# \* AWARD WINNING \*

# Canadian Condominium Institute

The newsletter of the Canadian Condominium Institute / Institut canadien des condominiums

**SOUTH ALBERTA CHAPTER** 

SPRING/SUMMER 2022



Ryan Coles

My primary goal as the president is to continue to grow our membership, with special emphasis on condo owners. They are the ones who we are all here to better serve.

#### **Ryan Coles**

CCI South Alberta Chapter, President

## Message from the President

While it didn't get a lot of attention on the news, Bill 19 was announced by Alberta's Minister of Service Alberta, Nate Glubish, on April 21, 2022. This Bill plans to amend the Condominium Property Act, with changes relating to chargebacks to owners for damage, voting methods, and a few other minor items. Stakeholders, including CCI, from across the province were involved over several months and countless hours of meetings with Service Alberta.

While we at CCI didn't get everything we were hoping for, there has been progress, and we can be hopeful that owners will see positive outcomes from this amendment.

One of the news articles about Bill 19 mentions how the new chargeback provisions will help Boards better recoup damage costs. I really wish this had been phrased as condominium corporations, not Boards. There is a sentiment by some people that Boards

have too much power and these changes will cause grief for people who are inappropriately assigned chargebacks. I'll go out on a limb and guess there are more nefarious owners out there than ill-intentioned Boards, so these changes should overall be a positive change for condo owners. There will always be potential for a few bad eggs that expose limitations in the Act and Regulations.

With these latest changes, one of the goals from CCI's input was to make

(continued on page 3) →

# join our mailing list



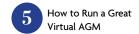
CCI South Alberta Chapter

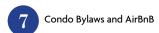
- To keep updated on chapter events;
- To receive updates on industry news and condominium related issues;
- To network with other CCI South Alberta members:
- To sign up for future CCI events.

## in this issue













CCI South Alberta **Chapter Members** 



Notice of Annual General Meeting



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Canadian Condominium Institute South Alberta Chapter

## THE VOICE OF CONDOS IN CANADA

Formed in 1982, the Canadian Condominium Institute is a national, independent, nonprofit organization dealing exclusively with condominium issues and representing all participants in the condominium community

#### **OUR MISSION**

To lead condominium owners and industry members through education and advocacy with integrity and professionalism.

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#### Message from the President

(continuation from page 1)

the new wording in the Act as clear as possible to minimize potential legal disputes and 'grey areas'. In the words of lawyers who are CCI members — they have plenty of work to keeping them busy these days.

If you've been following along with the plethora of Condo Act/Regulation changes over the past 5+ years, you may be wondering about the status regarding a tribunal for condominium dispute resolution. This initiative is supposed to be the final phase of changes to the Act/Regulations. At the time of writing this article, the most recent communication from Service Alberta is that the tribunal will not be proceeding at this time. It simply isn't in the current budget and the government has other priorities. We're disappointed to hear this but can understand that forming a tribunal is a very complex matter. Personally, I'd like to see results and feedback from BC and Ontario's condo tribunals, which are still somewhat in their infancy of implementation. A pause in the planning and rollout of an Alberta tribunal may actually result in more positive outcomes, if we can glean lessons learned and requirements from the other two major condo markets in the country. Even within CCI, there are many opinions about exactly what a tribunal would look like; some foresee the tribunal as a process that avoids the need for lawyers, however some believe lawyers would absolutely be engaged for representation in tribunal process.

On the CCI National front, we had a virtual conference on Saturday May 28, 2022. The topics that were covered included electric vehicles, how to keep delivery parcels safe, and keys to building harmonious neighbourhoods. We look forward to November 23-25, 2022, when CCI National Leadership Forum/Conference meets in person in Kingston, Ontario! More information and registration will be coming soon, be sure to bookmark the link: https://cci.ca/events/2022/11/23/national-leadership-forum-conference.

June was eventful, as we had a couple of in person activities. CCI's annual golf tournament was held on June 7th was held at Bearspaw Golf Club. The day of golf started a little soggy but with great anticipation and enthusiasm! Industry suppliers were matched up with condo board members and property/ condominium encourage insightful conversation in the groups, providing value to both the vendors and condo clients. We held a Mix and Mingle Networking Event on June 23 at the Wild Rose Brewery, and the opportunity to get to know your peers and service providers. Turns out June was a lot of fun!

We look forward to September as we come together again at the Alberta Condominium & Real Estate Conference, September 16th and 17 at the Calgary Telus Convention Center and at our CCISA 2022 Annual General Meeting September 29th, which will be followed by a presentation on Alberta Builder's Lien & Prompt Payment at the BWP: Calgary Plaza Hotel. Both of these events will take place in person.

