

# BOABC Newsletter

Fall 2023, Issue 10



*BOABC is dedicated to serving the best interests of the public in building safety by moving forward with the highest standards in professionalism, competency and consistent practice in the Building Community.*

## 2023 Code Update Training

The Province is preparing to adopt the next edition of the B.C. Building Code (BCBC) in fall 2023.

Under the *Building Act*, all qualified officials, including building or plumbing officials in-training, must complete code update training by **November 21, 2024**, to maintain their qualifications and remain listed in the registry of qualified officials on the Association website.

The Association is delivering two offerings of **in-person** building and plumbing code update training at

the River Rock Casino Resort from November 21 – 23, 2023.

The Association is also developing **online** code update training pursuant to its Administrative Agreement with the Province that will be available starting early 2024.

The content of the training is the same, regardless of whether it is completed in-person or online. The sessions are focused on changes included in the 2023 BCBC, and include changes related to energy efficiency and introduction of the

Zero Carbon Step Code in May 2023.

Presenters for the in-person and online training include subject matter experts representing the Association, Building and Safety Standards Branch, GHL, and Engineers and Geoscientists BC.

Registration details for the November training sessions and pricing information for both in-person and online offerings is [available on the Association website.](#)

## 2024 BOABC Conference

The 2024 Conference and Annual General Meeting is being held at the **River Rock Hotel and Resort in Richmond, BC from May 26 – 29, 2024**. Information about the agenda, delegate and trade show vendor registration, and sponsorship opportunities will be available on the Association website early in the new year.



## Welcome New Members!

• Brian Tunkow • Mary Tuiza • Sergio Moreno • Scott Abel • Xinyu Hu • Nic McLaren • Alireza Asharioun • Garrett Gould • Aislinn Deenihan • Colm Condon • Betty Cardenas • Gareth Jones • Jonathan Messinger • Allison Meyer • Graham Forsyth • Nick Buehler • Tyson Eastland • Zhiming Huang • Robin Dhillon • Robert Godfrey • Brad Guilfoyle • Jenelle Simpson • Geoffrey Craig • Yasaman Nikzad • Manuel Meier • Jonathan Tringham • Lachlan Huinink

## New RBO's & BCQ's

- Colin McColl
- Tynan Egger
- Xiaoyu Liao
- Bradley Messom
- Daniel Siminoff
- Ryan O'Keefe

## Course Advisors Now Available!

A new course advisor service is available for anyone registered in one of the Association's online courses. Advisors are experienced officials who are available to help students with course content and questions. Further information is [available on the Association website](#).

## HVAC Training

The HRAI is offering a Building Officials' Guide to Understanding HVAC Building Code Requirements. This training is being offered on the mornings of [October 31](#) and [November 1, 2023](#).



## Kootenay Zone Plant Tour

Mass timber construction is increasingly common in today's industry and is recognized as a low carbon building material due to its reduced embodied carbon.

On September 22, 2023, building officials from the Kootenay Zone had the opportunity to tour the local [Kalesnikoff](#) Cross-Laminated Timber plant. Selecting low carbon building materials is a way to reduce GHG impacts and falls in line with the Provincial Government's new embodied carbon targets by 2030.



The B.C. Mass Timber Action Plan identifies provincial plans and priorities for mass timber for more information about provincial priorities and initiatives related to mass timber.

In 2021, the City of Nelson, in partnership with Fortis B.C. and City of Castlegar, initiated the Low Carbon Homes Pilot to reduce the embodied carbon within its building construction sector. Information about project results and future plans, please visit the [City of Nelson website](#).

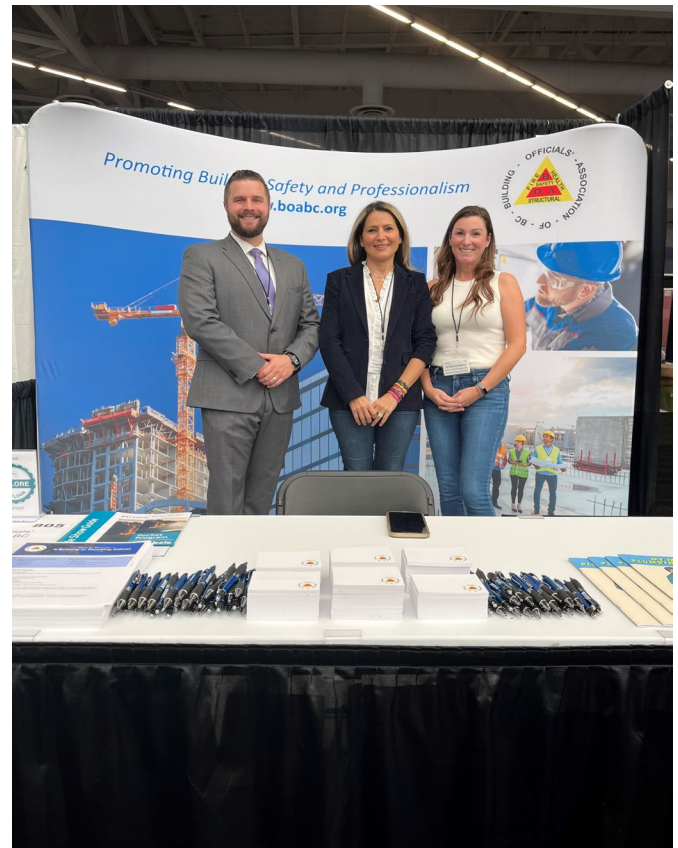
## Engaging Local Government

As part of its 2022-27 Strategic Plan, the Association committed to expanding its outreach to local governments.

