

Update on the BOABC Continuing Professional Development Program [CPD], May 30th, 2008, by Peter Longhi, VP Member Services

It has been brought to the attention of Member Services that there are still BOABC members that are not aware of the CPD Program. This program is not new and has been in development for over two years, discussed at two AGM's and several Executive meetings where BOABC Zone Directors were present. The official start-up date of the CPD program for BOABC members was 01 January 2008.

The credit accumulation, required to retain your current designation has been revised over a two year development time frame, with consideration made for members that may not be able to attend as many BOABC sponsored conferences, meetings, or courses that members in major urban centers may have ready access to.

In addition, the Executive agreed that those that were able to attend the Code Change Seminar, offered throughout the Province in spring of 2007, would receive 10 of the 30 credits needed for the three-year program, which expires at the end of December in 2010. Essentially, those who were able to attend this seminar, and most all of us did, have 2008, 2009 and 2010 to accumulate the remaining 20 credits towards the CPD program. Once members have a look at the program posted on the website in the member services section, which explains what qualifies for point accumulation, I am confident that members will find that the accumulation of CPD points will not to be a tough process.

Should there be a situation where, for some unexpected reason or unique circumstance, health problems etc., a member will not be able to complete the program within the three-year time frame, a review process will always be available. Commencing 2010, if it looks like a member will not be able to complete his/her obligation to the program, they should be in contact with Member Services straight away to begin a review process as to how they could achieve what needs to be accomplished.

This is not meant to be a fail-safe offer. It is the expectation that members will be on the ball to complete their credit accumulation on their own in a timely manner so as not to run into a "credit crunch" in the last year. It is not impossible to "un-crunch" in most cases, but again don't leave it to the end before you look at this seriously. The program is meant to be ongoing and if you accumulate a little each year, you will be fine. The Head Office will track points accumulated and report to each member with the annual Membership Dues renewals mailed out in early spring of each year.

Please feel free to ask your Zone Directors, Richard Bushey, or myself any questions you may regarding the program. We can respond by and usually prefer e-mails on these requests so that we have a record of "correspondence" and can determine if common issues occur that we may need to address down the road. As Richard indicated at the AGM in Kelowna, in the posted Executive Director's Report, and as I have described in the Member Services Report, posted on the BOABC website under the AGM page, the implementation of the CPD program is one of the key elements of meeting the CAN-P-9 standard to which we have committed to as an Association towards the National Building Official Certification program under ACBOA. Thank you all for your support of the program.