



## **BOMA Canada a Proud Partner in Successful North American Congress**

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Canadian pride was on the podium as the first ever North American Commercial Real Estate Congress took place recently in Toronto. Teaming with BOMA International, BOMA Canada was delighted to welcome this year's very successful annual conference to Canada. BOMA Canada's annual conference and exposition, BOMEX® did not take place this year, in favour of blending the content and show with BOMA International's annual conference, creating this first-time North American event. Delegates in attendance praised all aspects of the Congress, including the high-calibre education programs, the exceptional venues and even the outstanding weather.

### **BOMA Toronto Hosts**

A sincere thank-you is extended to 2004 Chair Bill Garland for his leadership. The organizational and hosting skills of BOMA Toronto also deserve special mention, for the excellent golf tournament, and for the wonderful Welcome Party held at BCE Place and the Hockey Hall of Fame. "The Meeting at Centre Ice" (borrowing the local real estate term for downtown Toronto) helped to showcase one of Canada's world-class cities, treating the over 1300 attendees to a great event with a unique Canadian flair. Hearty congratulations go to BOMA Toronto President Diana Osler-Zortea, BOMA Toronto Executive Vice President Chuck Stradling, and the entire team of Toronto staff and volunteers!

### **Expert Speakers**

Throughout the Congress, it was impressive to note that almost half of all of the education session speakers were Canadian presenters, who made a strong contribution on topics of interest to all participants. BOMA Canada also wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the Canadian Advisory Task Force: Bernie Myers (Calgary), Hugh Gorman (Montreal) and Peter Wilmott (Toronto) who assisted BOMA International in developing education programs on topics of particular interest to Canadian delegates. These topics included *Public-Private Partnerships (P3)*, examining this new funding model which sees governments turning to private sources for funding and operation of infrastructure and services; *Fixing the Energy Grid*, discussing efforts to ensure reliability of the power grid and the implications of operating commercial buildings in the event of extended power outages; and *Rebuilding Urban Infrastructure*, exploring how budget-conscious cities can work with their commercial real estate partners to assure renovation or replacement of critical infrastructure components. The Task Force, with the tremendous help of Chris Welch, Brian West, Dale Struthers and Mike McGee of BOMA Toronto, not only pulled together the content for these topics but also recruited outstanding national and international speakers and participants to deliver sessions that were well-received by all in attendance. Special thanks are also extended to our colleague Michael Brooks, Executive Director of CIPPREC, for his expert contribution of Canadian insights in the *Telecom Building Access* session.

### **State of the Industry in Canada**

At the Monday general session luncheon, BOMA Canada President Hugh Gorman provided a Canadian perspective on the 'state of the industry'. His message, one of cautious optimism, focused on the slow but steady economic recovery taking place in Canada, coupled with BOMA Canada's strengthening as an organization. Mr. Gorman expressed confidence that the commercial real estate landscape in Canada will see further growth and improvement.

Mr. Gorman also announced the roll-out of BOMA Canada's new national environmental stewardship program, BOMA Go Green. This pioneering effort is designed to recognize green buildings across the country and to foster environmental consciousness in the industry. In addition to showcasing BOMA Canada as an industry leader in environmental stewardship, the program also provides best practices benchmarking for professionally managed buildings.

## **BOMA Canada Governance**

During the Congress, BOMA Canada held its national Board of Directors meeting, an important governance activity for the organization. Similar to the International Board of Governors, the BOMA Canada Board of Directors is comprised of elected officers, and the presidents and association executives of each of Canada's nine local associations. This was, as always, a key opportunity for the BOMA Canada leadership to meet and address strategic and business planning issues specific to BOMA Canada. President Hugh Gorman was impressed by the commitment demonstrated by the Board, as well as the prevailing spirit of cooperation and support.

## **Recognition**

Awards and recognition are an important part of these annual events. BOMA Canada congratulates Public Works & Government Services Canada, the Canadian winner of the International TOBY Award, Government Building category: the Royal Canadian Mounted Police 'K' Division Headquarters Building, Edmonton, Alberta. For Canadians, one of the other highlights of the event was the bestowing of one of two Chairman's Awards on Ottawa's David Patton, at the International TOBY Awards dinner. As outgoing BOMA International chairman John P. Kelly stated, "David has been an effective leader of his association, been an integral part of BOMA Canada, and is one of the most thoughtful, organized strategic thinkers we have. He has chaired committees, taken on numerous strategic initiatives, and always kept us focused on creating value for members." The International Chairman's Award given to Mr. Patton recognizes his exemplary service and active involvement in BOMA at all levels.

It is important to us at BOMA Canada to emphasize how honoured we were to welcome our international colleagues to Canada. Hosting this prestigious event gave us, as Canadians, a chance to reciprocate the warm welcome we have always enjoyed when attending BOMA meetings and conventions in the United States.

*Article prepared by BOMA Canada staff*

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