I'll conclude this message by bringing up inflation (yikes). What does your reserve fund study use for a predicted inflation rate as it relates to future capital costs? Historically, plotting 2% as an average over the funding plan has been the rule of thumb. I only ask this question to stimulate thoughtful consideration for your ownership groups. The current rate of increase is unsustainable over the long term, so one would assume it will come down. In the short term, perhaps owners want to be looking at cost predictions for any large projects in the next few years, and ensure you are well funded to weather cci this inflation storm.

## At a Glance

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (HYBRID) -**

Thursday, September 29, 2022 BWP: Calgary Plaza Hotel

#### FIRESIDE CHAT WITH THE EXPERTS ON

October 27, 2022 Human Resources

November 24, 2022 Roles and Responsibilities of the Board, Condo

Manager & Owners

January 26, 2023 Fully Funded Reserves Vs. Partially Funded

Reserves... do you know the difference?

February 23, 2023 Consequences of Licensed Managers and Brokers

who do not follow the Regulations

March 30, 2023 Bylaw Enforcement

April 27, 2023 Insurance Regulations/Preventative

Maintenance in condos

May 25, 2023 Ask a Lawyer

June 29, 2023 Networking Luncheon: Mix & Mingle Social

\*Please note the CCISA Board has decided to continue virtual events for the time being. Please review CCI South Alberta COVID-19 SAFE EVENTS POLICY on the website

# ! notice

CCI-SA has taken steps to support the temporary social distancing measures currently being implemented to arrest the spread of COVID-19.

Please check our website for updates on events as they become available.

#### **COURSES**

Currently, the CCISA Board has placed providing courses on hold. We encourage you to contact our administrator if your condominium corporation or organization is interested in hosting. A list of courses and descriptions may be found on our website.



# In Memorandum

It is with deep sadness that we announce the loss of a beloved CCI Member and Contributor, Entuitive Principal, Brian Shedden, who passed away suddenly on May 29th.

Brian was not only a colleague but also a dear friend to many of us, and a dedicated leader in our business. He was a key contributor to the Canadian Condominium Institute (CCI) National and both the North and South Alberta chapters of the CCI. He relished the work and time he put in to getting to know members of the organization better. His renowned inclusiveness, kindness, and humour will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts are with Brian's wife, Cheryl, his four children, and his entire extended family. Please feel free to extend your condolences to the Shedden family here: https://okt.to/NnwltR



Scan QR Code to watch a memorial video or go to https://youtu.be/s9gO25uwjeA

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# How to Run a Great Virtual AGM

By By: Mark DiPinto, GetQuorum

ver the past two years, Condominiums and HOAs (Home Owners Associations) across Alberta have needed to alter their Annual General Meetings (AGMs) drastically. Traditionally held in-person and heavily dependent on paper-based voting, the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding restrictions on gatherings have forced communities across the province to move away from in-person meeting formats and transition to electronic voting and virtual meetings.

Initially viewed as a temporary practice until the situation improved by some, many communities have since recognized the upside of using technology for their meetings. As a result, we have seen virtual meetings quickly becoming the preferred method for conducting governance meetings, such as AGMs for all parties involved, despite easing restrictions and our return to pre-pandemic normalcy.

When planning a virtual AGM, ensuring that all attendees have a positive meeting experience should be a top priority.



And while legislation has changed, technology has evolved, and many communities have experience holding at least one meeting virtually, meeting organizers should always ensure they take the proper steps to ensure their AGM is a success. With that said, here are a few tips for running a successful virtual AGM.

# What is a virtual Annual General Meeting?

A virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) is an Annual General Meeting that is conducted through the use of electronic means. The format of a virtual Annual General Meeting mirrors that of an in-person Annual General Meeting; however, electronic means such as webinar software and electronic voting tools are used to conduct the meeting virtually.

# Attendee Experience is a Top Priority

When planning a virtual AGM, ensuring that all attendees have a positive meeting experience should be a top priority. And while simply having attendees join a live stream of the meeting through standalone webinar software might appear adequate, it is wholly insufficient for a majority of AGMs. Without a solution with a feature set that can accommodate your communities unique requirements and

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Using a platform with a capable feature set will significantly reduce the risk of inaccurate attendance tabulations and duplicate entries and actively stop and prevent fraudulent behaviour that can jeopardize the integrity of their meeting and results.

> a designated moderator to ensure the meeting is organized and runs according to plan, providing attendees with a positive meeting experience is a daunting task.

That is why Property Managers and board members should always utilize a virtual meeting platform with a capable feature set and have a designated moderator to ensure all attendees can seamlessly view the meeting, cast ballots, ask questions, and participate equally.

#### Tracking Attendance Accurately is a Must

Accurately tracking meeting attendance is not only required to determine whether or not quorum has been achieved at your meeting. Knowing exactly who is at your meeting is essential to ensuring the integrity of voting results and preventing fraudulent activities.

