

The Building Officials' Association of BC is Changing

On January 24th, 2009, the Executive Committee, the governing body of the BOABC, met and approved a number of policies that will affect the future of the Association. The policy changes dealt with governance issues related to the structure and responsibilities of committees, confidentiality and conflict of interest safeguards, privacy protection and other issues. These changes were necessary to accommodate alignment with ACBOA requirements and BC legislation, to respond to the new inter-provincial labour mobility act, and to prepare for the potential licensing of building officials by the Province of British Columbia.

The Association membership is growing and changing dramatically in its composition. Older building officials of the Baby Boomer generation are retiring and being replaced by younger workers. On the whole, one out of every three new BOABC members is a woman or a new Canadian. In addition, one out of every three members who join are associate members, most often working in the private or non-profit sectors. The consequence of these changes is a significant rise in requests for Association organized education seminars, study sessions and examinations.

As a result, the BOABC has become the de facto building code training and certification body in the Province. Currently, the Association is working with the provincial government and the private sector to deliver specialized seminars, such as the new Green Building code initiatives introduced last year. We foresee that seminars aimed at advances in building practices, materials, and code requirements associated with new initiatives will become more prevalent.

Although the recent national and international economic slowdown is affecting British Columbia, especially in the construction and lumber industries, there is an expectation that this is a slump, or pause, in what has been an extraordinary run-up in building activity over the last five years. Meanwhile, the change in industry demographics will continue, and our Association, like others in Canada, will change.

The Association Executive Committee will be developing a new Business Plan for the 2010-2015 period. This Plan will reflect BOABC membership growth, the demand for education, certification and examination services, and new legislation. Some of the proposals include offering three exam sittings per year and membership mail-in ballots for the election of Executive Committee positions at the Annual General Meeting.

You can find the changes in the policies approved by the Executive Committee on January 24th by clicking on the following policy items below.