

Government Affairs



BOMA HAS BEEN ENGAGED with the Ministry of Environment over the past few years on our Commercial Buildings Climate Action Plan. After the formation of the new Provincial NDP/Green Government we introduced our plan to BC's Minister of Environment and Climate Strategy, Hon. George Heyman, as well as to Jonathan Wilkinson, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Environment and Climate Change as federal/provincial negotiations on the low carbon economy continue. BOMA BC received a Climate & Energy Action Special Recognition Award from the BC Minister of Environment on behalf of the Community Energy Association, for the collaboration that led to the successful adoption of the BC Energy Step Code and the establishment of the BC Energy Step Code Council, of which BOMA is a member.

In partnership with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, BOMA has created a Business Energy Advisor role to help with energy assessments, building a business case, introducing incentive programs and giving advice on how to complete energy efficiency upgrades. Contact BOMA if you would like to take advantage of this free service. BOMA will be working closely with the Province of BC, Fortis BC and BC Hydro in the coming year to ensure that members receive the benefits of any potential incentive programs.

BOMA will continue as a founding member of the Coalition of BC Businesses Strategy Group, which aims to provide advice to the Provincial Government on 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.



Jonathan Wilkinson (l), Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, with Muneesh Sharma, BOMA BC.

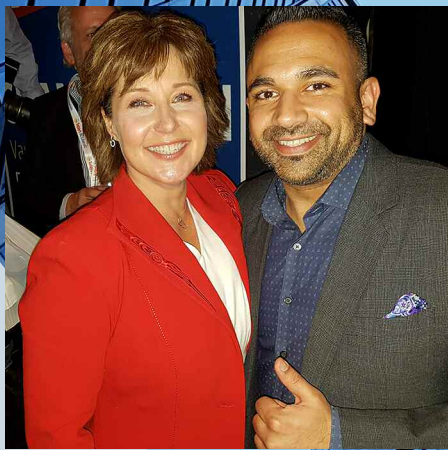


Coalition of BC Businesses Strategy Group.



Government Affairs, *continued*

BOMA BC, with the guidance of our Governance Advisory Committee, has completed Phase 2 of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training Sector Labour Market Partnership Program to help us research information on the human resource requirements of our industry. BOMA received approval to begin Phase 3 of the partnership in 2018 which will focus on developing a comprehensive strategy to best address all of our labour force needs.



Meeting with the City of Vancouver on tax proposals.



In response to property taxes increasing at unsustainable rates for small businesses, the City of Vancouver introduced a motion for Council to ask the Provincial Government to consider introducing split tax assessment bills and commercial rent controls. BOMA participated in a series of meetings with City staff and after discussions with other business associations, encouraged the City to cancel their recommendation for rent controls. A further recommendation that came as a result of the consultations is to create a Province-led working group, which BOMA will participate in to find sustainable solutions to this important issue. BOMA has been working with the City on ways to speed up the Development Permit process, as well as on seismic, parking and fire antennae amplification issues. 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 the City of Vancouver. ■

BOMA discusses green buildings with visiting delegates from the Property Council of New Zealand.

left to right: **Muneesh Sharma**, BOMA BC; **Kevin Quinlan**, Chief of Staff, City of Vancouver; **Rob Mackay-Dunn**, UDI; **Patricia Barnes**, Hastings North BIA; **Charles Gauthier**, Downtown Vancouver BIA.

