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UDI Welcomes Two New Board Members

By Jim Johnstone

David Podmore, President of the Urban Development Institute – Pacific Region, welcomed two new board members at the annual meeting on May 19th; Harry Grimm, a principal of Portrait Homes, and Diana McMeekin, president of Artemis Marketing Group Inc.

Harry was hesitant about joining the board of UDI at first. "We're a smaller builder and I felt a little awkward joining a board filled with high profile and well-respected individuals. But it's an honour to be asked," he said. "UDI is a very dynamic organization filled with lots of high calibre individuals. I'm happy to be involved and look forward to contributing."

Portrait Homes has been building homes since 1989 and has dedicated itself to quality, service and lasting value. During the past 12 years Portrait has assembled a passionate team of individuals who have strived to excel in the industry. Portrait Homes has received recognition and numerous awards from both CHBA and UDI.

As President of Artemis Marketing Group Inc., a residential real estate consulting company, Diana McMeekin has spent more than 30 years in marketing and real estate related industries. "I've been associated with UDI Vancouver for a long time," said Diana. "UDI is not only an organization that wants to get things done, they're an organization that gets things done. I'm honoured to be a part of that."

Diana describes UDI as an ethical association that encompasses all facets of the industry, and she looks forward to participating on the board over the coming years. "I'm happy to help in any way I can. I've always believed that it is important to give back to an industry that has given so much to me."

During her career in residential real estate Diana has been involved in marketing and sales of more than \$2 billion worth of new construction on condominium and single family properties located in cities from Vancouver to New York, and as far away as Dubai.

David Podmore, who returns for his second year as President of UDI - Pacific Region, is also looking forward to an exciting year.

He cites improved membership numbers and healthy association finances as memorable successes from last year. He's especially proud of the advances made by

the liaison committees in communicating with the municipalities. "I think it's essential as developers to work cooperatively with the government on issues that are important to the community," David said.

In the future he hopes UDI can begin development of its own training programs to help people who have expressed an interest in the sector. "We want to get the message out that this is a good industry to enter."

The Urban Development Institute, a national non-profit association of the development industry and its related professions, represents thousands of individuals involved in all facets of land development and planning. The Pacific Region is dedicated to improving communications between the industry, government, and the public.