

# Government Relations



*Muneesh Sharma (BOMA) discusses the BOMA Alert program with Hon. Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness.*



*Sadhu Johnston, Deputy City Manager, City of Vancouver (middle) with BOMA staff Daniel Klemky and Paul LaBranche after speaking to the membership on the Greenest City Action Plan.*



*MLA Marvin Hunt (left) and Muneesh Sharma (BOMA) speak about waste management services.*

**BOMA** WELCOMED BC HYDRO Vice-President of Transmission, Distribution and Customer Service, Greg Reimer, to address members at the March luncheon. Greg highlighted changes underway at the energy utility including a new focus on customer service and in particular, how they would like to increase relations with the commercial real estate industry. BOMA has been actively engaged with BC Hydro through the Energy Management Assistance program as well as undertaking a study this year to determine the effects of implementing and maintaining energy benchmarking practices. Ensuring that incentives are designed for maximum benefit and uptake is a top priority for BOMA as staff continue to provide direct assistance supporting members and tenants to further reduce energy bills.

BOMA has been actively engaged with the City of Vancouver during the implementation of the Vancouver Building Bylaw Energy Upgrade Trigger regulations. Through substantial engagement and negotiation, BOMA was able to ensure that members who are BOMA BEST certified are included in to this bylaw as having already taken significant measures to reduce their energy consumption. This was a significant victory for BOMA and will guide discussions with provincial policy makers as the Province of BC contemplates changes to the provincial building code.

City of Vancouver Manager Sadhu Johnson attended the June luncheon to give an update on the Greenest City Action Plan and offer perspectives on the role of the commercial real estate industry in implementing its recommendations. Because of the forward thinking policies that have been developed and championed by members, BOMA has been asked to sit as a representative on the Mayor's Greenest City Advisory Committee. A representative from BOMA has also been appointed to the City of Vancouver's Urban Design Panel to ensure the perspective of the commercial real estate industry is taken in to consideration when reviewing new developments. In addition, the City of Vancouver has made a commitment to communicate directly to BOMA in the event of a major emergency or natural disaster. This will enable BOMA to use the **BOMA Alert** emergency mass notification system to provide important information to members in a timely fashion.



As environmental policies and programs evolve, BOMA has taken a leadership role in discussions on how commercial buildings should operate. BOMA energy management and recognition programs have given members profound knowledge and appreciation of how to operate buildings in a holistic manner. As the Ministry of Environment implements the Climate Action Plan 2.0, BOMA has been actively involved with consultations being led by the Ministries of Environment, Energy and Housing, as well as by local environmental organizations. BOMA has persistently pressed for recognition of sustainability programs such as BOMA BEST and requested that more direct assistance be provided to members to implement building management programs. BOMA spent significant time in 2015 on the issue of waste management regulations, meeting with officials to ensure that the voice of the commercial real estate industry is heard and that its interests are taken in to account. BOMA will continue to advocate that any new provincial waste bylaws be cost-effective, fair, and increase the amount of waste that is diverted from landfills.

After implementing the BOMA Alert emergency mass notification system for members, BOMA has been meeting with provincial government representatives to discuss efforts to ensure the safety of the public in the event of a major emergency or natural disaster. BOMA hopes to use the recent appointment of a BC Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness to build on important emergency planning work which members have identified as a high priority.

It is imperative for BOMA to ensure that human resources are in place to operate buildings well in to the future. BOMA has begun discussions with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, Skills Training and Ministry Responsible for Labour to conduct a labour market outlook partnership study to examine all aspects of the industry's HR requirements. Over the next year BOMA will bring the industry together to identify issues, develop strategies, implement new initiatives, and review our successes to help ensure we have the strong, skilled, stable workforce that is required for the coming decades. This engagement and research will be done in partnership with the Province of BC and more information will be made available throughout the next year. ■



left to right: **Robert Kavanagh**, BOMA Chair; **Brenda Bolwyn**, Victoria Chapter Chair; Victoria Mayor **Lisa Helps**; and **Paul LaBranche**, BOMA President.

