

Ontario's Building Owners, Managers, Condominiums Industry Report

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ONTARIO
CONSTRUCTION
REPORT



BOMA BC leads in program development and advocacy

More than a century of leadership and service representing building owners' interests

Canadian Design and Construction Report special feature

The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA BC) was the first to incorporate under the BOMA identity in Canada, giving it the status of the longest history in the country. The group celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2011. BOMA BC is also one of the most active groups in Canada, leading the way through many of its initiatives.

BOMA BC president Paul LaBranche says over the years the building stock has evolved from initially prominent individual ownership to corporate and pension fund owned assets maintained by large professional property management firms. "However, that original principle of BOMA representing the owner's interest is still there."

Property management issues have, of course, also evolved through the last century. LaBranche says now there is a greater focus on tenant engagement and retention. Further, with building operations, energy and environmental matters are key items on the agenda and the building stock is becoming more multi-use in function.

He says about 15 years ago BOMA recognized the need to be proactive in energy efficiency and environmental responsibility and so introduced the BOMA BEST Certified in B.C. originally as BOMA Go Green, the BOMA BEST program has evolved into a highly successful national certification program for existing buildings based on pragmatic, national standards and verified performance measurement.

The multi-level recognition comes with new branding and enhanced software. Because the program is affordable and building owners recognize its value, LaBranche says the program has had great participation in all Canadian markets and continues to grow.

Building settings standards, BOMA BC works with government at all levels to ensure any regulatory proposals "have the input of the industry" and provide training and standards building owners can work to achieve on a voluntary basis. "It provides an opportunity to lead the industry towards where the trends are going."

Because the program is affordable and because building owners recognize the value, LaBranche says the program has had great success and continues to grow.

At the heart of BOMA's position, he says, is a belief that industry should lead and that government should be encouraged to support initiatives with appropriate programs and incentives.

Rather than being reactionary, BOMA tries to lead government towards its next important directions. He says BOMA prefers a carrot-incentive approach rather than a stick (penalty) approach.

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The April issue of the Ontario Construction Report will showcase the province's leading Building Owners, Managers, Condominiums and the industry that supports them for new construction, renovations, building services, suppliers and industry professionals.

This billion dollar industry and its leaders at the provincial and national level, will be featured in the report. You will get insight into what the industry holds for the next 5 years, the member advocacy, ongoing industry education and environmental programs that make Ontario stand out from the rest of Canada.

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