

PRO SPEC 2006 Conference Speakers & Presenters

Brad Chisholm

Brad Chisholm is the Compliance Officer for the Nova Scotia Real Estate Commission. He has held this position for over nine years, since the inception of the Commission. His work consists of two primary functions. He is responsible for receiving and investigating all complaints against industry members and he oversees the Commission's audit program of brokerage trust accounts and conformity with the Commission's Standards of Business Practice.

Prior to joining the Commission Brad was Team Leader of an audit team at the Health Care Provider Blue Cross Atlantic.

He has a Bachelor's of Commerce Degree, Accounting Major.

Antonio Gioventu

Antonio (Tony) Gioventu is the Executive Director and Strata Property Advisor for the Condominium Home Owners' Association of B.C. (CHOA). He brings 25 years' of experience in management, real estate development, construction, building operations, and strata property legislation to this position. CHOA is a non-profit association that has been assisting strata owners since 1976. The Association provides service to its 50,000 members throughout the province, promoting an understanding of strata living and the interests of strata property owners. On average, the association fields 200 calls a day from owners, strata council members, managers, agents plus general inquiries. Queries range from information related to the daily operations of a strata corporation, to the Strata Property Act, financial operations and the management and long term maintenance planning and budgeting.

Tony's keen in-sight into the needs of strata corporations is reflected in the diversity of the carefully researched articles he coordinates as Editor of The CHOA Journal, which is published quarterly by the Association and has a province-wide circulation of over 8,000 copies. Tony's experience and knowledge have been recognized by his appointment as a consumer representative and acting Chair of the Provincial Advisory Council to the Homeowner Protection Office, appointment to the Board of Directors of the Homeowner Protection Office and the B.C. Building Envelope Council. Tony is a regular industry speaker at Buildex, a guest lecturer at over 35 annual conferences throughout B.C., a weekly feature columnist in The Province newspaper, Times Colonist, Penticton Herald and the Kamloops Daily News, a regular guest speaker on Realty TV (a City TV program), and an author of publications on strata bylaws and governance.

Philip Girard

Philip Girard is Associate Dean Graduate Studies and Research in the Faculty of Law at Dalhousie University, where he has taught since moving to Halifax in 1984. He is also a member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society.

The purchase of a "dream home" in 1992, which proved to be afflicted with severe design and construction flaws, caused him to become involuntarily involved in issues relating to residential construction.

Stuart Gourley

Stuart Gourley is the Senior Executive Director for the Skills and Learning Branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Education.

Under his leadership, the Skills and Learning Branch is responsible for federal - provincial labour market policy and research, adult learning, apprenticeship, Youth Secretariat and immigration requirements to meet the needs of Nova Scotia's businesses. Additionally, the branch leads the province's efforts to implement the Skills Nova Scotia Framework and Annual Action Plan.

Stuart brings more than 25 years of experience to the Department of Education. His expertise spans management, planning and operations across all sectors including business, labour, industry and education.

Prior to this position, his most recent experience was with the World Bank and the African Virtual University. He was also a part-time lecturer in the faculty of Health Professions at Dalhousie University.

Formerly the president of Sage Support Services, Stuart has significant experience in the health care, education and business sectors. He has worked with Canadian and international governments at all levels, and recognizes that the key to the success of the labour market strategy is building partnerships and working with a diverse group of stakeholders.

Mary Lawson

Mary Lawson is Vice President and General Manager of Dalerose Homes in Orangeville, Ontario. Dalerose is a builder of custom and semi-custom homes as well as some renovation projects.

Mary has been part of the home building industry for more than three decades. She has worked in the areas of construction, land purchase, market research, plan development, product design, site merchandising, sales management and training. Mary also spent five years in a national marketing role for a major international building products manufacturer.

Mary's service to the home building industry has included terms as President of both the Calgary Region Home Builders' Association in 1988 and the Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association in 1998.

At the national level, Mary has been a member of CHBA's Executive Board since 1988, and served as president in 2004. The Association's first woman president.

Mary has also had an active role in many of CHBA's national Committees and Councils, serving as Chair of the CHBA Sales and Marketing Committee and as a member of the CHBA Manufacturers' Council, the Canadian Renovators' Council and the National Education and Training Advisory Committee.

In addition to her CHBA-related activities, Mary is a member of the Board of Governors of George Brown College, where she provides advice to the College on training and education opportunities in the residential construction industry. She also participates in Women in Motion, a mentorship program that assists young women in making effective career choices.

Presently, Mary resides in Orangeville and is a member of the Board of Directors of Theatre Orangeville and involved in the town's business improvement and development activities. Mary has two married daughters and four grandsons who are "growing up fast".

Ken McKinlay

Ken McKinlay is the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Home Builders' Association. He has been in this position since March of 1978.

His role is to represent the interests of the Association members in the residential construction industry and to represent the interests of future consumers by protecting the affordability of housing.

