' futures

Endowments directly benefit students by providing a sustainable source of funding that enhances the quality of their education. Your invested donations generate annual income for scholarships, bursaries and financial aid.

Donations welcomed

CTTAM graciously accepts donations to our endowment fund on behalf of our registrants. All donors will receive a tax receipt directly from RRC Polytech.

How the fund works

Endowments are the ideal vehicle to fund scholarships, bursaries or awards. You can contribute to the fund at any time, ensuring a lasting impact on the next generation of professionals.

Your gift can:

- Transform learning and research spaces;
- Enhance a student's experience;
- Advance Indigenous achievements and
- Support a specific program area.

Make a difference!

It's easy to contribute

Whether you are making an immediate gift or planning a future bequest, you retain the flexibility to adjust your contributions as your financial circumstances change.

For more information

Please contact our CEO and Registrar, Robert Okabe, at 204-784-1080. You can also find details on established endowments and how to donate by visiting the RRC Polytech website. The generosity of our registrants inspires us every day. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the profession.



Engaging with future professionals

RRC Polytech's ARP showcase was held on April 15

In addition to our presence at the Skills Manitoba Competition (see page 10), CTTAM was active at the recent **RRC Polytech**



Engaging the next generation: CTTAM President, Shannon Nordal, highlights the importance of professional registration.

Applied Research Partnership (ARP) Showcase. This event served as a premier Industry–Student Applied Research venue, highlighting the collaboration between emerging talent and real-world innovations.

Senior-year civil students created posters representing their applied research projects with submissions judged for best in class. The gathering provided great networking between students, faculty and other industry members.

CTTAM was the title sponsor.

CTTAM President, Shannon Nordal was on-site to share insights into how our organization can aid students in achieving their career aspirations.

Her presence provided students with a direct link to understanding the benefits of professional certification and the long-term support CTTAM offers as they transition from education to the workforce.

From student to registrant: Your path to professional certification with CTTAM starts here

Working toward certification with CTTAM is a significant milestone for any engineering technician or technologist in Manitoba. We offer different levels of certification with student membership offered for suitable applicants.

- **Student membership** — Students in full-time technology programs can join CTTAM for free. This builds an early connection to the professional community. We will waive the application fee for students who have graduated from RRC Polytech and apply for certification within two years of graduating providing that they have the two years of relevant work experience.
- **Full certification (C.E.T. or C. Tech.):**
 - **C.E.T. (Certified Engineering Technologist):** Applicants must have graduated from an accredited three-year applied science, engineering or information technology program and have two-years of relevant work experience.
 - **C.Tech. (Certified Technician):** Applicants must be a graduate of a one- or two-year applied science, engineering or information technology technician program, any relevant technical program of less than two years or a military program and two years of relevant work experience.

Detailed information regarding the certification process and professional registration with CTTAM is available on our [website](#).



Share your expertise!

Hello readers. We are seeking articles for our upcoming newsletters and would love to feature your voice. Whether it's your unique career journey, how you broke into your field, proven tips for success or specialized professional insights, your experience is invaluable. This is a great opportunity to share your knowledge and connect with fellow professionals. Please email your articles or any questions to admin@cttam.com. We look forward to hearing from you!



Brant Caswell 2025 SFC Canadian National Gold Medal Finalist

You could be the next Olympian!

Manitoba Skeet Shooting Association
Youth Skeet Sport Initiation Program

Now accepting U15 (age 12-15) & U18 (age 15-18)
End of May to July 2026

- Discover the fundamentals of Olympic skeet shooting in a safe, inclusive, and fun competitive environment.
- Winnipeg Trap and Skeet Club (Oak Bluff, MB)
- Led by MSSA-certified coaches
- Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) focused
- Pathway to the MSSA Skeet Shooting School Athlete. Pathway Benefits (by invitation)2026
- Season Fee: \$200 (non-refundable, equipment rental, target, and ammunition included)
- Once a week 10 days at field. End of May to July, apply or questions at info.mbssa@gmail.com



New benefit partner — The Personal

Great news! We have partnered with The Personal to provide you with preferential group rates on home insurance.

As a specialist in property and casualty insurance, The Personal offers unique coverage and rates reserved exclusively for group members. When you switch, you'll enjoy personalized advice, customized coverage and exclusive member advantages.

