

# Message from the President



**OBEC President**  
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The time has come for many things. It's time for us to get back together and interact. It's time for us to enjoy our close proximity and sense our presence and feelings. It's time for us to see each other's actual facial expressions and reactions. And it's definitely time for us to be more productive. After repetitive, impeding lengthy lockdowns, we're finally planning our first in-person hotel meeting this year for October 13, 2021. It will have already happened by the time you read this message, but nevertheless, I feel delighted with this news. We're also planning many in-person events and presentations for Construct Canada, or The Buildings Show, which will be held December 1 to 3, 2021, and we're quite excited to see everyone there, too.

Although we encourage strong and sound building envelope "enclosure" practice, we can't live in a bubble, unless it's a chosen way to accomplish the purpose of one's life. The purpose of our envelope is to protect us from unsuitable exterior elements at certain times and conditions, but we should be able to see through it, interact with transparency or actual openings, exchange the exhausted atmosphere, and

welcome new fuel and ideas. The envelope is not typically meant to be a social barrier, unless such is specifically required. A human is a social being, after all.

The time has come, sadly too soon, to say goodbye to Gregory Hildebrand, one of the greatest building envelope sound practice advocates of our present time. He was a building physics researcher and teacher, my personal instructor, and OBEC's 2016 Beckie Award winner. Greg was a dedicated scientist. He spent great time and effort evolving methods, tools, and standards and increasing the value of the built environment through the quality of the building envelope. He was receptive and compassionate, with a smile that reflected joy on everyone's face. All respect, until we meet once again Greg.

The time for positivity has also now come. It's time to take action, as many codes, guidelines, and standards have been developed over the past few years; some mandatory and some voluntary. These include the *Thermal Energy Demand Intensity*, the *Total Energy Use Intensity*, and the *Greenhouse Gas Intensity*, just to name a few. These are supposed to consent with a number of national, provincial, municipal, and regional policies such as the *BC Energy Step Code*, the *Vancouver Zero Emissions Plan*, and the *Toronto Zero Emissions Building Framework*. Unfortunately, current construction isn't at all complying with most of these initiatives; R4 walls are still being diligently constructed everywhere. On the bright side, I hear about panels and advisory boards that are forming to steer those intentions into reality. Please send me a message once you know of a tower with envelope performance that's not compromised or substituted with other "efficiency" measures.



*We say goodbye to Gregory Anthony Hildebrand, one of the greatest building envelope sound practice advocates of our time. Greg was a building physics researcher and teacher. He was also OBEC's 2016 Beckie Award winner.*

My time serving as the OBEC president will soon come to an end. This is a good opportunity to thank all those who volunteered and attentively provided their time, intelligence, and energy to help the organization; the board of directors, committee members, and all those who supported them, especially their families. I also sincerely thank our administration support office, our sponsors, and our presenters for their great contributions. And I thank the OBEC membership for great attendance, discussions, and brainstorming that was continuously "pushing the envelope." You've made my term serving as president very rewarding; thank you. I welcome Mila Aleksic this fall to accept the president's responsibilities. Mila has been working very closely with me throughout this term. She is a prominent educator with great leadership qualities and she's truly a genuine individual. While passing Mila the torch, we're confident she will superiorly serve you while promoting sound building envelope practices. ■

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