

THE MANITOBA TECHNOLOGIST

The Certified Technicians and Technologists Association of Manitoba



Inside this issue

Registrant profile: Rob McCulloch, C.E.T., Eng.L. | New President feature | Golf tournament highlights



Save with exclusive home insurance rates, rolled out just for you



Take advantage of:

- ✓ **Special rates** not available to the general public.
- ✓ **Exceptional customer service** from insurance advisors who go the extra mile.



Get a quote online
and switch today.

thepersonal.com/cttam
1-888-476-8737



CTTAM update

- 4 **President's message**
Welcome to our new President
- 5 **CEO and Registrar's message**
A new era of leadership and excellence
- 6 **Check out our new registrants**
Congratulations and welcome

Registrant news

- 8 **Registrant profile**
Rob McCulloch, C.E.T., Eng. L.
- 12 **Annual General Meeting**
Highlights from our organizational meeting
- 16 **The Presidents Awards: Acknowledging leadership**
Annual event rewards outstanding achievements
- 19 **Young women in tech conference**
Inspiring the next generation

Expand your skills with CPD
You have six months to complete. What's your plan?
- 27 **Making a difference: Your endowment fund contributions**
- 29 **Our Board of Directors**

The insider

- 15 **Honouring milestones of commitment, excellence and shared success**

Industry connections

- 10 **Registrant employer feature**
Tower Engineering 
- 20 **Dedicated to excellence**
ACEC Manitoba celebrates
- 21 **Golf tournament**
Networking, prizes and fun on the course

Share your story: contribute to our newsletter

In every issue

- 2 **The Personal**
- 6 **Building on our connections**
Strategic partners
- 7 **RRC Polytech**
- 27 **Our technology ring**
- 28 **ARTA**



Welcome to our new President

A new chapter begins! At our June AGM, outgoing CTTAM President Shannon Nordal, C.E.T., officially welcomed incoming President Bernardo Pasco, C.E.T., to his new role. Bernardo is embarking on a two-year term leading our organization into the future. We sat down with him for an exclusive Q&A to help our community get to know the person behind the presidency just a little bit better.



What do you see as the biggest growth opportunity for our organization over the next twelve months?

I believe our single greatest growth opportunity lies in forging stronger strategic partnerships with our provincial government, industry employers and educational institutions. By working closely with these key stakeholders, we can actively advocate for expanded mandatory registration across Manitoba while demonstrating the value that certified technologists and technicians bring to public safety and infrastructure.

In what ways can we better position ourselves as a progressive authority in our industry?

We can achieve this by taking a stronger leadership role in workforce development, supporting internationally educated professionals and advocating for higher professional standards across the industry.

What value do you see CTTAM providing our registrants?

Our organization provides professional credibility, career development, networking opportunities and a trusted voice that represents technicians and technologists to government and industry.

How can we adapt our professional development resources to better serve the changing needs of our registrants?

CTTAM should expand its online learning options and offer greater flexibility in practical training, specifically focusing on emerging fields like asset management, artificial intelligence, project delivery and leadership.

What aspects of our organizational culture do you consider essential?

I believe our core values center on professional integrity, inclusiveness, collaboration and a steadfast commitment to serving both our registrants and the public.

What are your priorities for advocating for the technology and applied science professions to government and industry regulators?

My priority is to work collaboratively with the provincial government, employers and industry to promote mandatory registration where appropriate. Also to work to ensure our registrants are fully recognized for the essential role they play across our province's workplaces and critical infrastructure networks.



How can we strengthen our partnerships with educational institutions and employers to elevate the profession's status?

We can achieve this by actively aligning academic curricula with real-world industry needs, developing seamless, structured pathways toward certification and proactively encouraging employers to recognize professional registration as a preferred hiring qualification.

Where did you complete your education and/or training?

I completed my Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and Sanitary Engineering in the Philippines, both assessed by World Education Services as equivalent to a Canadian four-year bachelor's degree.

I furthered my education in Canada through RRC Polytech's Engineering Technology bridging program, where I obtained a diploma in Municipal Engineering Technology. I worked as head of the Municipal Engineering Department of San Juan in Batangas, Philippines.



What motivates you in your career?

My motivation stems from a desire to give back to the profession that helped establish my career in Canada. Navigating the journey from an internationally trained and educated engineer to serving in engineering and municipal leadership roles inspires me to help others overcome similar challenges and to build successful professional careers.

What advice would you give to a young person interested in a similar career?

Never stop learning, seek practical experience and pursue professional registration because your credibility and reputation will become your greatest assets.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in the Philippines.

What are your outside interests?

I love playing golf, pickle ball, officiating basketball games, enjoying continuous learning and spending time with my family.