Key benefits include:

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Celebrate NPWW 2026: CPWA MB Goldeyes game night

Celebrate National Public Works Week (NPWW) with the CPWA Manitoba Chapter. They invite you to their annual Spring Mixer and Goldeyes game for an evening of networking and baseball.

Registrant highlight

Darren Wanless
CPWA Board of Directors
President, Communication
Committee Chair

CTTAM registrant, **Darren Wanless, C.E.T.**, (Registrant since May 1997), first joined the CPWA in 1997 and is currently President and Communication Committee Chair.

Darren is President of Wanless Geo-Point Solutions, a survey and geomatics service provider working on public works projects throughout Manitoba for various levels of government, construction and engineering firms.



Whether you are a Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA) member or a public works professional looking to connect, this event is open to all.

Goldeyes game details

- Wednesday, May 20;
- Doors open at 5:30 PM | Game starts at 6:30 PM;
- Blue Cross Park — 1 Portage Ave E, Winnipeg and
- \$40 per person (Includes snacks, prizes and great company!)

Registration and payment

Spots fill up quickly, so don't wait to buy your tickets!

- Register [online](#) and
- Contact darren@wgps.ca for any questions

We look forward to seeing you at the ballpark!



Save the date!

Golf tournament set for Friday, June 26

Join us for our 28th annual golf tournament at Kingswood Golf and Country Club

Dust off your clubs and build your team! Our annual golf tournament returns on Friday, June 26 at the beautiful Kingswood Golf and Country Club in La Salle, Manitoba.

Tournament schedule

Registration: 10:30 am
Shotgun start: 11:00 am
Dinner and prizes: Following the round (included in registration)

Register early to secure your spot!

Space is limited for this highly anticipated event. A registration form and sponsorship information are available now on our website.

Questions?

Please contact our tournament coordinator, Marian Parreno, at 204-784-1083 or at mparreno@cttam.com.

Registration details

Fee: \$200 per person
Availability: Limited to 36 teams of four players.
Inclusions: Registration covers green fees, golf cart, lunch, dinner and multiple chances to win prizes.

Located just six minutes south of the Perimeter on Highway 330, Kingswood offers 18 holes of championship golf for a full day of networking and fun.

Golf tournament sponsorship opportunities

For the upcoming 28th annual golf tournament we are offering a variety of sponsorship packages designed to fit any budget. These opportunities allow your organization to build brand loyalty with our registrants, attract new clients and enhance existing business relationships.

🕒 Event (Keystone) Sponsor — \$2,000 (Only one spot available)

- Four complementary golf registrations;
- Visual recognition and individual signage at the sponsored hole;
- A company representative may provide a brief (1–2 minute) introduction before the keynote speaker takes the stage and
- Opportunity to set up a banner near the registration entrance to maximize visibility.

🕒 Dinner Sponsor — \$1,000 (Only one spot available)

- One complementary golf registration;
- Visual recognition of individual signage at the sponsored hole and
- Company logo displayed on the dinner tables.

🕒 Golf hole Sponsor — \$350 (18 spots available)

- Visual recognition and individual signage at the sponsored hole.



Our technology ring: A symbol of excellence

Our ring showcases your achievements



Our technology ring is a distinctive mark of your professional standing. Crafted as a sterling silver band, it features a repeating pattern of five gears bracketed by a maple leaf on each side.

Meaning and tradition

The ring represents the vital union between registrants, CTTAM, and the broader professional community. The maple leaf design was chosen to reflect our national identity, ensuring the ring is a proud symbol for registrants across Canada. While it may be worn according to your preference, professional rings are traditionally worn on the pinky finger of the working hand.

The design is unique enough for the public to identify at a glance as a symbol of a Certified Technologist or Certified Technician.

Ordering and sizing

The technology ring is available to registrants at an affordable cost of \$110.

To ensure a perfect fit, please book an appointment for professional ring sizing and to arrange the pickup of your order.

How to order

If you have questions or would like to purchase a ring, please contact our Deputy Registrar, Lauren Gluck, at 204-784-1081 or by email at lgluck@cttam.com.

➡ Order your ring today!

Career changers and skill boosters

Courses available to help upgrade your skills

The Winnipeg Construction Association offers several educational courses and workshops, specifically tailored for the industrial, commercial, and institutional construction sectors.



Upcoming courses
Check out the schedule of courses and events specifically designed for the construction industry on their **website**.

Don't see what you're looking for? Contact Peggy Zurkan at peggy@winnipegconstruction.ca or call her at 204-775-8664, ext. 2248.

