



# boabc

Serving the Province of British Columbia for over 50 years

## Examination Committee Report - May 2009

### Executive Committee

PRESIDENT  
Ron Dickinson

PAST PRESIDENT  
Rick Hodgson

VICE PRESIDENTS  
Eddie Ho  
Peter Longhi  
Paddy Moore

TREASURER  
Manjit S. Sohi

SECRETARY  
Frankie Victor

REGISTRAR  
Dave Jackson

ZONE DIRECTORS  
Colin Bollinger  
Brian Champlin  
Zara Clapp  
Beverley Endersby  
Frank Hill  
Barry Johnston  
Eric Law  
Ernie Maleniza  
Alfonso Turra

Executive Director  
Richard Bushey



At the November 2008 BOABC Education Seminar, the Executive Committee met and moved to strike an Examination Committee. I was selected to Chair of the Committee. The task given to me by the President and Executive Committee members was to expedite the development of examinations. In January 2009 at the Executive Meeting, the Executive Committee, by Motion, approved the Examination Committee terms of reference as part of the BOABC governance committee's roles and responsibilities.

The duties of the Examination Committee, as outlined in the Examination Committee's Purpose and Composition policy include, amongst other responsibilities: to provide examinations; to direct and oversee examination delivery and reporting, including providing a schedule of examination sittings. The Examination Committee members will be at an "arms length" relationship with the Certification Committee and will not be involved in certifying candidates for any level of certification. As per the terms of reference, majority of the Examination Committee members will be current practicing RBO's. Any members of the Examination Committee will not be either writing or updating any of the exams.

Since the Association membership has grown considerably with many new members over the last five years, I would like to give the membership the background behind the Level Three examination development. The Five Exam Level III computer graded exams format was developed by the BOABC with Doug Hatch of the ICC as a "Job Task Analysis" in January 2004.

Rick Hodgson, Past President, was the Chairman of the Certification Committee in 2004, which was handling examinations at that time. Rick reported to the Annual General Meeting in April 2004 that: "The committee attempted to reduce the number of actual Level III papers to 4 examinations, but this proved very difficult. Too many different code sections would have to be tested on the same paper. A decision to work towards 5 exams was made." Rick continued in his report saying that the "ICC are experts in developing these types of exams and their guidance is critical in this process. However, it became obvious", he reported, "that development of the Level III papers will take a lot of work."

Building Officials' Association of British Columbia - Head Office  
Suite 205, 3740 Chatham Street, Richmond, BC V7E 2Z3  
604-270-9516 ph / 604-270-9488 fax / email: [boabc@shawbiz.ca](mailto:boabc@shawbiz.ca)  
[www.boabc.org](http://www.boabc.org)



# boabc

Serving the Province of British Columbia for over 50 years

The Executive Committee at its regular meeting in January 2009 passed a motion to allow me as the Chair of the Examination Committee to select an ad hoc committee to review all Level III five papers. They are Frank Hill, from the City of Vancouver, Leslie Boivin, from the City of North Vancouver, Beverly Endersby, from the District of Mission, Al Turra and Brandon Mordy from the City of Abbotsford and Mo Bayat from the City of Kelowna. We also accepted the offer from the BC Building and Safety Policy Branch who volunteered the technical services of Lyle Kuhnert to serve on the Committee.

ICC had just completed the development of a Level III, five-examination format with other Canadian building officials. With the approval of the ACBOA President Mannie Withrow, the BOABC was permitted use all of the 500 multiple-choice questions and answers and the Plan for review that had been developed.

The Examination Committee met with Doug Hatch of ICC from February 25 to 27, 2009, to review and scrutinize all five examinations questions and answers, including Examination #8 which includes a comprehensive plan review. Most of these questions were developed based the 2006 NBC and other provincial codes. It was the committee's mandate to ensure that all 500 questions and answers were relevant to the 2006 BC Building Code, and the questions were at the level of an RBO. I am pleased to report that due to the hard work and dedication of these members that the Level III Five Examinations were complete and are ready for delivery.

The development and delivery of the Level Three five examinations format follows the commitment made to members at the BOABC 2004 AGM. It also fulfills the BOABC Policy Examination Content objective: *"to reduce the number of examination papers for level three by combining several of the content areas"*; and it satisfies the "Key Element of the Business Plan", *"to complete the conversion of examinations to the computer based format"*, which is part of the current BOABC Corporate Strategy and Business Plan which is to be completed this year.

With the assistance of Doug Hatch of the ICC, the BOABC staff published the "Level Three Examinations Content Outlines" for public viewing on the BOABC web site in early March. The staff also published several 'Questions and Answers' information bulletins to explain and educate members on the Level Three Five examination format. The staff also interviewed over 40 members who called in to discuss the Level III Five-examinations and what was needed to complete Level Three requirements.

Building Officials' Association of British Columbia - Head Office  
Suite 205, 3740 Chatham Street, Richmond, BC V7E 2Z3  
604-270-9516 ph / 604-270-9488 fax / email: [boabc@shawbiz.ca](mailto:boabc@shawbiz.ca)  
[www.boabc.org](http://www.boabc.org)



# boabc

Serving the Province of British Columbia for over 50 years

In the interviews with the staff, several members brought up the issue of a 'promise' made to them in the past that they could complete Level Three Examinations in the ten-paper format, if they should choose to do so. We have found an article published in the BOABC 2006 Fall/Winter News & Report, written by the Certification Committee making such a statement.

Unfortunately, no BOABC policy or administrative procedures were put in place that provides direction as to how the Association would run and administer a dual track examination system – one for members who wish to complete their Level Three requirements in the Ten examination format and another concurrent system for those who would begin to take examinations in the ICC computer scored five examination format.

We do not believe that the intent of the promise was to stop the development of the five-examination format, because that would contradict remarks made on the development of the five-examination format made at the BOABC 2004 AGM. It would also contradict a Key Element of the Business and Corporate Plan, which directs the Association "to complete the conversion of examinations to the computer based format" and to fulfill the goal "to complete the initiative of creating computer generated certification examinations and computer marking for all levels."

Nevertheless, to honor this promise, the staff requested those members who were interviewed by the staff and wished to complete Level Three exams in the ten examinations format to write to the Executive Committee with their concerns. The Executive Committee is the governing body, which puts in place and directs policy development. Two members requested to complete their Level Three examinations in the ten-examination format.

At the close of Examination Registrations on April 14th 2009, the BOABC Head office ordered the following number of examinations from the ICC: Level One, 65 exams; Level Two, 42 exams and Level Three 140 exams. This concludes the report of the Examination Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Manjit Sohi, RBO  
Chair, Examination Committee

Building Officials' Association of British Columbia - Head Office  
Suite 205, 3740 Chatham Street, Richmond, BC V7E 2Z3  
604-270-9516 ph / 604-270-9488 fax / email: boabc@shawbiz.ca  
[www.boabc.org](http://www.boabc.org)