Bernardo

Bernardo Pasco, C.E.T.,
PRESIDENT



From the desk of the CEO and Registrar

A new era of leadership and excellence

Our new President

At our recent AGM, we marked an exciting milestone for our organization when our outgoing President, Shannon Nordal, C.E.T., officially welcomed incoming President Bernardo Pasco, C.E.T., into his new role.

Bernardo is embarking on a two-year term, bringing a wealth of leadership experience and an inspiring personal journey as an internationally trained professional.

I look forward to working closely with him to strengthen our strategic partnerships, expand workforce development and champion the vital status of our profession across Manitoba.

A huge thank you to Shannon! Her tireless drive of to expand our registration numbers successfully propelled our organization to a historic milestone of over 3,000 registrants.

Project update

Work continues on the Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba (EngGeoMB) Act Change project. This initiative includes establishing our right to practice through the Government of Manitoba's *EGP Act*, formally acknowledging our relationship with EngGeoMB. The affiliation between EngGeoMB and CTTAM represents a strategic move toward a more integrated, efficient, and collaborative environment that serves the needs of both organizations. Importantly, amalgamation is not an objective of either association, nor has it been discussed. We will continue to provide updates as this project progresses.

Supporting the best

We have had the privilege of attending numerous industry networking events and celebrations. It has been deeply rewarding to support our registrants and colleagues as they are recognized for their technical excellence, hard work and ongoing dedication to our association and shared professions.



This issue proudly highlights several standout registrants who have truly excelled in their respective fields, whether its a long service pin recipient, a registrant profile or our strong team of volunteers and staff.

Always time to think about CPD

The summer months offer a perfect, quieter window to focus on completing your mandatory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements early.

As professionals, our yearly CPD activities are vital to maintaining our qualifications, enhancing our skills and staying aligned with rapid developments in our sectors.

Proactively engaging in this learning ensures we remain highly competent and up to date with the latest industry knowledge and best practices.

I encourage everyone to cross this off their list before the summer concludes.

Wishing you all a safe, happy and restful summer season!

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.



Check out our new registrants

Welcome!

Congratulations and welcome to our recently certified

Technologists

Aman Sharma , C.E.T.	University of Winnipeg
Amirali Mirsajadi , C.E.T.	University of Manitoba
Arbie Tricia Lacanlale , C.E.T.	City of Winnipeg
Brayden Vinck , C.E.T.	Industrial Fluid Consultants Inc.
Dale Suazo , C.E.T.	Metal-Tech Industries
Kendra Haigh , C.E.T.	Altus Geomatics
Manuel Morasch , C.E.T.	Penn Co
Marion Bacay , C.E.T.	Standard Aero
Melanie Spencer , C.E.T.	Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure
Oleksii Balabotkin , C.E.T.	Valley Fiber
Sangwon Lee , C.E.T.	Magellan Aerospace
William Bambo , C.E.T.	Qualico
Yan Yan , C.E.T.	Manitoba Hydro
Yu Zhao , C.E.T.	Micropilot

Technicians

Antonio Macam , C. Tech.	McCain Foods
Dario Melo Coloma , C. Tech.	Genes Telecom
Kristian Pajda , C. Tech.	Eng-Tech Consulting
Luis Jara Leite , C. Tech.	
Mathew Richard , C. Tech.	
Olga Firtsikova , C. Tech.	Seymour Pacific Developments Ltd.
Sosthene Tiemele , C. Tech.	
Wiann Breytenbach , C. Tech.	Dillon Consulting



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.

Building on our connections

Strengthening our strategic partnerships

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.



PRICE INSTITUTE OF
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
AND MECHATRONICS

Unlocking Industry 4.0 Skills for Manitoba Engineers

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

LEARN MORE rrc.ca/priceinstitute



Registrant profile: Rob McCulloch, C.E.T., Eng.L.



Rob's mechanical design background spans commercial, industrial, and specialized sectors ensuring immediate value for Tower Engineering's project portfolios. As a collaborative team player, he actively manages workloads and coordinates with architects and clients across all project stages, from initial concepts to on-site administration. Dedicated to continuous improvement, his Eng.L. designation and current LEED V5 studies perfectly match his focus on professional advancement. *Always learning*

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

I am a Mechanical Designer at Tower Engineering Group, providing plumbing and HVAC system design for a variety of clients and projects, as well as contract administration services during construction.

I also help coordinate our mechanical design team, balancing workloads, supporting staff, and keeping projects moving forward smoothly. Some days that feels a lot like herding cats — but thankfully they're a talented group of cats.

Where were you born? Where did you grow up?

I was born in Winnipeg, raised in River Heights for most of my childhood.

As a young adult I lived in Europe for a few years, worked on cruise ships for a stint and travelled through eastern Asia visiting family in Taiwan and Hong Kong. Upon returning to Canada I worked a few summers as a chef at a fly-in fishing lodge in northern Manitoba.

