

October 13<sup>th</sup> 2015



**BUILDING  
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MANAGERS  
ASSOCIATION**  
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Dear Minister Yamamoto,

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know about a new emergency mass notification system we have implemented for our members at the Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia (BOMA).

Events such as the shootings in Ottawa, floods in Calgary, and the fire at Port Metro Vancouver have drawn attention to the necessity for the commercial real estate industry to have a communications infrastructure in place so that we are better able to respond to emergencies and keep our citizens as safe as possible. Over the past year, BOMA's emergency response preparedness committee identified the need for increased communications capabilities to aid in the event of an emergency situation or natural disaster.

I am pleased to inform you that we have now obtained a licence agreement for an emergency mass notification system which will help us deliver critical messages from public agencies to our members in the commercial real estate industry in the event of an emergency. This program uses multiple points of contact with timing and duration set at our discretion. The idea is to have reliable information distributed to our members so that they can pass it on to their building occupants instead of having them rely on police in some cases with gas masks and loud speakers (as was the case with the Port fire).

If we were able to pass on information to our members, they could forward it on to their respective building operators, tenants, staff, or visitors. This increased communications infrastructure allows for a much higher level of safety in our buildings and to the public.

BOMA has been working with your staff determine how we could be notified in the same manner as other key stakeholders in the event that you have information to share about a major emergency, and I wanted to make you aware of an opportunity for you to join us in announcing the program to our members at our upcoming luncheon on Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Pinnacle Hotel Vancouver Harbourfront.

We would like to sign an MOU with the Province to signify the fact that we are working together to share information. We could provide a draft the text, but it would be along the lines of: "The Province and BOMA agree to work together to share information with the commercial real estate industry in the event of a major emergency." Following the luncheon event, BOMA will be sending out a news release and would also welcome a supportive quote from you to include.

If you would like to be a part of this MOU, or help point us in the direction of an appropriate contact at the Province, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Muneesh Sharma  
Director of Government Affairs and Communications  
Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia