

TO: CITY MANAGER 1995 JUNE 21

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

SUBJECT: BUILDING OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION OF B.C.

PURPOSE: To inform Council of the initiatives of the Building Officials' Association of B.C.. (B.O.A.B.C.)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) **THAT** Council adopt a resolution *attached* as Appendix "A" to this report in support of the Building Officials' Association of B.C.
- 2) **THAT** Council forward the resolution to UBCM for inclusion in the 1995 Conference.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND:

At the recent 40th Annual Conference of the Building Inspectors' Association of B.C., the membership endorsed a name change to "Building Officials' Association of B.C.". The purpose of this change was to more clearly reflect responsibilities, such as administration and plan reviewing, rather than only inspections.

The Building Officials' Association of B.C. (BOABC) is embarking on a major initiative to achieve recognition of its professionalism and credentials in the Province of British Columbia.

2.0 ANALYSIS:

2.1 B.O.A.B.C.

The BOABC has evolved over 40 years from a small Association of 25 members to one of over 600 with the responsibility of ensuring public safety for the Province. Building Officials have and will continue to serve the public interest by advancing high, consistent standards of building inspection through professional competence of its members. Further, the Association encourages the professionalism and high ethical standards of its members.

The BOABC has developed an Education and Certification program which is currently recognized throughout North America by Government, industry and other Building Officials' organizations. The Association furthers the knowledge of its members and the public at large through workshops, study sessions and code interpretations. The objectives of the BOABC are *attached* as Appendix "B".

The Association is in the process of developing a business plan, in consultation with the Building Standards' Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, to ensure that Building Officials continue to effectively enforce building regulations on behalf of the Province of British Columbia. The process will implement a plan to seek statute recognition in consultation with provincial ministries, with support from the Architectural Institute of B.C., Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C., Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C. and Canadian Home Builders' Association of B.C.

This process will be similar to the Province of Ontario's Bill PR40, "an Act Respecting the Ontario Building Officials' Association" which was given royal assent on 1992 December 10.

2.2 *Municipal Act:*

The Municipal Act under Section 734 provides authority to Council to regulate by bylaw the construction, alteration, repair or demolition of buildings and structures, including prescribing conditions general governing the issue and validity of permits, inspections of works, building and structures, and provide for the levying and collecting of building permit fees and inspection charges. Inspections undertaken by Municipal forces provide an unbiased inspection function to address health, safety and protection of persons and property. This process avoids potential conflict of interest in that the municipal inspection program is not contractually linked to the owner or contractor.

Support from Council by a resolution being forwarded for consideration to the UBCM Conference will ensure our continuity of building regulations, as contained in the Municipal Act, and addressed under the Ministry's Options for Renewal.

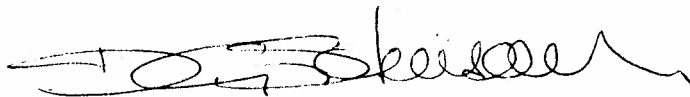
3.0 FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There will be no financial consequences.

4.0 CONCLUSION:

Recognition of Building Officials through statute is the next step to enhance the credibility of the membership of BOABC. This statute will become the platform for maintaining the highest possible standard of knowledge and ethics for building safety in British Columbia.

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D. G. Stenson, DIRECTOR
DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

GRH:ap
Attach.

cc: Chief Building Inspector

APPENDIX "A"

RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS Municipalities have been given the authority to regulate the construction of buildings and structures including issuance of permits and inspections;

AND WHEREAS the Building Officials' Association of B.C. has developed an Education and Certification program which is currently recognized throughout North America by Government, industry and other Building Officials' organizations;

AND WHEREAS the Building Officials of B.C. hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public, protection of the environment and the promotion of health and safety;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of the Province of British Columbia be urged to pass legislation that will recognize professional status of Building Officials in the Province of B.C.

APPENDIX "B"

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OBJECTIVES OF THE BUILDING OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The objectives of the Association are:

- 1) To assist in the establishment of uniform regulations in British Columbia relating to the planning, construction, demolition, alteration, renovation, maintenance, operation and renewal of buildings, in so far as these activities relate to the structural adequacy and durability of buildings, to the safety and health of their users, to fire protection and prevention and to the protection of the environment and resource conservation.
- 2) To promote the uniform interpretation and enforcement of the British Columbia Building and Fire Codes and any other Codes, standards, Acts or regulations respecting the activities described in Objective (1) above.
- 3) To assist in the development and improvement of the British Columbia and Fire Codes and other Codes, standards, Acts or regulations respecting the activities described in Objective (1) above.
- 4) To promote the interchange of ideas and knowledge respecting the activities described in Objectives (1), (2) and (3), and to foster a close liaison among the Association, related Associations, the building industry, the Government and the consumer public.
- 5) To provide formal training and educational facilities to the members of the Association.
- 6) To hold conferences and meetings for the discussion of building standards and municipal affairs and for the presentation of papers and lectures.
- 7) To collect and disseminate papers, lectures and other information that is useful or interesting to the members of the Association.
- 8) To maintain high professional standards among the mebers of the Association through education and discipline.