This past June, the Association participated in the trade show at the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) annual conference in Nanaimo. In September, the Association also participated in the trade show at the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) in Vancouver.

Both events provided opportunities to get feedback and answer questions from elected officials and senior administrators about the Association, building and plumbing official careers, and other topics related to the building regulatory system.

The Association would like to thank the LGMA and UBCM for providing these opportunities and supporting building and plumbing officials.



## EGBC Practice Advice

Engineers and Geoscientists B.C. (EGBC) regularly publishes and updates practice advice for its members that is relevant to Association members. A full list of the [available advisories and guidelines are available](#) on the EGBC website, but here are two examples that may be of interest to qualified officials and members:

- [Professional Practice Guidelines: Designing Guards for Building Projects](#). Guards are considered secondary structural components of buildings that are critical to life safety as they provide barriers that prevent people from falling from heights. The guidelines were developed for various audiences, including code officials and local authorities, and address various related topics, such as design considerations, continuity of professional responsibility, and assurance pathways.
- [Practice Advisory on Professional Conduct](#). A new practice advisory on professional conduct between design professionals and authorities having jurisdictions has been issued by EGBC. The Association collaborated with EGBC on developing some content for the advisory and Trevor Welsh, Vice President, and Treasurer at the Association, is participating in a complimentary webinar that EGBC is holding on December 6, 2023, to help rollout the new advisory. Registration information for the webinar is on the Association website.

## WoodWorks Summit 2023

Association members familiar with the popular “Wood Solutions” conferences, hosted by the Canadian Wood Council for more than 20 years, will want to save the date for the inaugural WoodWorks Summit 2023 – Shaping the Future of Sustainable Construction – taking place at the Vancouver Convention Centre November 15-16, 2023.

The WoodWorks Summit will take the best of the Wood Solutions Conference and present it in an expanded, high-profile, two-day offering that includes mass timber building tours and other networking opportunities in addition to the highly regarded educational program and exhibitor showcase of the original conference format.

This specialized conference is a valuable educational event dedicated to sharing the latest advancements and applications for wood products and building systems alongside valuable market information and code updates.



Program details are available on the conference website: <https://www.woodworkssummit.ca/>

Association members are invited to use this link for a 20% discount on registration:

[www.eventbrite.ca/e/663728278147/?discount=BOABC20](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/663728278147/?discount=BOABC20)

## Education Summit Wrap-Up

The 2023 Education Summit, co-hosted by CHBA-BC and the Association, brought together a diverse group of 100 delegates to learn and network on September 25 and 26, 2023.

In addition to code officials and builders, members of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia, Engineers and Geoscientists BC, Canadian Construction Materials Center and Thermal Environmental Comfort Association were all represented.

The two-day summit was an incredible opportunity to bring these groups together in one room along with BC Housing, BC Hydro, Fortis, and the Building and Safety Standards Branch. Attendees engaged in conversations about a broad range of topics impacting the residential construction industry, including updates to the BC Building Code, Radon in residential construction, preparing and reviewing alternative solutions, and mechanical permitting.

We are happy to confirm that we have locked in dates for the 2024 Fall Education Summit! The BOABC in partnership with CHBABC, will be offering fall training at the **Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, October 23 – 24, 2024**. More information will be provided in the new year.

# Digital Permitting

Submitted by the Building and Safety Standards Branch

The Ministry of Housing (HOUS) is partnering with two First Nations governments and 16 local governments to develop a new digital building permit submission and code compliance tool. In March 2024, HOUS will launch a pilot of the [digital building permit tool](#). We are excited to start working with our partners to design and implement this new digital building permit tool, so we can improve the building permit experience and provide communities with another mechanism to help unlock new housing, faster.

The digital permit tool will support the building permit submission process to be quicker, more collaborative, and more consistent across the province. HOUS will be leveraging user feedback, embracing collaboration, and fostering continuous innovation in permitting.

HOUS will be setting up a peer network and online collaboration space for pilot partners, local governments, First Nations, and industry partners to stay informed of upcoming project milestones, product demos (called sprint reviews) and to collaborate with each other, share lessons learned and resources.

If you want to be added to the communications distribution list, please email [Bethany.frei@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bethany.frei@gov.bc.ca). Stay tuned for more updates as we embark on this exciting journey, for housing permitting and construction in British Columbia!

## 2023 Year End Reporting

As the end of 2023 approaches, the Association wants to remind all qualified building and plumbing officials about upcoming deadlines.

Under the Building Act, qualified building and plumbing officials must submit evidence of completing 10 points (or the prorated portion thereof) of professional development activities by December 31 in each calendar year.

