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## BCCA CONTRACTOR ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

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Applications are now being accepted for the BCCA Contractor Accreditation Program (CAP).

This province-wide Accreditation Program, originally developed through the Amalgamated Construction Association, provides recognition of General Contractors who have demonstrated acceptable technical and business skills and financial management abilities. The Applicant must successfully complete a comprehensive review by an examiner, provide references, and submit a list of completed and current projects.

Initially, the Program will be promoted to owners on projects of \$3 million or more where pre-qualification is necessary due to the requirement for special expertise. On these projects the Contractor Accreditation Program will be recommended as an adjunct to Contractors showing specialized expertise and compliance with surety requirements. We will also continue to recommend that owners accept the industry recognized use of CCDC-11 and CCA-11 as a pre-qualification format.

With province-wide acceptance of the Program, receiving Accreditation should prove to be a strong marketing tool for General Contractors.

The application fee for the Program is \$1000 for members and \$2000 for non-members. In some circumstances the applicant may also be required to pay travel expenses for the examiner.

Any Contractor who previously received Accreditation through the program with Amalgamated Construction

Association, will continue their status with the BCCA Program.

Contractors wanting additional information on the BCCA Contractor Accreditation Program or an application form, should contact their local association office.

### HOMEOWNER PROTECTION OFFICE

The Interim CEO of the new Homeowner Protection Office (the "HPO"), Shayne Ramsay, has been busy creating guidelines for the new Office, which is set to open October 1, 1998. Initially the focus has been on developing the Reconstruction Fund, in an effort to make it operational by October. Pursuant to the *Homeowner Protection Act*, the fund is being established for the purpose of providing assistance to those home owners with leaky condos who are unable to finance their repairs in any other way. The fund will only be available to home owners in the coastal region of BC. The initial set-up of the fund was made possible by a \$75,000,000 loan from the Province, and a further \$75,000,000 loan from the federal government. These loans will be repaid by assessments against developers/builders of residential property on future units built in the coastal region of BC.

The full details of the Reconstruction fund program should be available by October 1, 1998.

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Work is also being done in the area of licensing. The licensing program will have to be developed in the next few months as the requirement for licensing takes effect January 1, 1999. The *Homeowner Protection Act* allows for the licensing of builders, developers, sub-trades, and renovators who work on residential property. However at this time it is not known which groups will be required to license on January 1, or what standards will be required. Shayne Ramsay has invited interested parties, including the BCCA, to provide input into the process. A sub-committee will be created for the purpose of providing insight and advice to the HPO. At this time licensing programs in other provinces and countries are being looked at. We expect to be active on this committee, and we encourage members to be a part of the process by providing opinions and ideas on how they see the licensing program operating.

A great deal of discussion has gone into the provision of a means for resolving disputes that arise within the context of residential construction. The hope is to find a method of resolving problems in a more cost-efficient and less time consuming forum than the judicial court system. Both Mediation and Arbitration are being investigated and committees, represented by the various stakeholders, including the BCCA, are developing models for presentation to the HPO.

The HPO is also planning to involve the industry in the development of the regulations involving the assessment of builders/developers, and the mandatory new home warranty, both requirements expected to take effect January 1, 1999. Once again, the BCCA would welcome input from members on any of these issues. Please direct questions and ideas to your regional association or to Abigail Fulton at BCCA.



**Membership Directory  
& Buyers' Guide**

If you haven't already, please fax your confirmation form to your regional association.

The Due Date is determined by the regional association.

## **BC BUSINESS SUMMIT 98**

Plans are proceeding for the first-ever BC Business Summit to be held November 8-9 at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre. The BCCA has been asked to plan, co-ordinate, and execute a formal presentation from the 'construction, housing and real estate sector. The presenters are expected to reflect the current condition of BC's economy, the challenges, and potential solutions and opportunities. Potential panelists will be determined in the next few weeks. The Summit will also include a number of presentations on other industry sectors.

The purpose of this Summit is for BC's business community to develop solutions to our current economic problems. The construction industry has a large stake in the success of this initiative and we strongly encourage members to attend. Registration information will be available shortly.



**BID DEPOSITORY RULE  
AMENDMENTS**

As a reminder, have you received your Bid Depository Rule Amendments? These were mailed to all registered Rule Holders in early August 1998. If you have not yet received yours, please contact your regional association.