

FNNBOA NEWS

THE FIRST NATIONS NATIONAL BUILDING OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

FNNBOA NEWS

- ✦ A New Strong Voice for First Nations Building Officers
- ✦ FNNBOA Building on Accomplishments
- ✦ Message from the Co-chairs
- ✦ Strong Partnerships Key to Building Strong Organization
- ✦ Message from the Publisher
- ✦ FNNBOA Leads the Response to OAG's Report on First Nation Housing
- ✦ FNNBOA Subcommittee Members
- ✦ Taking Care of Business
- ✦ Join In
- ✦ Cross Country Update
 - British Columbia
 - Alberta / Saskatchewan/ Manitoba
 - Ontario
 - Quebec
 - Atlantic Region



The FNNBOA NEWS is published four times a year by the First Nations National Building Officers Association. Publisher John Kiedrowski, (613) 724-3857, john.kiedrowski@sympatico.ca

A NEW AND STRONG VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS BUILDING OFFICERS

After years of discussion, First Nations building inspectors have a professional organization to call their own - the First Nations National Building Officer's Association (FNNBOA). The name "building officer" was selected because it incorporates the daily activities of a First Nations inspector, whose tasks are many and varied in the community extending beyond the on-site inspection of buildings. The FNNBOA will represent people in First Nation communities who provide residential, commercial and institutional construction and renovation technical services. This includes plans review, inspections, recommending repairs, technical advocacy and advisory services assisting on reserve construction. Currently, there are an estimated 250 to 300 men and women working as technical service providers in First Nations across the country.

The Association has wide ranging objectives in the First Nations building sector, but is primarily a professional association mandated to represent the best interests of members in the broad area of occupational development. Accordingly, FNNBOA has identified key objectives which include:

1. Represent individuals working as technical service providers in First Nation communities
2. Establish national occupational standards to ensure minimum core competencies
3. Establish national certification and accreditation processes
4. Ensure programs and policies for capacity development for this sector
5. Advocate housing policies that will lead to better building and renovation practices and ultimately improve housing conditions in First Nation communities.

Over the past several months, the FNNBOA has operated under the direction of a steering committee. The steering committee has two co-chairs, Mr. Keith Maracle and Mr. Bud Jobin, as well as provincial representatives from across the country. The committee have identified priority issues and strategic approaches that will advance capacity development for First Nation/Aboriginal technical service providers. Central to the FNNBOA approach is improving for technical service providers access to the knowledge, skills, training and resources that will enable them to help their First Nation towards self-sufficiency in housing. For the organization this means a strong role in advocating for, developing and implementing comprehensive housing policies covering all technical aspects of

THE FIRST NATIONS NATIONAL BUILDING OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

construction and renovations, such as the adoption and application of building codes.

The FNNBOA will provide a strong collective voice for First Nations building officers, where before there was none. Mr. Keith Maracle, stated the organization will be effective because “the Association intends to build strong partnerships with government organizations and agencies that will support our objectives.” A strong FNNBOA is good for First Nations as noted by Mr. Bud Jobin, “Our association will be well positioned to help improve overall housing conditions.”

FNNBOA BUILDING ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the first meeting in December 2001, when discussions began regarding the creation of a national association, the FNNBOA has established itself as a reliable representative of technical service providers across Canada and a leader in the field of First Nations housing. The progress the Association has made has been quick, but always with long term goals in mind. The organization has been busy developing the infrastructure and external relations essential for the long term viability of the organization while tending to the needs of our growing membership. Key benchmarks for the FNNBOA include:

- Incorporated as a nonprofit organization
- Established national occupational standards
- Commenced discussions on the impact of proposed changes to the National Building Code with the Canada Codes Centre, National Research Council.
- Established key partnerships with government and non-government agencies
- Established informal provincial chapters
- Secured funding to pursue priority initiatives
- Participation on the Canadian Home Inspectors and Building Officials Steering Committee (CHIBO) on Accreditation and Certification
- Made presentations to technical service providers across Canada

In some areas progress has occurred very quickly for the organization thanks to the creation of key partnerships. For example, some professions take several years to establish national occupational standards. In our case, the FNNBOA was able to adapt the work of CHIBO to establish occupational standards that reflect the competencies and the unique situations of the First Nations Building Officers.

With much of the organizational development done or underway, the FNNBOA has built a solid foundation to support future growth. Equally important, the organization has proven they can get good things done quickly and when you're in the housing trade that's good for business.

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

In this, our first issue of the FNNBOA News we would like to acknowledge all the First Nations building officers who over the years have trained and worked hard to achieve the knowledge and skills needed to support sound construction practices in their home communities. Without them old habits of putting up poorly built homes on First Nations might well continue. With them, as professionally trained and competent inspectors, communities have another tool in the effort to ease the crisis of substandard housing that inflict many of our First Nations. It is an important and needed service they provide - and that is why an organization such as the First Nations National Building Officers Association is needed - to help the community-based building officer provide the best service possible.

