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**TO:** BOABC Members and the Executive Committee

**FROM:** Beverly Endersby, Alfonso Turra, Frank Hill, LM Zone Directors.

**DATE:** April 21, 2009.

**SUBJECT:** Report – Lower Mainland Zone Report

The decrease in number of permits issued for new residential multi-family buildings seems to be leveling off to some degree. Statistics for the City of Vancouver show all permits down in number but a slight increase in permits for dwelling units over the same period last year. The slow down has impacted various lower mainland municipalities with cuts to training budgets and hiring.

Still bucking the trend are permits for alterations and renovations which seem to be on the increase perhaps because of the availability of trades. The sense is that this trend will continue for some time as the world economic situation affects the building industry.

The latest Zone Meeting was held on March 25, 2009 at the new Sportsplex in Abbotsford. Hosted by PCL, approximately 30 members attended and toured the multi-purpose stadium and ice rink. An overview of the project and examples of alternate solutions involving sophisticated smoke detection and venting systems were presented by Randall Kovacs and the Gage-Babcock design team. Frank Durante was nominated on behalf of the zone members to have his name forwarded to the AGM to stand for election of lower mainland zone director.

A previous zone meeting occurred on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at the Forintek lab at UBC to view mid-ply shear wall systems for possible application in 6 storey wood framed buildings. Approximately 45 members attended.

Other recent tours included the Woodward's Restoration Project and the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre where approx. 45 members attended each venue.

A Level 3 study session took place in March which was well attended.

In Addition we have had 5 Lower Mainland Technical Committee meetings over the passed few months providing much needed dialogue between the various municipalities of the region.

We have had a number of new members signed up in the lower mainland indicating there is still a strong need for building officials in the region.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of your Lower Mainland Zone Directors Beverly Endersby, Alfonso Turra, and Frank Hill.

Regards

Frank Hill, RBO, CRBO  
BOABC Lower Mainland Director

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