

EDITORIAL

TECHNOSTYLE is the thrice yearly publication of the CATTW/ACPRTS, the association of professionals concerned with the problems of teaching scientific and business writing in Canadian colleges and universities.

This issue presents four main articles. The University of Montreal's engineering school asked successful engineers how important writing is to the practising professional in Quebec, with results that will please us all. Accompanying this report, and emphasizing its importance, is a reprint of an interesting American survey which confirms the Quebec findings.

From the Saskatchewan Technical Institute, George Loucks recounts how a small prairie college developed a sound professional writing program and how he, largely through hard work and common sense, developed into a good technical writing teacher. For professional preparation today, he recommends attending the Technical Writing Institute for Teachers at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; its brochure accompanies his article.

Ronald Blicq, at Selkirk College, Winnipeg, advocates consulting in industry as another method of teacher preparation, and explains how he simply lifted up the phone and started. Today, in addition to teaching full time, he heads his own consulting firm and is Canada's leading author of technical writing textbooks.

Lastly, Arnold Drapeau, also from Montreal's l'Ecole Polytechnique, points to a crucial problem for Quebec professionals, whether to publish in French or English, and admirably affirms the advantages of French. Accompanying his article is a description of the new l'Office de la langue française, which exists to help all of us, anglo or franco, understand how Canadians use French in science and business.

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