

BARRETT RECOMMENDS

(Some purely editorial and, potentially, politically incorrect comments)

The latest Inquiry into the Quality of Construction, lead by Mr. Barrett has produced a bulletin with some more recommendations on dealing with the leaky condo crisis.

Ever the harbinger of doom for the construction industry, Mr. Barrett continues on his path, denouncing builders and developers and issuing recommendations designed to control these demons from construction hell, who, apparently, have nothing better to do than plan and devilishly orchestrate the construction of buildings that leak.

Not to make light of the seriousness of the problems people are facing, but rather than providing recommendations that provide real financial assistance for those suffering due to building envelope failures, Mr. Barrett has once again chosen to point the finger at builders and developers, this time for having the TEMERITY to have acted within the law, by obtaining building permits prior to July 1.

Mr. Barrett would like to see retroactive mandatory warranties, if such a thing could be arranged. Mr. Barrett would like to give the impression that a residence without a Homeowner Protection Office approved warranty, automatically equals a builder/developer plot to produce and sell a leaky condo. *(Excuse me, but if we are going to orchestrate a plot, something along the lines of a Guy Fawkes effort may be in order....after all it is November.)* Mr. Barrett apparently cannot conceive of the possibility that a residence may be built well without the presence of a warranty, nor can he apparently conceive of a consumer intelligent enough to make appropriate inquiries in choosing their next home. Mr. Barrett has

even gone so far as to carefully outline the colour scheme, font, and dimensions of the WARNING sign that he feels should be placed on all new homes that do not have the warranty he wants, because, of course, left to their own devices the evil builder/developer would no doubt hang the sign upside down and use Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Well done, Mr. Barrett. Once again you have successfully pointed the finger towards the construction industry. With any luck, you'll manage to put an end to all new home construction by ensuring the costs and liabilities of building are far beyond what any intelligent business is willing to undertake. I wonder who your scapegoat will be then?

What about some financial help from the federal and provincial governments? Are they not party to the events? Do they not have the deepest pockets and possibly the largest portion of culpability due to their sanctioning of that Building Code which allowed for many of the problems we are seeing today? *(..oops... sorry Mr. Barrett, I know that no one is supposed to mention that rather glaringly obvious FACT)* Oh, and speaking of that Building Code issue, the existence of which Mr. Barrett so adamantly refuses to admit...I have only one more comment: ***Methinks he doth protest too much!!!***



Abigail Fulton
VP Government Relations
(at least for now)

**QUICK UPDATE ON
THE CAPITAL**

FREEZE:

Following the recent announcement by the Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations, Paul Ramsay, that the Provincial Government would be placing all government spending on hold until a new Premier is elected, we have been busy trying to get some particulars. Unfortunately the government has, so far, been unwilling to provide any further information. Our President, Mr. Dave Robertson, has requested an immediate meeting with the Minister, and we hope to have further details for our members in the near future. So, stay tuned.

**COMING SOON:
NEW TAX POLICY FOR OUT-OF-
PROVINCE CONTRACTORS**

The Consumer Taxation Branch has advised BCCA that they are working on a new and improved policy for monitoring and auditing the collection of sales tax from out-of-province contractors and subcontractors doing business in B.C..

The Branch has been investigating policies in other regions of the country, and identifying various options. They will now be seeking consultation with industry in an effort to ensure that a reasonable and workable policy is developed.

In addition to consultation, the Taxation Branch advises that they are looking for a policy which is:

- ⇒ easy to administer,
- ⇒ easy to comply with,
- ⇒ will minimize inequities,
- ⇒ be cost effective and efficient,
- ⇒ which avoids duplication

and which results in an outcome that BC businesses will view as favourable.

BCCA is looking forward to further discussions with the Consumer Taxation Branch on this issue, and we will keep you updated on future developments.

For those members interested, the Consumer Taxation Branch has a new and improved website, that offers substantial information and provides opportunity for comment and questions. Visit it at: www.fin.gov.bc.ca/ctb

ON THE MOVE

BCCA is moving its offices. Effective November 18, 1999 we can be found at:

**210 - 174 Wilson St.
Victoria, BC
V9A 7N6**

Our telephone and fax numbers will remain the same, as will our e-mail and web site addresses.

**BID DEPOSITORY SINGLE BIDS -
REMINDER**

The BCCA Bid Depository Administrator would like to remind all users of the Bid Depository of the July/98 Information Bulletin regarding Rule 4.C..(iii), **Single Bids**.

When Project Documents allow General Contractors receiving only a single bid to obtain bids independent of Bid Depository, the following course of action is recommended:

First, Trade Contractors should avoid creating a situation where there is a single bid, by bidding to all General Contractors. Second, if a Trade Contractor is the single bidder, the work can be re-bid outside of the Bid Depository, adjusting the price. Finally, in a single bid situation, the General Contractor may not name 'own forces' on their tender form; they must select a bidder. If the General Contractor does not get other bids then they must select the bidder received through Bid Depository. Also, General Contractors should be aware that a bid for a section that is part of a combined bid is considered a single bid.