



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: First Nations National Building Officers Association

### What is the First Nations National Building Officers Association (FNNBOA)?

One important component in the development and repair of housing on reserve is the First Nations National Building Officers Association (FNNBOA).

The First Nation Building Officer (FNBO) plays a pivotal role in the development of new housing or improving existing housing. Individuals working as First Nation Building Officers undertake construction plans review, construction inspections and inspections of existing projects. The purpose of the plans or blueprint reviews and inspections are to provide Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC) and others with reasonable assurance that the construction conforms to minimum building code requirements and the completed project provides good value for the loan. Lending institutions that provide loans to First Nations and to community members may also contract out their inspection requirements to First Nations' technical service providers. Finally, aboriginal families moving into new or existing housing want to ensure that the home meets existing standards.

Furthermore, FNBO also provide technical services to Band Councils regarding existing homes. This includes reviewing existing houses to assess the costs of renovations or repairs. In many cases, these individuals are also responsible for managing contractors to carry out these renovations or repairs.

### How was the FNNBOA established?

In December 2001 an exploratory meeting was held with FNBO who are activity involved in this sector. The participants at the meeting agreed among other factors that there was a need to establish a national association to represent the FNBO.

In March 2002, another session was held with FNBO who were selected by other FNBO within their regions. At this meeting a steering committee was formed to establish a framework to pursue the formation of a national association.

### Do First Nation/Aboriginal Inspectors support the formation of an association?

Yes. In a survey that involved approximately 35 percent of those who received the questionnaire, 98 percent indicated they were very interested in forming the association.

### Which government organizations also support the Association?

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Aboriginal Business Canada
- Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada
- Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation
- Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors
- Canadian Home Inspectors and Building Officials Steering Committee
- Human Resource Development Canada



## Which First Nation/Aboriginal communities are supportive of the association?

Several Councils are providing support through participating in the development of the association (in-kind contributions) as well as through capacity development.

## What is the current structure of the association?

FNNBOA held its 7<sup>th</sup> AGM in conjunction with the during the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual First Nations Northern Housing conference. The executive committee was elected comprising of a president, Vice president, a secretary and a treasurer. A certification steering committee was formed at the same time with representation from each province. Regional chapters are now being formalized. Further developments may include an educational/training committee to facilitate the delivery of training to the FNBO on changing technical requirements related to the Objective Based Codes introduced in 2010.

## Who sits on the committee?

Board of Directors:

- President: Bud Jobin—Alberta
- Vice-President: Keith Maracle—Ontario
- Treasurer: Vince Genereux—Saskatchewan
- Secretary: Dan Paul—Atlantic
- Web site Development: Jim Munroe—British Columbia
- Seetta Riccola—Manitoba
- Douglas Odjick—Quebec
- Eric Gordon—Saskatchewan

## How is the organization financially supported?

CMHC has been instrumental in providing funds to pay for consultants and the expenses of those participating at the exploratory sessions. The project manager has also written several funding proposals that were submitted to various government agencies for project based funding (FNNBOA has not sought out sustainable funding). The association will also raise revenues from membership fees (corporate membership, regular member). As well we are seeking alliances with National Building supply stores for corporate support.

## What are the priorities of the Association?

The priorities of FNNBOA are as follows:

- Maintain national occupational standards
- Maintain certification program
- Maintain accreditation program
- Develop a sector profile
- Foster communications among FNBO
- Develop a national databank and Website
- Identify issues facing sector



## How do I become a member of the Association?

- Application forms are available on our website — [www.fnnboa.ca](http://www.fnnboa.ca)
- There is a sign up fee of \$50 and an annual fee of \$100

## Who do I contact to become a member or have any questions regarding the association?

You can contact the following people:

### **Mr. Richard (Bud) Jobin, President**

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