

Canadian Board of Examiners - Founding History

- 1976 *or thereabouts*, the Biomedical Engineering Technician/Technologist members of the CMBES, attending the annual CMBES conferences, started to steer conversation and informal meetings towards the trend of Certification, and that it was possibly a good time to evaluate the BMET Certification program sponsored by their US counterpart, AAMI. The feeling was that whether we liked it or not, it will probably happen in Canada.....so let's look into it.
Not unexpectedly, two camps of thought emerged, one querying the need for Certification and the other claiming to see the "writing on the wall". Eventually it was agreed that this programme was of benefit to all involved, and the machinery to set-up a similar programme, or affiliate it with the AAMI sponsored Certification Commission, was established.
- 1979 October - The core group (later to become the first members) submitted a proposal to the CMBES Professional Affairs Committee, to form a Board for the Certification of Biomedical Engineering Technicians and Technologists.
- 1980 June - The Proposal was amended.
- 1980 August - First Meeting of the Initial Sub-Committee at the Hamilton CMBES conference.
- 1981 April - The Proposal was revised and sent to the Certification Commission for approval.
- 1981 April 16 - Allison Illsley is appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee, on the request of Ms. Monique Frize of the CMBES Professional Affairs Committee.
- 1981 April 23 - Five members of the Sub-Committee agree to write the US Certification Exams. It was agreed that all members of the future Board must be certified. (Larry Boyce, Robert Gillies, Allison Illsley, Stephen Retfalvi, Ross Smith). Date limit: by August 31st 1981. This was achieved.
- 1981 Sept. 22-24 - CMBES Conference, Saskatoon - After several marathon meetings of the Sub-Committee, the Canadian Board of Examiners was formed, with Allison Illsley as the first Chairman.
- 1982 April 8 - The Board was formally approved by the Certification Commission. As a result of the affiliation of the Canadian Board with its US counterpart, the Commission became the International Certification Commission (ICC).
- 1982 A Press Release was issued announcing the formation of the board.
- 1982 August 15 - The first Canadian Certification Examination was written at the CMBES conference held in Fredericton, NB, by Derek Uttley – certificate number 001.

Chairmen of The Board – Historic List

Allison C. Illsley	1983 - 1984
Tony Wallace	1984 - 1988
Stephen Retfalvi	1988 - 1989
Hank Nottebrock	1989 - 1991
Derek Uttley	1991 - 1996
Ross Smith	1997 - 2004
Murray Greenwood	2004 - 2011