What program of study did you take? And where?

I have studied many things including music, lutherie (lutherie is the making of wooden string musical instruments), culinary arts and industrial welding. As a young man, travelling was probably the best thing I could have done for my education.

However, to further my professional career I attended the Mechanical Engineering Technology course at RRC Polytech.

As soon as possible upon graduation I successfully applied for my C.E.T. designation. Recently, at 50 years old, I received my Specified Scope Engineering Licence (Eng.L.) designation from Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba.

The application processes can seem overwhelming and time consuming. However, it is rewarding and worthwhile regardless of how long it takes.

What were your interests in high school?

If I recall correctly, my high school academic pursuits were mainly theoretical, aside from giving the shirt off my back to my grade 12 English teacher in exchange for a passing grade. That was very practical.

I spent far too much time playing guitar and unsuccessfully tried to join a couple of bands. I was apparently too cool for them, but the skateboarders accepted me, with some reservation.

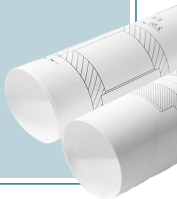
Hockey, lacrosse and rugby kept me out of trouble most of the time, and a part-time, dish-washing job gave me some cash to fund a growing record collection.



Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba — Specified Scope of Practice Licence

The Specified Scope of Practice Licence, introduced in Manitoba in 2018, allows non-engineers and non-geoscientists to practice within a specific scope of engineering or geoscience. This category recognizes the combination of education and extensive experience as potential for qualification.

In accordance with the Act, the Specified Scope of Practice Licensee means a person who holds a valid and subsisting specified scope of practice licence and whose name is entered on the Association's register as a specified scope of practice licensee (Eng.L. or Geo.L.).



Registrant profile:

Rob McCulloch, C.E.T., Eng.L.

Regular trips to Records on Wheels were required to get back issues of Maximum Rock'n'Roll magazines and find whatever obscure bands my friends and I heard on the skateboard videos that we watched religiously.

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

My children have taught me everything that I know.

The never-ending patience and understanding required to provide for all of their needs is a deep well of wisdom



and knowledge that I am trying to absorb. If I can learn one percent of it I will consider it a success.

Continuing to provide for my family's well being is what has, and continues to drive all of my life choices.

What are your main job responsibilities?

I create plumbing and HVAC designs for a variety of clients and building types. I have designed mechanical systems for:

- Cannabis production facilities;
- Greenhouses;
- Craft breweries;
- Hair salons;
- Grocery stores;
- Butcher shops;
- Farming machinery manufacturers;
- Industrial meat producers and much more.

The variety of work is endless.



Rob's employer showcase: Turn to page 10 to learn more about Tower Engineering Group.

Cross coordination is required with the owners, architects, electrical and structural consultants, as well as any industry specialists and the equipment suppliers to ensure the proper systems and equipment are selected. We create the construction drawings and specifications as part of this iterative process.

During the tendering and construction periods I provide input to stakeholders (owners, other consultants, contractors, for example) to ensure everyone has the information they need, and any unforeseen site conditions are managed.

Regular site visits are required to assess the progress and quality of the work and its adherence to the construction documents.

This also provides opportunities to discuss the project with the installing contractors on site and gain valuable insights into their use and interpretations of the drawings, helping to inform future designs.

The main responsibility is continuous improvement in all aspects.

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

I enjoy taking the kids for bike rides, camping, reading and playing music.

However, I typically spend most of my time doing renovations and chores around the house and taking the kids to and from their activities.

How do you like to start your day?

Work day: bike ride to the office and coffee. We have some of the best coffee in town here.

Weekend: Coffee and a book and reading with the family.

How do you like to end your day?

A family bike ride around the neighbourhood then board games, reading books and listening to records until bedtime.

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

I recently took a LEED course and would like to get my V5 accreditation, though it will require some more studying.

I am also expanding my French and Spanish skills with Duo-Lingo and am learning how to use Garageband to keep up with my kids as they make their own music.



Tower Engineering

As Tower Engineering approaches its 30th anniversary, the firm continues to build on a reputation for practical engineering, responsive service and long-term client relationships.

About the company

With offices in Winnipeg, Calgary, Kelowna and Winkler, Tower provides structural, mechanical, electrical, building science and project management services to clients across Western Canada. From new developments and facility expansions to building renewals and complex investigations, the firm's multidisciplinary team helps owners move projects from concept to completion.

