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Victoria REALTORS® Say New Provincial ‘Green’ Incentives Will Help Sell Homes

“The provincial energy minister’s announcement of new ‘LiveSmartBC’ financial incentives for energy efficient buildings will help home owners sell their homes to a growing energy conscious marketplace,” says Victoria Real Estate Board President, Tony Joe.

Joe was commenting on last week’s news from Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, that the provincial government will be helping families reduce their energy costs and carbon footprint through a series of new strategic initiatives that include \$60 million of new money for upgrades to 40,000 homes and businesses across the province.

“We believe more and more home buyers are looking for homes that have been retrofitted for energy savings and these new provincial financial incentives will help people prepare their homes for that market reality and make a contribution to the challenges of climate change,” said Joe. Joe added that the announcement also means the Victoria Real Estate Board can proceed with its own plans coming out of its 2008 Green Task Force to make our local REALTORS® more aware of the challenges of climate change.

Among the local real estate profession’s new goals announced today are:

- To offer local REALTORS® access to the online energy efficiency course provided by the National Association of Green Agents and Brokers beginning in June, 2008;
- To complete costing and review of the recent energy audit of the Board’s 11,000 sq. ft. offices on Nanaimo Street and make recommendations for energy improvements;
- To build upon the provincial Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources new ‘LiveSmartBC’ program by offering information to all home sellers; and
- To educate local REALTORS® on the new technologies and programs for combating climate change through seminars, website postings and written materials in the coming months.

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