

THE OPEN HOUSE

Your Window to REBGV Government Relations

May 16, 2014

Volume 9 • Number 5

We're winners!

Congratulations Harriet Permut, the Government Relations Committee (GRC), Board staff and members who helped us win the BC Real Estate Association's Government Relations Award.



L to R: Jake Moldowan, BCREA President; Government Relations (GR) Committee members Ashley Smith, Mark Sakai, Adrian Keenan; Harriet Permut, Manager, Government Relations; Jim Woolsey, Chair, GR Committee.

The award is for the Board's 2013 "Help Reduce the PTT" provincial election campaign which resulted in the BC government changing legislation to reduce the Property Transfer Tax (PTT) for first-time buyers.

The GRC and Government Relations department staff were helped by the Communications department, the Information Services department, the geographic areas, Board staff and members.

We used REBGV data to highlight our powerful story – how much the PTT reduces affordability.

We worked together to develop fact sheets, a poster, buttons, ads in local newspapers, press releases, op-ed articles, a website, a Facebook Page, YouTube videos and Tweets.

REALTORS® took our information and buttons and attended MLA all-candidate meetings where they asked candidates to go on record and commit to reducing the PTT.

Once the provincial election was over and the candidates were sworn in as MLAs, the government held true to its word and reduced the PTT.

Thank you for helping to reduce the PTT and for helping us to win this award.

Way to go!
Brad Scott, CEO

REALTORS® build support with MLAs in Victoria

Each year, the BC Real Estate Association and representatives from its 11 member real estate boards visit MLAs in Victoria.

The goal is to advocate for legislation and regulation benefitting property buyers, owners and sellers.

BCREA's focus this year was on the need to update floodplain maps in BC.

What are floodplain maps?

Floodplain maps show areas that are subject to high flood hazard and are used by local governments to decide how and where communities grow and for emergency response planning.

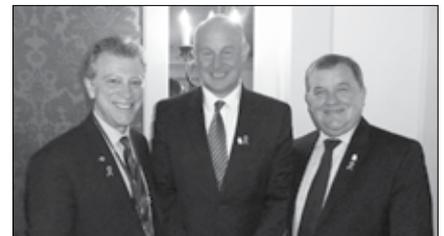
This can be incorporated into building bylaws, subdivision approval and local government planning and regulations.

Why do floodplain maps matter to REALTORS®

This is a real estate issue because most existing floodplain maps are out of date.



L to R: Jim Woolsey, Chair, Government Relations Committee; Harriet Permut, Manager, Government Relations; Andrew Wilkinson, Liberal MLA for Vancouver-Quilchena; Ray Harris, REBGV President.



L to R: George Heyman, NDP MLA for Vancouver-Fairview; Mike Farnworth, NDP MLA for Port Coquitlam; Shane Simpson, NDP MLA for Vancouver-Hastings.



L to R: Sylvia Sam, GR Committee member; Hon. Teresa Wat, Liberal MLA for Richmond Centre; Hon. Linda Reid, Liberal MLA for Richmond East; Don Mussenden, GR Committee member; Mark Sakai, GR Committee member.

Continued on page 4

REALTORS® build support with MLAs in Victoria **continued**

This means development decisions are not based on good information. REALTORS® require up-to-date information to help their clients make the best decisions possible about where they will live and work.

Taking action now to minimize the damage floods can cause will be more cost-effective than responding to a flood like we saw in and around High River, Alberta in 2013. It was the most expensive natural disaster in Canadian history.

Why are floodplain maps out of date?

In 2003, provincial legislation changed shifting primary responsibility for floodplain mapping to local governments from the provincial government.

Most floodplain maps were created before 2003 under agreements between the province and the federal government.

Unfortunately many local governments don't have the resources or expertise to update or create floodplain maps and as a result most have not done so.

Why up-to-date floodplain maps are needed

Having up-to-date floodplain maps will:

- provide communities with accurate information on which to base decisions about growth and safety; and
- help protect homes, businesses and communities from future potential flooding hazards.

BCREA has been working with stakeholders including engineers, representatives from the Fraser Basin Council, Simon Fraser University's Adaptation to Climate Change Team, Okanagan Basin Water Board and the Urban Development Institute.

BCREA's recommendations to the provincial government

In Victoria, BCREA and members and staff of its 11 real estate boards asked the BC government to:

1. Take the lead, working with local and federal governments to ensure floodplain maps are updated and remain current.
2. Develop guidelines and specifications for the development of floodplain maps.
3. Ensure senior government funding programs for flood mitigation cover technical studies such as floodplain maps.

Our advocacy gets results

On May 2, 2014 the federal and provincial governments jointly announced that 26 communities in BC will receive funding for flood mitigation projects.

Five of these communities are in the REBGV area: Delta, Richmond, District of North Vancouver, Squamish and Pemberton.

This joint investment of \$27 million will help communities address existing flood concerns and prevent flooding emergencies.



L to R: Sylvia Sam, GR Committee member; Sam Sullivan, Liberal MLA for Vancouver-False Creek; Harriet Permut, Manager, Government Relations.



L to R: Jamee Justason, Research and Policy Analyst, Government Relations; Dr. Doug Bing, Liberal MLA for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows.



L to R: Sylvia Sam, GR Committee member; John Yap, Liberal MLA for Richmond-Steveston.



L to R: Douglas Horne, Liberal MLA for Coquitlam-Burke Mountain; Raj Chouhan, NDP MLA for Burnaby-Edmonds.



L to R: Jane Thornthwaite, Liberal MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour; Jim Woolsey, Chair, GR Committee; Harriet Permut, Manager, Government Relations.



L to R: Mark Sakai, GR Committee member; Spencer Chandra Herbert, NDP MLA for Vancouver-West End.



L to R: Linda Reimer, Liberal MLA for Port Moody-Coquitlam; Harriet Permut, Manager, Government Relations; Ashely Smith, GR Committee member.