Markets they serve

- Industrial and manufacturing;
- Commercial and office;
- Community and recreation;
- Hospitality and wellness;
- Indigenous communities
- Existing building renewal;
- Mixed-use and residential communities;
- Energy reduction services;
- Institutional and educational facilities and

How they work

- Multidisciplinary project delivery;
- Design-build collaboration;
- Long-term client partnerships
- Practical, constructible solutions;
- Owner-side consulting and advocacy and

Featured projects



The Halo — Winnipeg

Mixed-use residential development

Tower Engineering provided multidisciplinary engineering services for The Halo. The two-tower mixed-use development features more than 400 residential units, commercial space, structured parking and resident amenities along Winnipeg's Pembina Highway.



Main Street Project — Winnipeg

A landmark re-imagined

Tower Engineering continues to provide structural, mechanical and electrical engineering services in support of Main Street Project's ongoing facility redevelopment initiatives. The current expansion at 637 Main Street transforms a historic Winnipeg landmark into a modern emergency shelter and transitional housing facility, creating space for housing, health, cultural and community support services while restoring the building's presence at a prominent downtown intersection.



Tower Engineering[^]

Featured projects



Park City Commons — Winnipeg *Master-planned community development*

Tower Engineering provided structural, mechanical and electrical engineering services for Park City Commons, a 23-acre mixed-use community redevelopment in Winnipeg's Transcona neighbourhood. The project transformed a former City of Winnipeg Public Works yard into a vibrant residential community featuring approximately 1,000 apartment units, commercial amenities and public spaces delivered through multiple phases.



Johnsonville/Winkler Meats — Winkler, Manitoba

Food processing facility expansion

Tower Engineering provided multidisciplinary engineering and owner advisory services for the renovation and expansion of an active food processing facility. The project included new processing and storage areas, facility upgrades, and phased implementation strategies designed to support future growth while maintaining uninterrupted operations.



Three decades of empowering talent

Tower Engineering remains committed to supporting the growth and development of its people. From mentorship and continuing education to professional designations and technical leadership, Tower encourages team members to build rewarding careers while contributing to meaningful projects across Western Canada.

The firm's strength has always been its people, and their commitment to learning, collaboration and technical excellence continues to drive its success.

To learn more about this firm, visit Tower Engineering's [website](#). Photos and article courtesy of Tower Engineering.

Annual General Meeting

Highlights from our organizational meeting

The 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on June 17. Attendees reviewed the 2026 Year in Review alongside the presentation of committee and financial reports. Additionally, long-term registrants in attendance were honoured with 40- and 50-year service pins.



Long-term registrant pin recipients (Pins handed-out by Robert Okabe, CEO and Registrar.)

50 year



Larry Drebniski, C.E.T.

50 year



Emil Kowal, C.E.T.

50 year



Donna Kurt, C.E.T.

40 year



Bruce Kazun, C.E.T.

40 year



Kenneth Klassen, C.E.T.

40 year



Harold Kluger, C.E.T.

40 year



Joel LaRoche, C.E.T.

40 year



Ken Nemez, C.E.T.

40 year



Dave Shapera, C.E.T.

Long-service pins will be mailed out to those 40 and 50 year pin recipients who were not in attendance.

Annual General Meeting photos



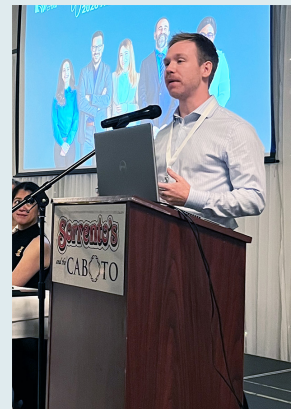
Minister Malaya Marcelino was our guest speaker. She is a member of the Legislative Assembly for Notre Dame in Winnipeg and serves as Manitoba's Minister of Labour and Immigration.



Minister Malaya delivering her keynote address.



Annual General Meeting photos



Honouring milestones of commitment, excellence and shared success

Our long-term registrant pin awards celebrate individuals for their enduring dedication to our organization and the vital expertise they bring to their professions. Thank you for your enduring commitment.



★ 50-year recipients

Arthur W. Schultz, C.E.T.
Larry Drebniski, C.E.T.
Bernard A. Berube, C.E.T.
Rob R. McConnell, C.E.T.
Dan T. Robertson, C.E.T.

Robert H. Gunning, C.E.T.
Donna R. Kurt, C.E.T.
Ronald E. Bestvater, C.E.T.
Emil M. Kowal, C.E.T.
Ronald H. Walker, C. Tech.

Grant K. Steski, C.E.T.
Ted Lukasiewicz, C.E.T.
Gregory Yakubovich, C. Tech.
William R. Dowhopoluk, C.E.T.
John A. Robinson, C. Tech.

