

Government Affairs

BOMA STAFF LOBBY HARD on your behalf because regulations that are proposed daily could have huge consequences on the industry if not properly matched with advocacy.

This year our President, Damian Stathonikos, presented to the Legislature's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services about the ways we think the provincial government can make strategic investments that will benefit our industry.

BOMA has been advocating for the provincial and federal governments to provide incentive funds to help with climate change adaptability. One of the results is the new EfficiencyBC incentive program which was launched this year to help buildings fund energy efficiency upgrades.

In partnership with BC's Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, BOMA created a Business Energy Advisor role to help members build their business case on how to implement energy efficiency upgrades. Contact BOMA if you would like to take advantage of the benefits.

BOMA also collaborated with Natural Resources Canada to start working on projects related to recommissioning and energy efficiency services to assist members.



Damian Stathonikos highlighted industry priorities to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services



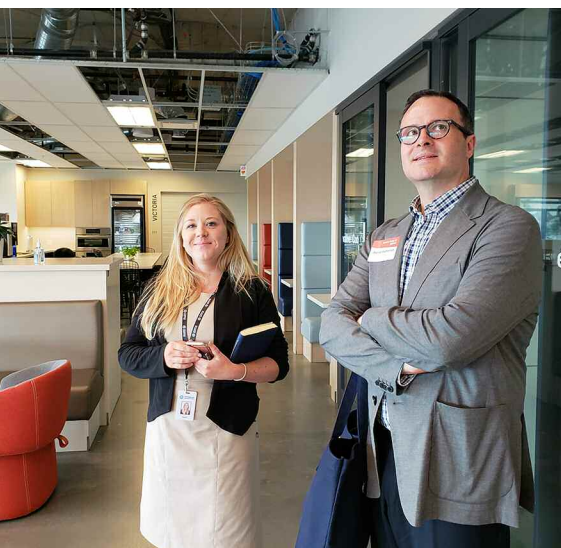
BOMA met with other business associations to discuss property tax solutions

In response to property taxes increasing at unsustainable rates for small businesses, BOMA recommended the City of Vancouver Councillors consider a 2% shift in the tax rate from businesses back to residents.

We've heard from our members that a skilled workforce is going to be one of the most pressing needs of the industry over the next decade. With the guidance of our Governance Advisory Committee, we completed Phase 3 of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training Sector Labour Market Partnership Program to develop a Labour Market Strategy for our industry.

BOMA worked closely with other business associations over the past year to encourage the City of Vancouver and the Province of BC to back away from their suggestion to introduce a Commercial Tenancy Act and proposed commercial rent controls.





Tour of Technical Safety BC

Government Affairs, *continued*



BOMA met with the Superintendent of Real Estate for BC, Michael Noseworthy, and his staff

We have established new and stronger relationships with the Office of the Superintendent of Real Estate and the Real Estate Council of BC to ensure that the voice of the commercial property management sector is well represented in new policy and licencing discussions.



BOMA hosted a forum with Greater Victoria mayors from Langford, Victoria and Saanich



BOMA Board members meet with City of Vancouver planning staff on permit wait times.

BOMA has been working with the City of Vancouver on solutions to speed up the development permit process which has resulted in a strategic plan to be implemented in the coming year. In addition, BOMA continues to have a representative on the Urban Design Panel to help ensure the industry has a voice when new developments are being considered in Vancouver.

After negotiation with the City of Vancouver, there will be no registration costs related to their forthcoming cooling tower and water feature registry.

BOMA continued as a member of the Coalition of BC Businesses strategy group, which aims to support smart policies that foster a favourable business environment. The group's focus is on keeping the economy strong and creating good jobs for British Columbians.

BOMA will continue to advocate on your behalf on important issues, saving our members millions of dollars each year, and benefitting the entire industry for years to come. ■