



BOMA Canada Environmental program is the BEST

BOMA Canada encouraged by Public Works new 'green lease' requirements

Toronto, ON – The Building Owners and Managers Association of Canada's BOMA BEST, program is poised to gain new prominence as the federal government's Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) develops new environmental clauses for its building leases.

In a recent release, Ellen Burack, Director General of PWGSC's Office of Greening Government Operations, said federal officials are working with their provincial counterparts to develop a list of environmental requirements for leased accommodations. She noted that the federal government is looking to further green its leasing activity, although requirements would vary from province to province. Additionally, she said, any new or renewed leases over 10,000 square metres (approximately 107,650 square feet) require an assessment under the Building Owners and Managers Association's environmental certification program - BOMA BEST.

"PWGSC has been an enthusiastic supporter of BOMA's green initiatives," said Diana Osler Zortea, President of BOMA Canada. "In 2008, PWGSC acknowledged the BOMA BEST assessments helped to improve the federal government's building management practices as well as providing a means to monitor progress over time. This is concrete proof of the relevance and value of this innovative program," she added.

BOMA BEST, which stands for **B**uilding **E**nvironmental **S**tandards, is the evolution of BOMA Canada's Go Green and Go Green Plus programs. BOMA BEST represents the direction of the commercial real estate industry in Canada and BOMA Canada's role in providing the mechanisms for common practices across the industry. To date, approximately, 300 million square feet of commercial office space (~1000 buildings) in Canada have achieved BOMA BEST certification, including over 120 Public Works and Government Services Canada buildings.

With four possible levels of certification, users can progress through the program from Level 1 up to Level 4 and continually use the framework of the Best Practices and the BOMA BEST assessment to improve environmental performance and management. To attain certification, building managers must conduct energy and water audits, continually monitor resource consumption and have a preventative maintenance program in place to ensure ongoing compliance. All buildings are verified on-site by a third-party. The BOMA BEST certification builds on Go Green and Go Green Plus by harmonizing these separate certifications into one comprehensive, easy-to-use program.

The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of Canada is the voice of the Canadian commercial real estate industry with over 2,500 members in regional associations across Canada. On behalf of the building owners, managers, developers, facilities managers, asset managers, leasing agents, brokers, and the product and service providers to over 1.9 billion square feet of commercial real estate in Canada, BOMA Canada addresses issues of national concern, and promotes excellence in the industry through information, education, advocacy and recognition.

For more information, visit the BOMA BEST website at www.bomabest.com or contact:

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