★ 40-year recipients

Brent Gabriel, C.E.T.
Kenneth Klassen, C.E.T.
Brian E. Bergen, C.E.T.
Larry D. Schellenberg, C.E.T.
Bruce E. Kazun, C.E.T.
Marc Gratton, C.E.T.
Craig E. Bachynski, C.E.T.
Marvin G. McDonald, C.E.T.
Damir Gospic, C.E.T.
Michael A. Schorn, C.E.T.

Darryl Kaluzny, C.E.T.
Michael P. Matview, C.E.T.
David E. Laurie, C.E.T.
Norman Z. Alegria, C.E.T.
David K. Shapera, C.E.T.
Richard W. Farquhar, C.E.T.
Edward J. Zurek, C.E.T.
Ronald W. Price, C.E.T.
Giacomo Cammarata, C.E.T.
Scott M. Payne, C.E.T.

Harold G. Kluger, C.E.T.
Thomas M. Dwyer, C.E.T.
Hartley A. Katz, C.E.T.
Tony Lourenco, C.E.T.
J. George Thivierge, C. Tech.
Victor Garcia, C.E.T.
Joel La Roche, C.E.T.
Victoria Schindle, C.E.T.
Ken E. Nemez, C.E.T.

★ 35-year recipients

Andreas Borchers, C.E.T., Eng.L.
Melissa Brentnall, C.E.T.
Ashley N. Hole, C.E.T.
Narinderpal Dhanjal, C. Tech.
Brian Buchel, C.E.T.
Peter J. Learning, C.E.T.

C. Shayne Cavanagh, C. Tech.
Robin R. Rengayah, C.E.T.
David F J Mirosh, C.E.T.
Russell K. Mehling, C.E.T.
Dean A. Lazaruk, C.E.T.
Russell W. Schmidt, C.E.T.

Gary E. Loewen, C.E.T.
Sheldon K. Enns, C.E.T.
Glen K. Kristjanson, C.E.T.
Tracy Grexton, C.E.T.
J. Gregg Phillips, C.E.T.

★ 25-year recipients

Alexander J. Muzyczka, C.E.T.
Jeff Sawler, C. Tech.
Amy L. Chan, C.E.T.
Jeffrey P. Leinweber, C.E.T.
Blair A. Will, C.E.T., C.D.
Jennifer F. Cook, C.E.T.
Brent J. Kowalewich, C.E.T.
Joelle Coulombe, C.E.T.
Christopher J. Kozak, C.E.T.
Kelvin Bialas, C.E.T.
Claudio Bergagnini, C.E.T.
Kenneth Wuzinski, C. Tech.
Clayton C. Olson, C.E.T.
Kevin Kowalyk, C.E.T.
Cynthia B F. Atayan, C. Tech.
Kevin M. Jones, C.E.T.
Darin Wach, C.E.T.
Kevin S. Byczek, C.E.T.

Darren T. Barta, C.E.T.
Mary Ellen G. Klippenstine, C.E.T.
David A. Tuck, C.E.T.
Michael Estrada, C.E.T.
Dennis Cruise, C.E.T.
Michael Kushner, C. Tech.
Dennis P. Tymchyshyn, C.E.T.
Predrag Djukic, C.E.T.
Derek B. Teperto, C.E.T.
Raymond D. Jonasson, C.E.T.
Derrick Cook, C. Tech.
Rick S. Romanow, C.E.T.
Diana J. Newbury, C.E.T.
Robert W. Knaggs, C.E.T.
E. Darrell King, C.E.T.
Rommel R. Villanueva, C.E.T.
Edward W.Y. Yeung, C.E.T.
Ryan S. Demianiw, C.E.T.

Eldon C. Bergen, C.E.T.
Rylan G. W. Page, C.E.T.
Emerito L. Estrella, C.E.T.
Scott M. Sanders, C.E.T.
Emmanuel Samadan, C.E.T.
Sean W. Kasprick, C.E.T.
Gary Campbell, C.E.T.
Seng H. Duong, C.E.T.
Gavin S. Fuerst, C.E.T.
Shoshana Kraut, C.E.T.
Igor Artemchuk, C.E.T.
Terrence P. Hanstead, C.E.T.
James D. Mackey, C. Tech.
Terry Danter, C.E.T.
James K. Reitlo, C.E.T.
Tony Vacchio, C.E.T.
Jason R. Findlay, C.E.T.
Wade Miller, C.E.T.



The Presidents Awards: Acknowledging leadership

Annual events rewards outstanding achievements

A Presidents and Awards dinner was held on Friday, May 29 at the Fort Whyte Center. These awards celebrate our past presidents' and registrants' contributions. Several past presidents were in attendance.

Life Member Awards

Section 3:12 of the CTTAM By-law states:

Life Members are those Members of the Association and Non-Members who are recognized by unanimous decision of the entire Board of Directors to have made an exceptional contribution to the Association. Such membership is for the lifetime of the Member or Non-Member and shall be without fees or dues.

