

# ASET News

---

## Marathon tour of educational institutions valuable for TAC



A recent series of presentations to western Canadian educational institutions to promote Technology Accreditation Canada (TAC) was a learning experience not only for the audiences involved, but also for TAC's executive director, Sam DiGiandomenico.

Visiting nine educational institutions in 10 days, DiGiandomenico wasn't sure what to expect when he set out but was consistently met with a warm reception and a willingness to engage in an open and frank dialogue about the future of national accreditation.

At each institution and before varying sizes of audiences, DiGiandomenico gave a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the governance and audit functions and the standards setting processes of TAC, and focused on what sets TAC apart from other accrediting bodies. The presentation enabled representatives from the educational institutions to not only learn about TAC, but also ask questions and receive answers. Most educational institutions requested to see the materials associated with the accreditation process, and the requisite forms and tables were sent to them as a follow-up.

"I believe that we were able to tell the TAC story and how it differs from other accrediting organizations. Many of the educational institutions did see the advantages of TAC as positive improvements for the national accreditation system. The visits allowed them to put a face to a name and started a relationship with them that can only grow stronger over time," said DiGiandomenico.

Although some educational institutions expressed concerns over having two accrediting bodies and two standards, they also realize that the provincial professional associations (PPAs) in their provinces support and recognize only TAC accreditation. The PPAs have established strong working relationships with their educational institutions.

In terms of transitioning to TAC, the educational institutions were invited to embark on TAC accreditations now, or as their current ones come due, and that TAC would be pleased to work out a schedule with them. DiGiandomenico offered to assist them during the preparatory stage of their submission – either via teleconference or even a return visit if necessary. Many educational institutions are following the lead of other institutions and are in the process of applying for TAC accreditation.

During the late April/early May tour, DiGiandomenico – who was accompanied by the PPA registrar in each province – visited Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), Selkirk College, Camosun College, North Island College (NIC), Okanagan College, and Thompson Rivers University (TRU).

Aside from speaking enthusiastically about TAC, the best parts of the trip for DiGiandomenico included meeting new people, renewing old acquaintances, venturing to unfamiliar campuses, and observing the beautiful and changing Canadian scenery. He looks forward to dialoguing further with educational institutions about TAC accreditation in the days ahead.