



# BEC Roundup

## BCBEC LEARNS ABOUT MEETING BYLAW PERFORMANCE TARGETS

On March 21, the British Columbia Building Envelope Council hosted a luncheon seminar in Vancouver on R30+ Effective Roofs in Residential Construction in BC.

An increased level of thermal performance is becoming necessary as part of energy performance improvements required by the *BC Energy Step Code* and the *Vancouver Building Bylaw*. Each building and construction project is different and presents unique challenges and considerations. This presentation provided an overview of potentially applicable assemblies to meet the bylaw performance targets for compact (non-attic) roofs on low-rise, wood-frame, detached and semi-detached homes and townhouses in British Columbia.

The educational seminar was presented by Lorne Ricketts, M.A.Sc., P.Eng., RDH Building Science Inc. Ricketts is a principal and Building Science Specialist with RDH Building Science Inc. who specializes in new construction, investigation, research, and education projects. He recently led the development of the *Illustrated Guide to R30+ Effective Vaulted & Flat Roofs in Residential Construction*.

## ABEC & GAMA LOOK AT LIEN LEGISLATION

On April 9, the Alberta Building Envelope Council and GAMA jointly hosted a meeting at the Winston Golf and Country Club that focused on *CSC Calgary – Builders Lien Act*.

The presentation, put on by E. Jane Sidnell, partner, Rose LLP, covered the following topics:

- Overview of lien legislation;
- Lien creation and preservation;
- Holdback;
- Trust claims; and
- Practical application.

Sidnell has extensive experience working with projects from inception through completion and beyond. Commencing with project strategy, Jane works with clients to plan project execution, draft contracts, and resolve disputes. She is a seasoned litigator and has appeared in all levels of court, including the Supreme Court of Canada, and she has acted in all types of construction, builders' liens, surety, tender, and product liability cases. As a proponent of alternative dispute resolution, Sidnell has acted as counsel in mediations and arbitrations and has been appointed as a mediator and an arbitrator in construction and development-related disputes.

## MBEC EXPLORES ASTM AIR TIGHTNESS

On January 16, the Manitoba Building Envelope Council hosted a presentation on ASTM Air Tightness. Held at Red River College's (RRC) Princess Street Campus, the event addressed the proposed adoption and implications of the requirements for whole building airtightness testing in the *2020 National Energy Code for Buildings*.

Since 2013, RRC's Building Envelope Technology Access Centre (BETAC) has been conducting research on this subject and has tested over 50 large buildings ranging from 100-year-old churches to new schools. These studies have helped BETAC establish baseline air leakage rates for a variety of building types and provided insight on the impact and cost-effectiveness of air leakage sealing retrofits.

This presentation by Cory Carson, a mechanical engineering research technologist at RRC and a Level II IR Thermographer, and Kevin Knight, a research professional at RRC and a building enclosure authority with over 35 years' experience

in testing and commissioning, discussed some of the unique problems associated with conducting airtightness testing on both unoccupied and occupied buildings such as Multi-Unit Residential Buildings. It also touched on how this research has contributed to the writing of the Air Barrier Association of America's standard and the new ASTM E3158 standard test method for determining the air leakage rate of large or multi-zone buildings.

## QBEC EXPLORES WATERPROOFING OF UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES

On February 27, the Quebec Building Envelope Council held a seminar on waterproofing of underground structures and determining the most appropriate system. The presentation by Nicolas de Moncuit began with a review of the definitions of water repellency, waterproofing and the various terms used.

Then, attendees were asked to consider:

- How does water seep through a foundation?
- Is drainage necessary, sufficient, or optional?
- What principle of waterproofing design is recommended?
- What are the reference standards?
- What are the different waterproofing systems available?

It was an educational presentation for all in attendance, as de Moncuit has over 30 years of experience in the construction industry. As a specialist in the building envelope, he began his career in France, heading the waterproofing of radioactive element storage buildings on the largest European shipyard of the time, a nuclear waste reprocessing plant. He also participated in several major projects, including the Palais des Congrès de Nantes and the Stade de France. ■