Brian Barnabe, C.E.T.

Brian has been a registrant since September 30, 1999. Brian is an Electrical and Instrumentation Engineering Technologist with more than 25 years of experience in electrical manufacturing and transformer testing.

- Certification Board Committee member since 2010 and is current Chair.



Jeffrey Leinweber, C.E.T.

- Registrant since February 1, 2001.
- Served on Certification Board from 2009-15.
- Became a Board Director in 2016, serving till 2019.



Elena Grinshteyn

Thank you to Elena Grinshteyn, Senior Development Officer, Awards and Special Initiatives at RRC Polytech.

Elena works closely with donors, partners and the community to manage student awards, scholarships, bursaries and endowment funds. During her visit, she expressed her appreciation to our organization for our ongoing support of their vital student initiatives.





Honouring leadership: The Presidents Awards

Instructor Award

The CTTAM Instructor Award is presented to an instructor in recognition of their exceptional skills, dedication and contributions to technical education. Through their commitment to fostering an innovative and effective learning environment, they have empowered students to excel in their technical pursuits. Their passion for teaching, continuous professional development and outstanding ability to bridge the gap between theory and practice have made a lasting impact on both students and colleagues alike.

Phil Klassen, C.E.T.

Phil has been an instructor at RRC Polytech for 38 years, primarily teaching in the Instrumentation and Control Engineering Technology program within the Electrical Engineering Technology area. He has played a key role in supervising labs and student projects, as well as supporting students in applied learning and co-op preparation.



Student Volunteer Award

Student Volunteer of the Year is awarded to a student member who has made significant contributions to CTTAM and the promotion of CTTAM's vision and mission to students. This award recognizes exceptional efforts made by the volunteer in increasing awareness of CTTAM and contributing to increased membership among students through participation in committees or events.



Bryce Neustater

Bryce grew up in rural southern Manitoba and graduated from Morris High School in 2021 as Co-Valedictorian with honours. He then pursued Civil Engineering Technology at RRC Polytech, where we are proud to say he will be graduating next month.

Employer Achievement Award

This award recognizes employers in Manitoba who demonstrate outstanding contributions to engineering technology. It highlights organizations that show excellence through innovation, impactful projects, support for technologists, and meaningful contributions to industry and the community.

Our award recognizes an organization that has demonstrated outstanding support for CTTAM and the growth of our registrants' professions in Manitoba. Keystone Projects has made a meaningful impact by supporting industry development and contributing to the advancement of skilled professionals in our province. Their commitment to excellence and collaboration has helped strengthen opportunities for technologists and the broader community.

The award was accepted by **Glenn Garbett, C.E.T.**, owner of Keystone Projects Ltd. Thank you to Keystone Projects Ltd.





Honouring leadership: The Presidents Awards

Honorary Member Awards

Section 3.11 of the CTTAM By-law states:

"Individuals who are not Members of the Association who have rendered distinguished service to this Association or to Engineering Technology shall, with the unanimous approval of the entire Board, be known as Honorary Members. Honorary Members may not hold office or vote."



Kerri Hiebert

Kerri Hiebert is the Executive Director at the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies — Manitoba (ACEC-MB). Kerri is a strong supporter, promoting CTTAM events and including our registrants in their events. She regularly attends our annual general meetings and networking events. Kerri is also a regular attendee at our annual golf tournament with her employer being a frequent tournament sponsor.

Evan Himelstein

Evan Himelstein is the Chair of Electrical Engineering at RRC Polytech. He promotes CTTAM by volunteering at CTTAM-sponsored annual events such as the Wind Turbine Competition and the Young Women in Technology events held at RRC Polytech. Junior-high students enjoy building a circuit board with his expert guidance and learning about electrical technology. His encouragement and his watchful eye during the wind turbine time trials provide students with a positive and fun experience, encouraging them to explore technology.



CTTAM President (Completed term)



Thank you!

Shannon Nordal, C.E.T.

Shannon has completed her term as CTTAM's President as of the 2026 AGM. She will remain on the Board of Directors as Past President. Thank you Shannon for many hours dedicated to promoting the Association and your unwavering support.



Young women in tech conference

Inspiring the next generation

The Young Women in Technology Conference is a dynamic, one-day event designed to introduce young women to the diverse and rewarding career paths available in today's evolving job market.

Held on Wednesday, June 10 at the RRC Polytech's Notre Dame Campus, this engaging event brought together 50 female students from grades 6, 7, and 8. The hands-on day provided participants with an exciting look into the world of technology, spark curiosity, and highlight future opportunities in the field.



Throughout the day, the conference highlighted diverse vocations within the civil, electrical/electronics and mechanical technology sectors.

