



*Community Builders – Building Communities*



## MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

In this issue (click for direct link)

[CARE Awards](#)

[Minister of Housing Luncheon](#)

[Step Code Changes](#)

[Builders Council](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[VRBA Golf Tournament – May 24th](#)

[Preferred Rates at Accent Inn and Hotel Zed](#)

[BCCA Employee Benefit Trust](#)

[First Time Homebuyers Account](#)

[Education & Training](#)

## 2023 CARE AWARDS

The Call for Entry for the 2023 CARE Awards has been announced! The deadline for entries is June 5, and we expect another year of outstanding projects. Thank you sponsors for your continued support! A full colour CARE Awards magazine highlighting the Gold winners will be distributed in the Times Colonist - last year's magazine [is still available online](#). If you missed the event, and would like to view the winners presentation, stream the show at CTV/Vancouver Island [here](#)

**Support our sponsors supporting the CARE Awards!**

### Gold Sponsors



## REGISTER FOR VRBA LUNCH WITH RAVI KAHN, MINISTER OF HOUSING – THURSDAY MARCH 30

BC Minister of Housing Ravi Kahn has requested a lunch meeting with VRBA members to discuss a new housing strategy for BC. We need a large turnout at this meeting to demonstrate we need more supply and affordability.

VRBA has arranged the lunch for Thursday, March 30 at the Delta Ocean Pointe, 100 Harbour Rd.

Time: 11:30 am – 2:00 pm (Agenda TBA)  
VRBA Members: \$40

Space is limited, register now at [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)

Thank you sponsor



## BC STEP CODE CHANGES

BC Building and Safety Standards has created the following BC Step Code changes taking effect May 1, 2023:

- Introduces the Zero Carbon Step Code, an opt-in building carbon pollution standard for operational carbon
- Introduces a prescriptive option for Step 3, Part 9 buildings if a local government passes an enabling bylaw
- More airtightness testing options
- New energy performance improvement compliance calculations

The changes apply to building permits applied for on or after May 1, 2023.

We have asked for clear interpretations of the changes, especially the Zero Carbon Step Code, however the branch reports they have nothing at this time. When available, we will forward the information to VRBA members.

Here is what's available now <https://energystepcode.ca/requirements/#bcbc-2018-rev-4>

## BUILDERS COUNCIL – WED MARCH 15

Scott Dutchak, CEO of Habitat for Humanity – Victoria will provide a Zoom presentation on partnerships with builders/developers as an affordable housing component for proposed projects. The BC government plans to emphasize affordable housing in their new housing strategy this spring.

This presentation has been approved for one CPD credit for Builder Licences by BC Housing, Licensing and Consumer Services.

All VRBA members are encouraged to attend. To receive the Zoom link, RSVP Debra at [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)

Thank you sponsor



## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15 – Builders Council [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)

March 30 – Lunch with Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca). Registration form attached.

April 12-16 – CARST (Radon) Conference at Victoria Conference Center <https://carst.ca/CARST2023>

April 14 – VICA Construction Conference at Delta Ocean Pointe [www.vicabc.ca](http://www.vicabc.ca)

April 19 – Builders Council [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)

May 17 – Builders Council [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)

May 24 – VRBA Golf Tournament – Olympic View Golf Course [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca). Registration and Sponsorship information attached.

June 5 – CARE Awards Entry Deadline [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)

October 6 – CARE Awards Gala at Fairmont Empress Hotel [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca) (tentative date)

## VRBA GOLF TOURNAMENT – WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

We are returning to Olympic View Golf Course for VRBA's fun golf tournament on Wednesday, May 24!  
[www.OlympicViewGolf.com](http://www.OlympicViewGolf.com) Mark your calendars, enjoy a day on the links and network with VRBA's contractors, designers, trades & suppliers! Registration and sponsorship info is attached or contact [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)



Thank you **Gold** sponsors FortisBC, McLaren Properties and Trail Appliances!  
To sponsor this popular event contact [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)



#### PREFERRED GOLD CORPORATE RATES FOR VRBA MEMBERS AT ACCENT INNS AND HOTEL ZED

VRBA members get Preferred Gold corporate rates at [accentinns.com/](http://accentinns.com/) & Hotel Zed [hotelzed.com/](http://hotelzed.com/)  
Attached are the hotel rates from March 1 to April 30, 2023. For the promo code, contact Debra at [admin@vrba.ca](mailto:admin@vrba.ca)



#### JOIN BCCA EMPLOYEE BENEFIT TRUST

Does your company need a benefits program? VRBA partners with BCCA Employee Benefit Trust, to take advantage of a great flexible package designed for the construction industry. Plans are affordable and easy to set up. Contact Laura Bonney at [info@bccabenefits.ca](mailto:info@bccabenefits.ca)

#### FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS ACCOUNT – APRIL 1

The new First Home Savings Account (FHSA) becomes effective April 1, 2023. The FHSA will have an annual contribution limit of \$8,000 and a lifetime contribution limit of \$40,000. The FHSA can be maximized in as early as five years. The maximum period that an FHSA can be kept open is 15 years. [Here is an excellent article in the Times Colonist.](#)

#### EDUCATION & TRAINING



**Licensing & Consumer Services Branch of BC Housing** approved offerings for CPD builder licensing [click here](#)

**Murray Frank's Building It Right Courses** [buildingitright.com](http://buildingitright.com) 65 CPD points available online! Also have a look at Course in a Box for 20 CPD points [buildingitright.com/course-in-a-box.html](http://buildingitright.com/course-in-a-box.html)  
**Building It Right** has a wide range of courses including **Building the House of Tomorrow** at [buildingitright.com/houseoftomorrow.html](http://buildingitright.com/houseoftomorrow.html)

Also book a cruise with their CPD at Sea! [buildingitright.com/featured-cruise.html](http://buildingitright.com/featured-cruise.html)

**Island ICF Foundation Supplies** is holding training courses in ICF in Victoria and Nanaimo Jan 25/26. Find out about the NUDURA product line and its installation. Eligible for 7 CPD credits for Builder Licensing. Send attached completed registration form to [training@nudura.com](mailto:training@nudura.com).

**Professional Home Builders Institute:** Online courses for BC Builder Licensing are available at the Professional Home Builders Institute [here](#).

VRBA is now recognized as an exam proctor for the Professional Home Builders Institute. Members are able to take exams that qualify for CPD and BC Builder Licensing at our office. There is no charge for this service – it is another benefit of VRBA membership.

**VICA:** A wide selection of Builder Education Courses is available from the Vancouver Island Construction Association. VRBA members can now use the **PROMO code VRBA\$100** at checkout to save \$100 off of the public registration fee on all eligible training. For all courses and dates, and to register [visit the VICA website](#).

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Visit us on Facebook and Twitter: @vicbuilders has over 5,000 Followers!