Not so long ago there was no need for an organization like FNNBOA. But the training and skills required to perform with competence on the building site has expanded with changes in building technology and techniques. Our numbers have grown with the demands of the workplace and there is now a need for inspectors to be recognized as the skilled professionals we are. The best place for recognition to start is with us as a group. We have to look at issues like, national occupation standards for First Nations inspectors, certification of inspectors, accreditation of training, professional development and transferability of skills. We need to do this to solidify our position as skilled professionals in the industry. More importantly, we need to do this to help move our communities toward more healthier and more durable housing for all First Nations citizens.

THE FIRST NATIONS NATIONAL BUILDING OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS KEY TO BUILDING STRONG ORGANIZATIONS

Partnership development is extremely important in today's complex world, regardless of whether your interests lie in finance, education, health or building homes. Partnerships are critical, particularly so to a new organization, with ambitions like the FNNBOA. Recognizing this reality has prompted the organization to established partnerships with key First Nation organizations, government agencies and non-government organizations. These relationships can help us accomplish our goals and assist us to move toward our ultimate objective which is healthier and more durable housing for all First Nations citizens.

To date partnerships have been established with the following groups.

- 1.Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- 2.Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- 3.Natural Resources Canada, Office of Energy Efficiency
- 4.National Research Council, Canada Code Centre
- 5.Technical Services Advisory Group (Alberta)
- 6.Ontario First Nation Technical Services Corporation
- 7.Health Canada
- 8.Southern First Nations Secretariat
- 9.Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors
- 10.Alliance of Canada Building official's Association
- 11.Canada Home Inspectors and Building Officials Steering Committee

The FNNBOA is not stopping there, next the group will seek to establish partnerships with the various corporations that sell building supplies. FNNBOA believes partnerships with

the many levels of government, NGOs and corporate entities involved in different aspects of First Nations housing is a powerful tool to help rebuild our communities and establish our presence as an organization that represents building officers. Working together, we can achieve our goal of better housing conditions for First Nation communities.

MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Welcome to our premiere issue of the FNNBOA News, which will be published four times per year and sent to all First Nations building officers. In our inaugural issue you will find a bit of background on what's been happening with your organization and equally as important, what will be happening in the coming months. We briefly cover some of our recent milestones of which there are many, as can be expected for a developing organization like the First Nations National Building Officers Association. But this newsletter is not just about the organization. This publication is also a forum for the 300 or so First Nations building officers which the FNNBOA works to represent. We hope issues or events you feel are important and could be of benefit to your fellow officers will end up on these pages. We hope you will take the time to read this newsletter and maybe on occasion make contributions. It doesn't have to be a written article, but a phone call or e-mail with a bit of background telling us what's going on in your area. By doing so, the FNNBOA News becomes a more effective communications tool for the FNNBOA and our membership.

FNNBOA LEADS THE RESPONSE TO OAG'S REPORT ON FIRST NATIONS HOUSING

In April 2003 , the Office of the Auditor General of Canada (OAG) released a report to the House of Commons which focused in part on First Nations housing. The Auditor General pointed out the poor housing conditions that still exist on many reserves and the negative impact it has on the health and education of individuals and the overall social conditions of First Nations communities. The FNNBOA will play an important role in addressing the findings of the OAG and be involved in the following issues:

THE FIRST NATIONS NATIONAL BUILDING OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

- Working in close partnership with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to build upon CMHC's Native Inspection Services Initiative
- Building code training
- Work with National Research Council's Canadian Code Centre to develop an orientation program for objective based codes
- Participate in the CMHC's Indoor Air Quality program to address the mould issues as well as NRCAN's R2000 Program and the Energuide for Houses Program

Many of these activities will commence before the end of 2003 and are part and parcel of FNNBOA's mandate to ultimately achieve healthier and more durable housing for all First Nations citizens.

FNNBOA SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

A subcommittee has been created to manage the activities of the FNNBOA until the association holds its first annual general meeting. The following are the representatives in your area. If you have any questions regarding the association, and most importantly membership, please give them a call.

Saskatchewan

Frank Bighead
(306) 953-7242
fbighead@pagc.sk.ca

Northwest Territories

Gerry Cheezie
(867) 920 4403
gerryc@ykdene.com

Atlantic Region

John Gloade
(902) 895-6385
john@cmmns.com

Alberta

Richard (Bud) Jobin
FNNBOA Co-Chair
(780) 523-6690
jobinr@yourfuture.ab.ca

Ontario

Keith Maracle
FNNBOA Co-Chair
Tel (519) 692-5868 ex
231
robb@sfns.on.ca

British Columbia

Jim Munroe
(250) 398-7033
jim@midbc.com

Quebec

Douglas Odjick Tel:
(819) 449-1225
Algonquin.tech@ireseau.
com

Manitoba

Seetta Roccola Tel:
(204) 956-7413
sroccola@mts.net

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

The FNNBOA has been taking care of business. Recently, the Association presented a successful business plan to Indian Northern Affairs Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp and Natural Resources Canada. The plan focused on projects supporting FNNBOA's organizational development and the professional development of members. The projects, to be carried out over the next several months include:

