

Gary Deane, RBO, CRBO

October 20th, 2020

I have been asked by staff at the BOABC to provide a bit of information about myself and my background as a Building Official. I have also provided information regarding some of the issues I am concerned about.

- Member BOABC for 26 years.
- Currently employed as Chief Building Official with the City of Williams Lake.
- Level 3 Building Official, Level 1 Plumbing Official, WETT certified.
- 19 years as a building official with the Cariboo Regional District and 7 years with the City of Williams Lake. Experienced in inspection and plan-checking in both urban and regional areas.
- Successfully mentored several building officials as they began their careers or were upgrading their qualifications.
- Have taken part in working groups raised by the province to provide input on various projects including the building official qualifications contained in the Building Act.
- Have helped present information at various BOABC education sessions including most recently the Legal and Ethics presentation at Richmond in 2019.
- Served 6 years on the BOABC Executive Board (2 terms as a zone director and 1 term as alternate zone director).
- Open and honest with other professionals and the public.

Over the last few years, the BOABC has been undergoing great transformations as we worked towards increasing public awareness of the role building officials play in the construction industry. The association has evolved from its birth as a simple group where building officials could ask question of each other, to an organization with a focus on member education, certification, and professionalism. The development of the BC Building Officials Association Act and its Title protection was a major move forward for the organization. Our recent involvement with the Province of BC with their development of the Building Act and Building Official Qualification has provided further validation to our status as a self-regulating professional body.

Over the years we have forged relationships with other agencies such as the International Code Council, the Alliance of Canadian Building Officials' Associations, National Research Council of Canada, and the Province of British Columbia. We also communicate regularly with other Building Official / Inspector associations across Canada. Almost all this work was undertaken with volunteers from our membership ranks.

As I have noted, this association has continued to build upon the foundation laid by successive groups of dedicated volunteers over the last 66 years. With that said, there are currently issues within the organization that concern me.

1. The financial wellbeing of the organization is a major concern. The last few years the association seems to be bleeding money and this started well in advance of the current pandemic situation. Even with the increases in revenue we have seen with growing membership dues, and the additional "Assessment fee", the finances appear to be in poor shape. I suspect a financial audit, if approved by the membership at the next AGM, will be required to see where the money has

been allocated. I know that having highly paid celebrities attend some of the association's AGMs did not sit well with me personally.

2. The Province of BC currently has 3 appointees on the BOABC executive committee up from their original single appointee. While the administrative agreement between the province and the BOABC allows for up to 4 appointees, I must question why they decided to significantly increase their participation recently. While I hope I am wrong, I suspect that the province may also have concerns about the current state of the association. Maintaining a good working relationship with the Province is vital to the future growth and survival of the BOABC.
3. Education. When I started as a building official, lack of accessible education was a major concern of mine as well as nearly every other person I knew in the profession. Today I still receive complaints on a regular basis about the availability of building code specific education. Our delivery of education material to our membership must be improved.
4. Maintaining staffing levels of the BOABC office has been troublesome for the last few years. The significant number of resignations, and terminations, of paid staff point towards serious problems within the organization.
5. Volunteers. Over the years the association has periodically asked membership to volunteer for different tasks. Once those lists have been compiled however, they often are left to waste away unused. We have a large untapped resource that should be utilized.

I am asking that you put your trust in me and elect me as your President! In turn, I will work hard to represent the membership of the BOABC, ensure transparency and get answers to the above concerns.

Respectfully,

Gary Deane