



TAC adopts CTAC as new accreditation standards

by Michele Penz

Technology Accreditation Canada (TAC) has made further progress in the accreditation process by officially adopting the Canadian Technology Accreditation Criteria (CTAC) as its new standards for accrediting educational institutions' engineering technology and applied

science programs. Current TAC accreditations will not be affected as CTAC will apply to new accreditations only.

CTAC is based on the 2012 National Technology Benchmarks (NTBs) which were revised to achieve consistency in style and verb usage. Changes relating to the writing style and some of the verbs were previously requested by stakeholders, including all the provincial technology associations, the Council of Registrars, and educators. When the NTBs were first developed, they were written by multiple authors and, as a result, lacked a



Technology Accreditation Canada **Agrément en Technologie du Canada**

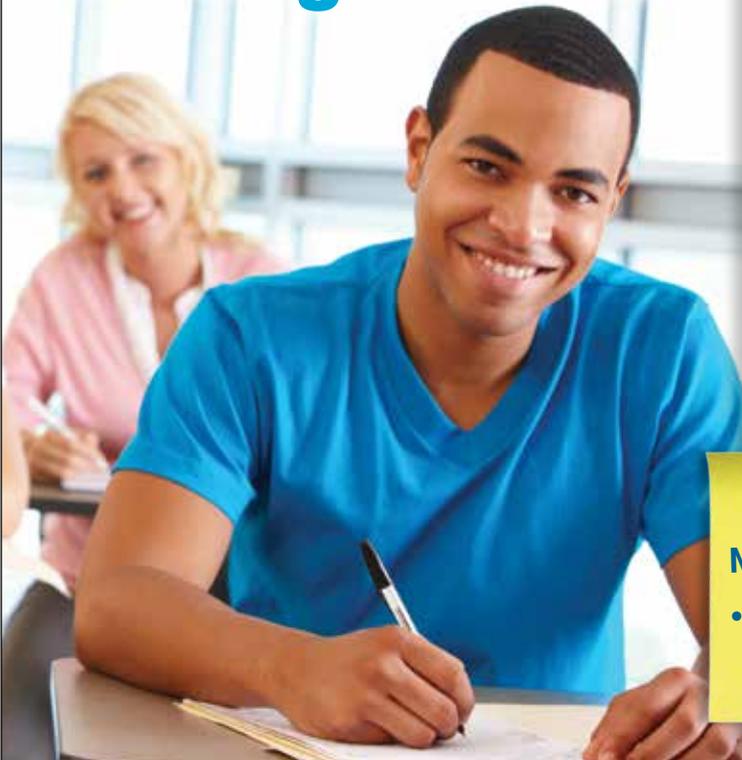
common style. These revised or "enhanced" 2012 NTBs now form CTAC.

TAC also confirmed a commitment to review all 37 criteria within CTAC every five years with a Standards Council designated to oversee this. The highly detailed standard setting process – for use in the creation of new standards as well as in the revision

of existing ones – is posted on the TAC website (www.technologyaccreditation.ca). Comments from stakeholders are welcome.

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) was enlisted by TAC to launch the review of a CTAC in a pilot project, using the above-mentioned standard setting process. The pilot project will focus first on the technologist program general learning outcomes criteria as it is one of the most debated of all the criteria. Both CSA and TAC have posted public notices on their websites of the intent to revise the

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criteria, and invited stakeholder participation. A committee of interested stakeholders will be established to generate a draft of the revised criteria which will be made available for public consultation for at least 60 days. TAC encourages and invites stakeholder participation in the interest of fostering an open and transparent process for the revising and maintaining of quality standards.

The TAC board approved a study to examine if any duplication exists between the TAC accreditation process and the rigorous quality processes undertaken

by educational institutions to meet their provincial government's requirements. The study will focus on the Program Quality Assurance Process Audit and the Ontario Quality Assurance Service Accreditation System recently announced by the Ontario government. ¶¶

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