- Development of a web site for FNNBOA
- Development of a communications strategy for members
- Undertaking a Human Resources Profile of Aboriginal technical service providers
- Undertake an assessment of existing curriculum/training programs
- Development of a national certification model
- Develop and launch a strategy to facilitate the FNNBOA's involvement in indoor air quality and mould programs
- Develop and launch a strategy to facilitate the FNNBOA's involvement in National Building Code Part 9 initiatives

The funding committed to these initiatives was significant. For some projects, the FNNBOA will tender the work to consultants to undertake specific tasks. Some work will be conducted by expertise within the Association. For more information contact:

Mr. John Kiedrowski, Project Manager
Tel (613) 724-3857
john.kiedrowski@sympatico.ca

THE FIRST NATIONS NATIONAL BUILDING OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

CROSS COUNTRY UPDATE

The FNNBOA has been busy on several activities at the national and regional levels. The following is a cross the country update on activities in each of the areas.

British Columbia

CMHC gathered together all of the First Nations Inspectors in BC to update the group on Assisted Housing Program delivery changes. Also invited to address the group was a representative from the MBO's of BC on change to the NBC. FNNBOA was graciously received and presented the gathering with an overview and progress to date of FNNBOA's activities. Interest and support was strong and follow up meetings are planned at the Housing Conference scheduled for September 15/16/2003 at Harrison Hot Springs.

http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/evca/evca_002.cfm?event=47

The representative from British Columbia is Mr. Jim Munroe, Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council, Williams Lake. (250) 398-7033.

Alberta/ Saskatchewan/Manitoba

The Alberta Chapter met in the spring and invited representatives from the prairie provinces to discuss the formations of a regional alliance. Regionally support was strong with First Nations Inspectors anxiously awaiting the beginning of a FNNBOA membership drive. The group wanted the next steering committee meetings to be held in the west. TSAG's annual Trade show and Conference being held in Edmonton was suggested as the next meeting location.

www.tsag.net

The representative from Alberta is Mr. Bud Jobin, Northern Lakes College, High Prairie. (780) 523-8357

The representative from Saskatchewan is Mr. Frank Bighead, Prince Albert Grand Council, Prince Albert, (306) 953-7242

The representative from Manitoba is Ms. Seetta Roccola, Interlake Reserves Tribal Council, Winnipeg, (204) 956-7413

Ontario

The Ontario Chapter has been busy establishing itself as an organization. In April, focus groups were conducted to identify issues facing First Nations building officers in Ontario and identify possible solutions. Copies of the Focus Group report are also available from Keith Maracle and will be distributed at an upcoming meeting in Thunder Bay.

The Ontario membership drive will begin in September. The Ontario Chapter will also be holding some meetings with key stakeholders to address some of the issues raised in the focus group.

The Ontario Representative on FNNBOA is Mr. Keith Maracle, Southern First Nations Secretariat, Bathwell, (519) 692-5868.

Quebec

A presentation was made to First Nations Building Officers. There was strong support for the FNNBOA and their initiatives. In the October, the group will be meeting again to discuss among other issues, the formation of a provincial chapter.

The representative from Quebec is Mr. Douglas Odjick, Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council, (819) 449-1225.

Atlantic Region

A presentation was made in Moncton by Keith Maracle, Co-chair FNNBOA and John Gloade, Steering Committee member, to native inspectors from across the Atlantic provinces. Genuine interest and support was provided by all

The representative from this region is Mr. John Gloade, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, Truro. (902) 895-6385.

THE FIRST NATIONS NATIONAL BUILDING OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

Join In

Building a house takes many hands. Skilled hands that have learned their craft over the years. The rapid evolution of construction techniques and materials, and changes in how we manage First Nations housing programs means that we must constantly learn specific content material and update skills covering all aspects of housing - from funding to finishing. The FNNBOA is a new organization that can help you gain the skills and knowledge you will need to keep up with changes in First Nations housing. The FNNBOA can help you develop networks and partnerships which will increase learning opportunities. The FNNBOA strives to create improvements in First Nations housing conditions - your workplace. We are another helping hand working to build better opportunities for you and better homes for First Nations people.

FNNBOA in partnership with Educational Institutes, Federal Funding Agencies, First Nations Technical Service providers is seeking First Nations Inspectors, service providers and corporate sponsors to become members of the organization.

When you join the FNNBOA you will:

- Have more opportunities for professional development
- Have a cross country forum to discuss building techniques, both good and bad
- Have access to cutting edge technologies such as Energuide for Houses
- Increase your network of housing resource contacts across the country
- Increase your business opportunities
- Become part of a organization devoted to improving housing conditions through technical advancement
- Be advised of important changes, developments and innovative housing practices through our newsletter and web site

For more information contact:

FNNBOA News

Mr. John Kiedrowski

Tel (613) 724-3857

john.kiedrowski@sympatico.ca