In partnership with RRC Polytech, Skills Canada (Manitoba) coordinated several interactive activities for the students.

The young participants gained hands-on experience by building spaghetti towers, constructing circuit boards, surveying the college grounds, and operating a robotic arm.

Thank you to Sharron Felicioni, C. Tech., from Price Industries, for her engaging and informative presentation.

Sharron, a 2012 graduate of the Electronics Technician/Industrial Electronics program at the Manitoba Institute for Trades and Technology, served as a wonderful inspiration for the students.

We also appreciate the dedicated teachers who continuously support and promote technology events for youth.

Special thanks go to the RRC Polytech instructors who volunteered their time to lead these practical sessions.

Also thank you to Lori Royal from Skills Canada (Manitoba), whose exceptional planning and hard work ensured the conference was an absolute success.



Sharron Felicioni, C. Tech., guest speaker. Thank you Sharron!

Expand your skills with CPD

You have six months to complete. What's your plan?

Your continuing professional development (CPD) cycle needs to be completed by December 31. A structured plan ensures you meet your CTTAM requirements without a last-minute rush.

It's not that hard

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. This is a commitment you made when you became certified — and one that keeps our profession strong, trusted and progressive. ➔

Record your progress online

Don't wait until the winter rush. You can easily log your activities online as soon as you complete them. All professional development reports must be submitted securely through your *registrant profile* on the CTTAM website.

Questions? We are here to support you. If you have any questions regarding your specific CPD requirements, please reach out to our Deputy Registrar, Lauren Gluck, at lgluck@cttam.com.



Your CPD activities

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

Dedicated to excellence

Our team was there!

ACEC Manitoba celebrates outstanding achievements at annual awards event

The 26th Annual Association of Consulting Engineering Companies — Manitoba Awards of Excellence gala took place in April 2026 at the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada. The prestigious event celebrated exceptional local engineering projects, pioneering technical innovation and outstanding lifetime achievements across the province.

The event honors the impactful and innovative projects delivered by member firms of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies Manitoba (ACEC-MB). These firms provide long-term benefits to clients, industries and communities throughout the province. Beyond celebrating excellence, ACEC-MB actively advocates for the business interests of Manitoba's consulting engineers while promoting the vital social benefits of engineering.

Building the future together

Our strong partnership with ACEC-MB centers on supporting their mentorship program and matching engineering and technology students with industry professionals. Together, we prioritize collaboration to advance the industry and develop future engineering and technology leaders and their careers.

Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients. To learn more about the organization and its initiatives, please visit the official ACEC-MB [website](#).



Event photos courtesy of Julie Remillard Photography.

CTTAM's President, Shannon Nordal, C.E.T., and CEO/Registrar, Robert Okabe, C.E.T., FEC (Hon.), IntET (Canada), presented the Small Projects Award to SMS Engineering for their RRC Polytech Aviation HVAC Upgrade project.

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 Ojji-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
204-784-1088
admin@cttam.com

Office hours

Our office is open from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday to Thursday and till noon on Fridays (summer hours)
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



Networking, prizes and fun on the course

There is no better way to wrap up the work week than golfing at our annual tournament. Our golfers brought their best game to the greens, making it a fantastic day of competition, camaraderie and great shots. Thank you to everyone who spent their Friday out on the course with us.

Thirty-five teams teed-off on a warm Manitoba summer day at one of the province's premier golf courses, on Friday, June 26.

The day offered the perfect blend of business and leisure, allowing golfers to network while enjoying an excellent selection of food and beverage services. Players put their skills — and a bit of luck — to the test for a chance to win an array of contest prizes.

Beyond the skill-based competitions, the excitement continued with highly anticipated random draws. Lucky winners took home premium items which included:

- A large flat screen TV;
- Gift cards for 529 Wellington;
- Bomber and Winnipeg Jet merchandise and
- Other prizes.

An event of this scale requires a team effort. We extend a special thank you to Darren Wanless for serving as our emcee and generously supplying granola bars to keep our golfers energized.

Finally, our gratitude goes out to the sponsors whose support made this year's tournament so memorable and to the dedicated volunteers who managed every detail to ensure a flawless, fun-filled day.

This event simply would not be possible without their incredible efforts!

Golf tournament sponsors, donors and photos can be found on pages 22-26.



Share your story: contribute to our newsletter



Dear readers. We are officially seeking articles for our upcoming newsletters. We want to feature your unique voice. Your professional experience is an invaluable resource to our community. Whether you want to share your career journey, advice on breaking into the field, proven tips for successful specialized technical insights, your knowledge can help guide fellow professionals.

This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your expertise, build your professional portfolio and connect with peers across Manitoba. Please email your article drafts, ideas, or questions to admin@cttam.com.

