



Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Glenn Martin (Ms.)
Manager, Member & Public Affairs
Phone: 604-412-4883 (direct office)
Fax: 604-430-8085
E-mail: gmartin@apeg.bc
#200 - 4010 Regent Street,
Burnaby, B.C. V5C 6N2

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For Immediate Release

MINISTER OWEN SUPPORTS ENGINEERS' PROPOSAL TO "SPEND A LITTLE TO SAVE A LOT" ON SEISMIC UPGRADING

BURNABY In his first meeting since his appointment as Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, Minister Stephen Owen met today with representatives from APEGBC (Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC) and FSSS (Families for School Seismic Safety).

The meeting was in response to a November 26, 2003 proposal submitted by APEGBC requesting funding from Western Economic Diversification (WD) and the B.C. Ministry of Education to develop a state of the art seismic assessment tool and associated upgrade strategies. This joint APEGBC and University of British Columbia project would include a province wide seismic cost/benefit analysis and lead to cost effective seismic retrofit solutions. The development of these new technical tools is without international precedent and offers the potential to use British Columbia engineering expertise to assist in addressing earthquake risk around the world.

The Minister fully expects that the WD funding portion of the project for the first phase of research will flow in January. The results of this research would be presented at the World Conference on Earthquake Engineering to be held in Vancouver next August. Minister Owen stated that he saw this as an “opportunity to showcase Vancouver as not only an epicenter of seismic risk, but as an epicenter of science, innovation and action.” Minister Owen further stated that he believed that upgrading public facilities is a joint and necessary responsibility of all three levels of government and will carry this message to his staff in Public Works and to Minister Andy Scott, Minister of State for Infrastructure.

FSSS and APEGBC will shortly be communicating with senior Provincial officials to follow up on recent meetings with the Premier and various ministers and to formalize commitments made by Minister Clark towards funding the Province’s portion of the APEGBC proposal.

For further information please contact:

Andrew Mill, P.Eng., Chair Seismic Risk Task Force, APEGBC, 604-984-3503, or Dr. Carlos Ventura, PE, P.Eng., Professor and Director Earthquake Engineering Research, University of British Columbia, 604-822-6946

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C. is the authority responsible for licensing over 19,000 members throughout British Columbia, and ensures the health, safety and welfare of B.C. citizens through the promotion and enforcement of the highest standards of practice. Only licensed professional engineers and professional geoscientists are permitted to practise engineering and geoscience in B.C. under the provisions of the Engineers and Geoscientists Act.