



**Victoria
Real Estate
Board**

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News Release

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Victoria Real Estate Board Wins Three National Awards

Victoria area REALTORS® have been recognized by the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) with three awards for their work in government relations and commercial real estate activity.

Government Relations Awards

The Board won two Political Action Committee (PAC) awards, both of which recognize volunteer initiative and enterprise in advancing federal REALTOR® issues.

The *Outstanding PAC Team Award* is presented on a yearly basis to a real estate Board or Association which has made an outstanding contribution to CREA's federal affairs initiative; the *Most Innovative PAC Program Award* is only given in years when the CREA Federal Affairs Committee determines a PAC program created or maintained by a Board or Association deserves special recognition.

The *Most Innovative PAC Program Award* recognized the special efforts by the Board to encourage all three Victoria MPs -- Gary Lunn, Denise Savoie and Dr. Keith Martin -- to consider ways in which they could individually support any incentive that would encourage owners of apartment and other buildings to renovate their properties to include increased density and affordable rents.

Commercial Award

The Board's Commercial Division won a *Canadian Commercial Council of REALTORS® (CCC) Merit Award*. The award is presented each year to recognize a Commercial Division or Council that demonstrates outstanding service and commitment to meeting the needs of commercial members while supporting the objectives of the CCC.

Victoria Real Estate Board President, Bev McIvor, in Ottawa for the annual lobbying effort to MPs, said the awards reflect the dedicated work of local REALTORS®. "We are delighted that the work of our Government Liaison Committee in lobbying politicians at all levels to make homeownership possible for more Canadians has been recognized." McIvor added that the real estate profession continues to push for more awareness among MPs that first-time home buyers need more help than ever through such federal programs as The Home Buyers' Plan. She emphasized that more assistance is required to help the homeless than is presently planned and more incentives should be offered to builders to spur the construction of rental accommodation, especially in the Capital Region.

McIvor added that the Board is also proud of the work of its Commercial Division in serving its members and the community at large. "The Division's annual Commercial Building Awards event, now in its 16th year, is recognized as highly prestigious both locally and nationally by the real estate and development community."

The awards were presented at the CREA national conference in Ottawa on March 26.