

## **Changes to professional development for REALTORS® in BC**

BCREA and BC's 11 real estate boards are working together to revitalize BC's professional development program (PDP) for REALTORS®.

Since 2016, the Real Estate Council of BC (RECBC) has been distancing its education from PDP. In fact, Council intends to assume responsibility for all aspects of mandatory licensing education by 2020 and to potentially introduce more mandatory courses over the next few years.

This change is an opportunity to underscore the value of the REALTOR® brand with standards of professionalism that go beyond licensing requirements.

To do this effectively, we must decide how we want to adapt our professional development program and we need your input.

### **Next step: Consulting with you**

On February 11, the steering committee leading the PDP revitalization project will launch a short survey of all BC REALTORS®.

The survey, running until Friday, February 15, will ask REALTORS® questions about the types of learning they value most, what drives their professional development choices, and their views on accredited courses compared to other learning options. To thank REALTORS® for participating, every REALTOR® who completes the survey will be entered in a draw for one of ten Amazon Echo Dots.

Your input is crucial to developing a new approach to PDP that meets REALTOR® needs and enhances professionalism. Watch your inbox and social media for the survey link on Monday, February 11!

### **How the survey responses will be used**

At a meeting of real estate board and BCREA leadership on January 23, the steering committee was given the greenlight to build on this framework and create a business case for a new PDP. REALTOR® feedback gathered from this survey will be a vital part of this business case, helping ensure that the new PDP is more flexible, accessible and relevant than ever before. The business case will be voted on at BCREA's annual general meeting in Vancouver on March 26. If it's approved, planning will begin for a smooth transition that minimizes disruption to REALTORS®.

### **More flexibility and choice**

The new PDP framework recognizes that REALTORS® are inspired and learn in different ways while enhancing REALTOR® professionalism. It also clearly distinguishes between mandatory licensing education required by RECBC and lifelong learning that enhances REALTOR® professionalism.

The framework approved by leadership at the January 23 joint meeting recognizes hours of development rather than credits, with REALTORS® completing 18 hours of professional development within their two-year licensing cycle. REALTOR® flexibility and choice is a guiding principle.

Twelve hours of development would likely be delivered by real estate boards and BCREA. Instead of prescribed courses, REALTORS® will choose courses that best meet their needs and interests.

The remaining six hours of development would be accomplished through other learning opportunities that will be recognized under the new framework. Many REALTORS® are already participating in professional development that would be recognized under the new framework.

We hope you will take the time to complete the survey and we'll share more details as they become available.

For more information:

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BCREA is the professional association for about 23,000 REALTORS® in BC, focusing on provincial issues that impact real estate. Working with the province's 11 real estate boards, BCREA provides continuing professional education, advocacy, economic research and standard forms to help REALTORS® provide value for their clients.

To demonstrate the profession's commitment to improving Quality of Life in BC communities, BCREA supports policies that help ensure economic vitality, provide housing opportunities, preserve the environment, protect property owners and build better communities with good schools and safe neighbourhoods.