We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your insights!

Thank you to our amazing donors and sponsors — for making our golf tournament such a success!

Our incredible prize pool was made possible by the outstanding generosity of our donors. We are grateful for their generous contributions!

We are also proud to feature our exclusive group of sponsors, listed below. They play a vital role in making our tournament a massive success year after year. We highly encourage our community to support these fantastic businesses when looking for professional services and help on your next project. Finally, a huge thank you to our sponsors, players and hard-working volunteers. You all came together to make this year's tournament an unforgettable success!

Keystone sponsor
TTES Consulting Inc.



TTES CONSULTING

Cart sponsor
Association of Consulting
Engineering Companies MANITOBA



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES
MANITOBA

Hole sponsors



Special mention

- Dave's Quick Print — Goldeye tickets
- Wanless Geo-Point Solutions Inc. — Granola bars



Wanless Geo-Point
Solutions Inc.

Thank you!

2026 annual golf tournament *photos*



2026 annual golf tournament *photos*



2026 annual golf tournament *photos*



2026 annual golf tournament *photos*



Making a difference: Your endowment fund contributions

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.



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.



A symbol of professional dedication

The technology ring is a distinctive mark of your professional standing and technical achievement. Meticulously crafted as a sterling silver band, it features a repeating pattern of five gears bracketed by a symbolic maple leaf on each side. Wearing this ring honors your commitment to excellence, integrity and the engineering technology profession in Canada.

Meaning and tradition

The technology ring represents the vital union between our registrants, CTTAM, and the broader professional community.

The look: Features a striking maple leaf design celebrating our Canadian identity.

The wear: Traditionally worn on the pinky finger of your working hand.

The impact: Instantly identifies you to peers and the public as a certified professional.

a perfect fit, please book an appointment at our office for professional ring sizing and to arrange your order pickup.

How to order

Ready to purchase your ring or have questions?

Please contact our Deputy Registrar, Lauren Gluck, by phone at 204-784-1081 or via email at lgluck@cttam.com.



Sizing and pricing

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

ENGINEERED FOR YOUR HEALTH DESIGNED FOR YOUR FUTURE

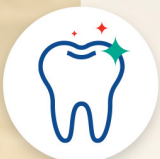
Choose an ARTA Benefit Plan to dream big and worry less – because your peace of mind matters.

Whether you are still employed, retired, or semi-retired, as long as you are eligible to join ARTA, you already qualify for coverage.



PLAN DIVERSITY

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



DENTAL CARE OPTIONS

with preventative and major restorative services coverage available.



EMERGENCY TRAVEL INSURANCE COVERAGE

ARTA travel coverage is unique and does not include a termination age or a stability clause for pre-existing conditions.



Includes Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance with \$10,000 per covered person per trip.

Visit

artabenefits.net



to learn more and enrol in the plan that is best for your lifestyle.



Thank you for your dedication

Our Board of Directors

President

Bernardo Pasco, C.E.T.

President Elect

Julie Schneider, C.E.T.

Past President

Shannon Nordal, C.E.T.

Lay Person

Glenn Lelyk

Board Intern

Bryce Neustater

Directors

Aylen Aussant, C.E.T.

Michelle Ewashko, C.E.T.

Clive Bryson, C.E.T.

Peter McDougall, C.E.T.

Asif Rahman, C.E.T.

James Schmidt, C.E.T.

Key Board 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.

Board update

At our 2026 AGM, the following people were elected by acclamation.



Aylen Aussant

Aylen graduated from RRC Polytech's Environmental Engineering Technology program in 2017. Her professional expertise spans contaminated sites, remediation, compliance monitoring, waste management and Phase I/II/III site assessments. Having worked across both the private and public sectors, she has completed extensive fieldwork in remote locations across western and northern Canada. Aylen has served on the CTTAM Board of Directors since 2023 and looks forward to continuing her leadership for an additional three-year term.



Michelle Ewashko

Michelle is a Municipal Technologist with TTES Consulting Inc., bringing over a decade of construction industry experience across Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Transitioning from her former role as a bridge construction project coordinator, Michelle now provides clients with specialized services in site surveys, material testing, borehole drilling, and design work — notably managing wetland delineation projects for Saskatchewan's Water Security Agency.

A dedicated lifelong learner, she is currently advancing her academic training in geosciences as a part-time student at Brandon University.



Asif Rahman

Asif's journey with CTTAM) began in 2011 as a student member. Today, he sits on our Leadership and Development Committee and proudly represents the Association on the Joint Board with Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba (EGM), where he champions inter-organizational collaboration, professional standards and shared strategic goals.

An accomplished electrical technologist, Asif leverages his extensive industry background to foster strong professional relationships and drive CTTAM's continued institutional success.

