

NOTICE OF THE BOABC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
To be held JUNE 7th 2011, WHITEHORSE, YT

The President's Report to the Membership

I would like to thank the Whitehorse Host Committee, our BOABC staff, presenters and others who have organized this Conference and Annual General Meeting. The BOABC has had Yukon members for many years, but this is the first time that an Annual General Meeting has been held in the Yukon. Thank you for hosting this historic event.

I would also like to take this opportunity to update the membership on what has taken place within the Association over the last several years.

In conjunction with our BOABC Executive Director, I have been involved in negotiations with the BC Government in Victoria, our Legal Counsel and Legislative Consultant, in order to amend the *Building Officials' Association Act*. The *BOA Act* established us as a corporation and was passed by the BC Legislature in 1997. The purpose of these negotiations is to make improvements in the Act so that the BOABC will have the mandate to certify and regulate building officials, in a manner similar to what is now being accomplished in other jurisdictions in Canada.

This goal of amending the *BOA Act* to legislate mandatory certification for building officials has been a long-term objective in our Business Plan, which was developed over ten years ago by the Executive Committee, when Rick Bortolussi was President and I served as Treasurer.

Recently, following the change in Premiers in the Province, the BC Building and Safety Standards Branch, with which we have been working with closely received the final version of our amended Act from the Government. The Minister responsible is prepared to bring forward the Legislation, once the Government has set a date to consider legislation in 2012. Consequently, the Confidentiality Agreements signed by the BOABC staff and Executive Committee members concerning the contents of the amendments remain enforced.

Our expectation is that once the Legislature meets in 2012 and approves the amendments to our Act, the Association will become a regulatory authority, similar to the Architect and Engineer Associations. This will be a significant achievement for our Association.

Furthermore, in negotiations with the International Code Council, the BOABC has drafted a new Five-year Examination Agreement between the ICC and BOABC to expand Examination Services. These services will include the new five BOABC Level Three Examinations, which were not covered in the previous Agreement, and also POABC Level One Plumbing and Level Two Plumbing Examinations.

The Plumbing examinations have been added because, after several years of negotiations with our colleagues in the Executive of the Plumbing Officials' Association, we have drafted an agreement in which the BOABC will deliver these examinations, developed with POABC input, and following the BOABC/ICC examination format. As a result, it is expected that in the fall of 2011, the BOABC should be able to offer examinations for Level One Plumbing and Level Two Plumbing, alongside the BOABC Level One, Two and Three examinations which already exist.

I would like to especially thank POABC President Doug Vance and POABC Past President Gord Jensen and their Executive Committee members for their leadership in this project. This initiative was encouraged by the BC Building and Safety Standards Branch as a vital piece to complementing our Legislative proposal to provide mandatory certification for all building officials.

Another consequence of the legislative proposal is that the Executive Director and I have been involved with the BC Government in negotiating the details of a reciprocal agreement between the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. Under the Canada Labour Mobility Act and the New West Agreement, which includes British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, each jurisdiction must inform the others when legislation is being considered that would impact on the employment of occupations and professions.

Consequently, the BC Government and the Association have negotiated the outline of a reciprocal agreement in which Alberta Safety Codes Officers and Building Officials will recognize each other's qualifications and certification requirements. We hope to develop reciprocal agreements with other Canadian jurisdictions, as our legislation proceeds to enactment next year.

The timing of the enactment of our amended legislation has also led to changes in the management of the Association. It was expected that the Executive Director and the President would leave office together in 2012, as my elected term ends at the AGM in 2012 and Richard Bushey's contract was extended to accommodate that date as well. However the Executive Director proposed to move-up the Succession Plan in order to have a new Executive Director in place in the fall of 2011, so that there would be more continuity going forward into 2012 when the legislative changes will be enacted.

The Association Management Consultant firm, which searched for and found the existing Executive Director, has been contracted to lead the Search for our next Executive Director. To work with the consultant, I have also struck a Search Committee, made up of experienced BOABC Officers. The Committee has consented to meeting in Vancouver on June 27th, in order to conduct interviews to select a candidate from the shortlist of potential candidates organized by the management consultant firm.

The Executive Director is also committed to serving in the position until such a time that a new Executive Director is selected. He also agreed to provide a period of orientation services to the new Executive Director once he or she is in place. We expect to select an experienced and qualified person who can manage and lead the BOABC into the future.

Our growth and development also depends, to a great extent, on the financial status of the Association. The current BOABC financial report by KPMG for the past fiscal year, which ended March 31st, 2011, is included in the AGM Agenda. I am pleased to note that the BOABC auditors have confirmed that the Association revenue for 2010-11 has exceeded budget estimates, by rising over \$100,000 from the previous year. We also have ample Reserve Funds to take on regulatory responsibilities.

I would also like to note in the financial review, the fact that there has been an increase in new BOABC members, which has offset the number of many older members who are retiring. I would like to mention two members, in particular, who have recently retired: Soren Agren, who has been a dedicated volunteer for the Association for over 30 years; and Bob Middleton, who has served as an instructor and organizer for the POABC, as well as serving the BOABC for many years. We thank members, such as Soren and Bob, for their service and contribution.

I also understand that over 365 BOABC examinations were taken last year, a significant increase! This upsurge is due to the decision to provide three annual exam sittings, supported by the Examination Committee, led by Manjit Sohi, and organized by our Office Manager, Jennifer Schwaertzel.

Conference Registrations were also up this past year, thanks to the work of the Nanaimo Conference Organizing Committee. Participation in Study Sessions is also up, due to new course approved by the Education Committee. Courses on the BOABC Code of Ethics and Regulatory Responsibilities were developed and delivered by Herman Koolman, our Education Coordinator. Those who attended his sessions have positively evaluated all the new courses. Another new course is planned for the fall of this year.

Overall, this progress indicates to me that members and staff are enthusiastic about the prospects of this Association. I also believe it confirms to all of us, that the strategy, taken over the last several years, of investing in program and legislation development and seeking negotiations with governments and other associations, has proven to be a worthwhile effort.

Consequently, I would like to thank the members for their continuing support as we move to take on the responsibilities of a regulatory body. This will create another new chapter in the history of the Building Officials' Association.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Dickinson', written in a cursive style.

Ron Dickinson, President