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TO: BOABC Members and the Executive Committee
FROM: Brian Champlin, Vice-President, Education
DATE: June 7, 2011
SUBJECT: Report - Vice President, Education

The BC Legal, Regulatory System & Code of Ethics Course for Building Officials was held in various locations across the Province last fall. We have received many excellent comments about this course and overall the course was very well received. We are working with our Education Coordinator, Herman Koolman to develop additional courses of study which may include working with alternative solutions, Bylaw enforcement and Heating and Mechanical Ventilation Systems.

The 2010 EDUCATION SEMINAR was held at the Vancouver Airport Marriot Hotel, in Richmond, BC from November 25 to 27, 2010. There were a total of fifteen (15) workshops including the Legal course mentioned above. The 2010 Education Seminar was once again well attended.

Fall Study Sessions were arranged in all zones except for the Yukon. In several areas registration numbers were down and the study sessions had to be cancelled.

Education Policies 3.1, 3.2 and 3.5 have been reviewed by the education committee and a draft showing proposed changes and motions accompany this report. Some of the language was out of date and no longer applicable to current practices being used today.

Webcast marketing, webinars and video conferencing are some of the topics often heard across the region and the province. Technology is changing rapidly and the availability of such tools is becoming more and more accessible and affordable to organizations of every kind.

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How can these tools be applied to our programs and courses?
Colleges and Universities already use these tools in many ways, including class lectures, campus speakers and even sports events.

For online educational organizations, webcasting can be used to broadcast live lectures and have students ask questions in real-time. In addition, by using webcast marketing all of the live broadcasts can be recorded for future viewing as well.

Some of the economical reasons to look into this type of technology include reducing our carbon footprint, travel costs, accommodation and improve our productivity and retention of information.

The education committee would like to see our Education Coordinator research these and other innovative methods of providing educational services, such as on-line courses and report back to the Executive committee on the feasibility of these initiatives.

Study Sessions

I received several letters from our members participating in the level two study sessions on a couple of different occasions, who then took the examination, only to be unsuccessful at passing the exam.

Some of the comments were that the study materials should be more specific in nature; for example, the instructor may have indicated that all the answers given by the students (for a particular problem) are all correct even though the result was five different answers.

Our members realize that the seminars are presented in a format that provides an overall approach to building code interpretation; however, they want to be sure that the material they are studying provides only one answer possible for each specific question being asked.



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We also received several comments from members indicating that they would like to see a calendar for study sessions, courses, seminars, conferences and examinations, for the entire year so they may budget for these items.

In closing we have received many excellent comments about the direction we are heading and the commitment the executive committee has taken on to provide our members with the best educational information and training available in the province. We are second to none.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Champlin, RBO, CRBO
Vice President, Education