Currently Ken is involved in the following:

City of Regina

- Green Ribbon Community Climate Change Advisory Committee

- Residential Sub-Committee

Saskatchewan Stakeholder Advisory Committee on Climate Change

Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency – Commercial Advisory Committee member

Board Member – Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association

Provincial Delivery Agent – R-2000 Home Program

Provincial Delivery Agent – EnerGuide for New Homes

Member of Saskatchewan Building Officials Association

Co Chair of Construction Sector Council – Labour Market Information Saskatchewan committee

Construction Sector Council – Residential LMI – Saskatchewan representative

Ken represents the industry on code committees; energy program development committees; affordable housing stakeholders; municipal liaison committees and also administers and represents the industry on policy issues provincially.

Ken attends spring and fall meetings of the Canadian Home Builders' Association. These national meetings inform the industry on all activities happening across Canada in the areas of: Technical research; Economic projections; Education development; Renovation activities; Marketing programs and national policy issues and barriers to the affordability of housing.

Ken and wife Lois have been married for 40 years and have five grandchildren. Both their two daughters and families live in Saskatchewan.

Pat Mulcahy

Pat is the Chief Executive Officer of the Atlantic Home Warranty Program.

He is originally from Halifax, but has worked throughout Atlantic Canada and in British Columbia and Ontario. Before joining the Warranty Program, Pat had 25-year insurance career in various management positions in the areas of marketing, human resources, administration, claims and underwriting.

The Atlantic Home Warranty Program is the only not for profit warranty program offering third party warranty protection through its 850 members throughout Atlantic Canada.

Geoff Stevens

Geoff Stevens is Vice President, Operations of the Industry Training Authority in British Columbia. He assumed his responsibilities in this position in early April, 2004.

Geoff came to ITA from the World Bank / International Finance Corporation where he has been consulting on labour market and training initiatives in support of private sector development. This has entailed assignments in numerous countries in Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, South Asia, South East Asia and North Africa.

Prior to the World Bank, Geoff was with the Open Learning Agency for 14 years where he initiated the Workplace Training Systems Division and later was Executive Director for Marketing and Business Development.

Geoff holds a Masters Degree in Adult Education from UBC. He resides with his family in Deep Cove.

M.J. Whitemarsh

M.J. Whitemarsh is the CEO of the Canadian Home Builders' Association of British Columbia (CHBA-BC). CHBA-BC is the voice of the residential construction and renovation industry in BC, including single and multifamily homes as well as residential high-rise.

CHBA-BC has 10 local associations throughout the province representing over 1,300 member companies and many thousands of employees.

In addition to the multi-faceted courses taught for the Certified Residential Builder and R2000 Builder, for the past three years CHBA-BC has been leading an initiative with the provincial government to increase industry participation in competency-based training of new construction workers and the certification of existing non-accredited workers. This program is industry driven to meet the need for highly skilled workers today and for the future.

Under M.J.'s direction working with the ITA, local colleges, private training partners, First Nations and member builders, CHBA-BC has developed and piloted the new Residential Construction Framing Technician credential. RCFT is the first new trade of its kind in Canada. Most recently M.J. was instrumental in the formation of the Residential Construction Industry Training Organization (RCITO) and spearheaded the push for industry led training in the Residential Construction Industry.

M.J. has a 25 year affiliation with CHBA including participation in and chairing many industry boards and committees. She also regularly judges home building excellence awards in Canada and the US.

M.J. is a graduate of the Executive Marketing Program at UBC. She lives in Vancouver with her husband Bill. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Rick Williams

The President of PRAXIS Research and Consulting Inc since 1999, Dr. Rick Williams has been involved for 25 years in the fields of social economic policy analysis, fisheries management and community development. His special areas of expertise are in program evaluation, integrated qualitative/quantitative research design and management, socio-economic impact analyses, stakeholder consultation processes, strategic planning, and process facilitation.

Dr. Williams has recently been involved in the following research and consultation activities:

- Planning and facilitation of regional and national conferences and stakeholder consultation processes, including:
 - The annual Conference of Training and Certification Boards for the Canadian Fishing Industry, Vancouver BC, 2006;
 - The Development Conference and the Governance Workshop for the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre, Canadian Council on Learning, 2005;
 - Surveys of residential builders and consumers, and focus groups with builders across Nova Scotia, for the development of the Professionalization Action Plan for the Residential Construction industry in Nova Scotia, 2005.
- Principal Investigator for Phases I and II, the national sector study of the fish harvesting industry in Canada, for HRSDC, including planning, organization and facilitation of regional and national policy conferences and research validation workshops in the Atlantic and Pacific regions, from 2001 to 2005;
- Principal Investigator, the evaluation component of the 3-year national demonstration project for the use of portfolio-based prior learning assessment and recognition as an Employment Assistance Service delivered by HRSDC community partner agencies, for HRSDC and the Halifax PLA Centre, 2004 to 2007.