

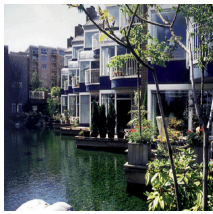


# Urban Development Institute Pacific Region

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Newsletter of the Urban Development Institute

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## BOARD SETS PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

The Institute's Board of Directors, chaired by David Negrin, Concord Pacific Group Inc., has decided to focus much of the Institute's resources on four key areas – housing affordability, environmental policies, protection of property rights and the shortage of skilled labour. For each area, work has begun on a comprehensive review of the issue.

UDI has struck a special senior level task force to propose recommendations to make all housing more affordable and is actively participating with governments at all levels on this initiative. UDI is participating as a key contributor at the 'Building Partnerships for Affordable Housing' conference in conjunction with the Government of Canada, Province of BC, BC Housing, GVRD and CMHC. The event will be held on November 29, 2006

Environmental policy development has been in the forefront of the UDI agenda. UDI's Environment Committee has been promoting science-based, fair and equitably applied environment policies related to fish habitat protection, the Environmental Protection Modernization Program, and Erosion and Sediment Control standards with local, provincial and federal agencies.

The protection of property rights is a concern shared with the broader business community. Specifically, UDI is seeking grandparenting protections for non subdivision projects and particularly multi-phased developments. In addition, the concern remains that City of Vancouver property owners do not have the same level of protection as other communities in BC.

The shortage of skilled labor in the industry persists as the booming economy and demand on scarce resources continues to escalate costs. In June, 2006, UDI launched a \$100,000 endowment fund to support BCIT students with bursaries in programs related to our industry. Carrying on with this initiative and broadening our efforts, chair David Negrin has asked the Board to consider other ways in which UDI can be proactive in expanding the skilled labour force.

## UDI JOINS BUSINESS GROUPS CALLING FOR REFORM OF FISHERIES ACT

In late August, 2006, a letter to DFO Minister Loyola Hearn jointly submitted by some of the largest industry associations in BC and spearheaded by the BC Business Council called for amendments to the Fisheries Act. The Urban Development Institute has endorsed the

submission and has encouraged the Minister to act on the recommendations as quickly as possible. UDI has added these recommendations to its own list and will be meeting with the Minister in October.

## VANCOUVER BUILDING BYLAW UPDATE

The City of Vancouver is undergoing amendments to its *Building Code*, simultaneous with the release of the new *B.C. Building Code* expected for completion in December 2006. To coordinate amendments of the City Code to the Provincial Code, City Staff have conducted a thorough analysis and reduced the number of necessary amendments to the Code from 302 to 202 amendments. The City's Code, therefore, will more resemble the Provincial document. Code amendments become effective January, 2007. Building permit applications submitted before this date will be grandfathered for the use of the 1999 Code.

## PROVINCIAL BUILDING CODE AMENDMENTS

The *BC Building Code*, 2006 was released in September. The *Code* will come into effect on December 15, 2006. Key changes to the *Code* over the 1998 version is the introduction of rain-screening standards for single-family homes as well as objective-based codes. Significant changes were made to Part 4 of the *Code*.

## GEOTECHNICAL STABILITY

Part 4 of the *Code* has been used by geotechnical engineers to assess slope stability on sites. Utilizing this part of the *Code* in the 2006 version, could create larger setbacks for sites with steep slopes and loose soils and impose design restrictions for a 1:2500 earthquake event instead of the current 1:500 year threshold.

### UDI Fall 2006 Event Preview

Breakfast Seminar: HPO "Raising the Bar"  
Ken Cameron, CEO, HPO  
October 31, 2006

Breakfast Seminar: Australia's  
Development Scene  
Brian Stewart, Executive Director, UDIA  
Queensland  
November 14, 2006

November Luncheon  
Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation  
November 16, 2006

School of Development: The Numbers  
Behind Housing Development  
November 17 - 18, 2006 \*Sold Out

Breakfast Seminar: UniverCity - Lessons  
from the Mount  
Michael Geller, President & CEO, SFU  
Community Trust  
November 28, 2006

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