Who they are

The Winnipeg Construction Association (WCA) empowers their members through four key pillars: information services, education, networking and advocacy. Visit them in Winnipeg at 1447 Waverley Street to see how we support the local industry.

Education

Elevate your career with WCA's premier construction education program. They host over 80 sessions annually, offering specialized training for every level of expertise.

WCA members enjoy:

- Priority access to all sessions and
- Exclusive member pricing on every course.

Grow your knowledge, your skills, and your business. Explore their upcoming sessions today.



Annual General Meeting (AGM) — Mark your calendars

← *Spots are limited!*

Please join us on **Wednesday, June 17** for our Annual General Meeting at the Centro Caboto Centre at 1055 Wilkes Ave.

Our Board of Directors and staff will present our latest accomplishments, review the fiscal year's financial reports, and share our strategic outlook for the future. We encourage registrants to attend to stay informed and engaged with our progress.



Professional development: This meeting is a qualifying CPD activity.

Registration: Additional information is in your email inbox.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Keep in touch, be the first to know!

CTTAM news

Subscribe to our **CTTAM news** to get posts on training, news and events sent directly to your in your email inbox.

If you are not receiving these emails, please contact us at admin@cttam.com or call 204-784-1081. We will gladly help update your email address and/or your contact information on your registrant profile.



POWERFUL BENEFIT PLANS

Choose an ARTA Benefit Plan to dream big and worry less – because your peace of mind matters.



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Choose the level and style of coverage that best suits your unique goals, including options for single, couple, and family coverage.



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with preventative and major restorative services coverage available.



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James Schmidt, C.E.T.

Julie Schneider, C.E.T.



Key responsibilities include:

Strategic direction — They help define our mission, vision, and long-term goals, shaping our overall direction;

Oversight and governance — They establish and monitor policies, ensuring we adhere to legal and ethical standards and manage risks;

Executive management — They hire, evaluate, and set compensation for the CEO/Registrar;

Financial management — They review budgets, financial reports and major financial decisions, ensuring our financial health;

Stakeholder relations — They engage with stakeholders (including registrants, industry and government);

Risk management — They identify, assess and mitigate potential risks and.

Compliance — The Board ensures we comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

Don't just practice — progress

Expand your skills with CPD

By using your certified title, you've committed to annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The good news? You're likely already doing the work. You've probably completed qualifying tasks through your daily projects and learning. Now, you just need to officially record them to stay compliant and showcase your growth.

It's easier than you think

The 2026 reporting cycle is already open! To maintain your certification, you only need to complete two activities from any of the four professional development categories over the course of the year. It's a commitment you made when you became certified — and one that keeps our profession strong.

Record your progress online

Don't wait until the end of the year. You can log your activities as you complete them. All reports must be submitted through your *Registrant Profile* on our website by December 31.

Questions?

If you have any questions about your CPD requirements, please contact our **Deputy Registrar, Lauren Gluck**, at lgluck@cttam.com.

What counts towards your CPD?

You only need to complete two activities from any of these four categories:

Formal activities

- Seminars (more than 4 hours)
- Structured courses
- Technical training
- Technical education program Informal

Mentoring

- Demonstrate a technical application to colleagues
- Learn a technical application from colleagues
- Be involved with your profession

Activities

- On-the-job training
- Read technical manuals
- Learn a technical application
- Peer/Professional interaction/participation

Professional contributions

- Present research
- Volunteering
- Write technical articles and papers



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Engineers Canada-sponsored Insurance Plans

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*They're exclusive to engineers,
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- **Portable coverage** that stays with you anywhere in the world
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- **Additional 15% off** for coverage amounts of \$1,000,000 or more

And that's not all. **You also have several other affordable plan options to choose from**, including:

-  Disability Income Protection
-  Health & Dental Insurance
-  Major Accident Protection
-  Critical Illness Insurance



[†]The 50% premium rate reduction does not apply to existing Term Life coverage. Premium rates have been reduced by 50% for new or additional Member and Spouse Term Life coverage. This 50% premium rate reduction will end, and premiums will increase on April 1, 2026, for all applicable Term Life coverage.

Individual circumstances may vary. Conditions, limitations, and exclusions apply. See policy for details. You may contact one of Manulife's Licensed Insurance Advisors or your licensed insurance agent if you need advice about your insurance needs.

Engineers Canada-sponsored Insurance Plans are underwritten by **The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company (Manulife)**.

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