All qualified officials must also submit an annual report confirming that they are members of the Association in good standing and have completed the required professional development by December 31.

Qualified officials may apply to receive an additional one-month 'grace period' that allows them to maintain their qualifications and submit evidence of their CPD points by January 31, 2024.

Qualified officials who do not complete their professional development or annual report by December 31 and have not had a 'grace period' application approved, will be removed from the [Registry of Qualified Building and Plumbing Officials](#) and will no longer be qualified to make compliance decisions about building regulations on behalf of a local authority. Last year, 21 qualified officials were removed from the registry for not completing their year-end reporting requirements.

## Certification Survey Results

The Executive Committee has struck a working group to review and recommend improvements to the certification and title programs that are option credentials for building and plumbing officials that are established under the Building Officials' Association Act. The working group ran a survey that was open from August 15 – September 15, 2023 to collect feedback from members about the current and future programs. The following provides a summary of the feedback provided by the nearly 375 who responded:

- Respondents chose to become certified to increase employment prospects (60%), enhance their standing within the building construction industry (47%), and increase compensation (43%).
- Looking ahead, certified officials believe that increasing consistency of code interpretations and decision-making amongst officials (61%), verifying technical knowledge of certified officials (53%), and increasing public and employer trust in officials (43%), and enhancing the professionalism and reputation of officials 43(%) should be the primary objectives of an updated certification program.
- 66% of respondents believe that applicants for certification should have relevant experience working within a specific scope of practice before they are eligible to receive certification for that scope of practice.
- Respondents indicated that they obtained the RBO title to recognize their overall professionalism (74%) or competency and experience (72%), to increase employment prospects or obtain a new job (58%) or enhance their standing amongst peers and stakeholders in the building construction industry.
- Approximately 70% of respondents are in favour of establishing Registered Plumbing Official and Plumbing Code Qualified titles.
- Respondents indicated that they would be interested in obtaining certification through the Association for the following technical subjects regulated by the BC Building and Plumbing Codes: Energy efficiency (58%), Sprinkler systems (50%), Fire alarms (50%), HVAC (47%), Commercial kitchen cooking equipment (43%).

The consultation results are being reviewed by the working group, which will use the feedback to develop more specific recommendations on how the programs could be improved and updated. In spring 2024, these recommendations will be shared with members and employers to get final feedback before the Executive considers any changes.

## Current CPD Opportunities

- The Canadian Wood Council is offering a two-day conference [Shaping the Future of Sustainable Construction](#).
- The BOABC is offering [2023 Code Update Training](#) for Building and Plumbing Officials.
- The BC Lung Foundation is holding a virtual workshop titled [What's New in Radon](#).
- EGBC has issued a new [Practice Advisory on Professional Conduct](#).
- TECA has several courses that are relevant to the work of building and plumbing officials. As an educational partner of the Association, TECA offers special pricing and considerable discounts for building and plumbing officials. The [calendar on the TECA website](#) contains links to upcoming online and in-person classes.
- HRAI has two self-paced online courses that may be of interest to building or plumbing officials: [Basic Principles of Residential Ventilation](#) and [Basic Principles of Residential Air Systems](#).
- Recordings of all six Energy Step Code breakout sessions from the May 2022 Annual Conference are available for free on the [Association website courtesy of BC Hydro](#).
- A pre-recorded presentation on Mass Timber Construction and the BC Building Code is available on the [Association website courtesy of Bob Brown, RBO](#).

## *Newly Qualified*

Zhi Gang Lin  
Martina Medurecan  
Alex White  
Geordo Matechuk  
Stefan Jones  
Christopher Moore  
Manny Sandhu  
Robert Gaudreault  
Jarrod Craig  
Chun Hei Terry Wan  
Cam Landry  
Ali Khalaj Asadi  
Ryan O'Keefe  
Sean Capstick  
Chris Gainham  
Stephen Patterson  
Wendy Xu  
Joseph Reign Sinay  
Shawn Daly  
Nick Martin  
Nicholas Jackson  
Robert Godfrey  
Jenelle Simpson  
Xiaoyu Liao  
Graeme Huckell  
Manuel Meier  
Deanna Greer  
Jeff Goulet  
Samuel Ciprut

Jonathan Phelan  
Andrea McPherson  
Nicholas McLaren  
Graham Forsyth  
Talaya Cunningham  
Tyson Eastland  
Graeme Huckell  
Matthew Gibson  
Eric Mah  
Ana Laura Tapia Gonzalez  
Jake Postnikoff  
Elisabeth Delaney

## *Newly Certified*

Kevin Bohn  
Francis Gorrell  
Martina Medurecan  
Ferdinand Csaky  
Nate Paterson  
Sean Gordon  
Colin McColl  
Ian Brown  
Jagwinder Dhaliwal  
Tynan Eggler  
Cam Landry  
Dave Bikadi  
Christopher Derouin  
Ryan O'Keefe  
Matthew Gibson  
Xiaoyu Liao  
Bradley Messom  
Daniel Siminoff  
Tammy Blair  
Manuel Meier