And while many Property Managers and board members may initially think that they can simply track attendance manually using the attendance tracking feature commonly found in standalone meeting platform's, without a solution that can clearly identify who is in attendance at your meeting, getting an accurate tabulation for your virtual meeting can be a challenge. Not to mention, manually answering questions about who is present, how unit-weight factors for votes should be allocated, or determining whether an attendee has already submitted a proxy vote is a challenging task and simply can not be answered by standalone meeting software like Zoom. That's why Property Managers and board members should always utilize a dynamic virtual meeting platform that can automatically track the registration and appropriately rename virtual attendees, answer voter eligibility questions, and overall streamline the attendance process. Using a platform with a capable feature set will significantly reduce the risk of inaccurate attendance tabulations and duplicate entries and actively stop and prevent fraudulent behaviour that can jeopardize the integrity of their meeting and results.

#### Collecting Accurate Voting Results is Essential

Ensuring the accuracy of voting results is crucial to the

success of your AGM. Without a dynamic voting platform that can accommodate your community's unique voting requirements, Property Managers and board members will manually need to account for factors unique to Alberta Condomunium's and HOAs, like determining the appropriate weight of votes based on the unit factor of each unit and find answers to important questions, like; Who has submitted a proxy ballot prior to the meeting? Is this owner eligible to vote on this matter? And other various questions to ensure the accuracy of

Correctly answering these questions is imperative to the accuracy of voting results. And without having attendees cast their ballots through a voting platform that can answer these questions automatically, finding the answers and having clear, audible recording in case results are contested becomes a daunting, time-consuming task that is prone to errors. That is why using secure electronic voting that can accommodate your unique voting requirements and generate auditable reports on voting tallies is imperative when holding a virtual AGM.

#### **Technical Difficulties Need** to be Resolved Quickly

During this time of remote work and virtual gatherings, technical difficulties are something a vast majority of us have struggled with from time to time. And while frustrating when they arise, failing to resolve these issues quickly can be catastrophic to the efficiency and overall success of your virtual AGM.

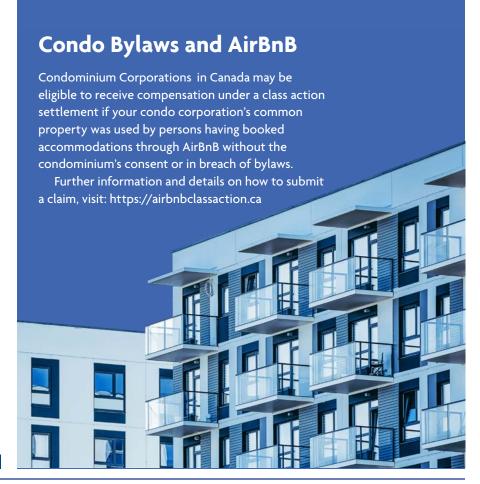
The last thing anyone wants is unresolved or persistent technical issues throughout their communities AGM. These issues can negatively impact the experience for attendees and  $\rightarrow$ 

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prevent activities such as conducting an election from being executed. That is why Property Managers and board members should always opt to use reliable platforms and ensure they have the necessary personnel and resources readily available to solve any technical issues quickly if they arise.

All to say, while many of us are eager to return to in-person gatherings, virtual meetings have proven benefits for Condominiums and HOAs of all sizes and triumph when compared to in-person meetings.

And while it's important to remember that virtual meetings have their own unique set of challenges that must be considered, with the right solutions and proper planning, holding a virtual AGM should be a breeze.



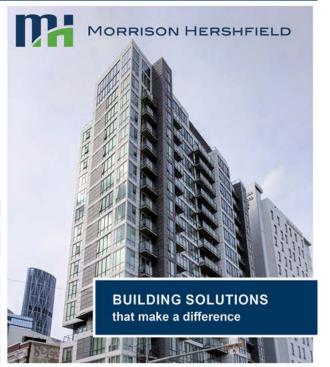
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# So you Need to Update Your Condo Bylaws?

By Gary Caouette, Bylaw Consultants

he first question you probably have is, where do I go from here? Should I take some other condominium corporation's bylaws and modify them for my corporation, or should I update them myself?

The answer is usually no. You should build your bylaws specifically for your corporation and use qualified and experienced professionals to do so, or your bylaws may not serve you as intended. Just as we all wear different-sized clothes, condo bylaws need to fit your condo.

Where do I go for advice?

Some condo managers are pretty knowledgeable, while some are just familiar with the most-used sections of the Condominium Property Act. There are government sources, law firms, and condominium associations that can provide good information on their websites. You will

need to search for what you need and then interpret what you have found, which may not be easy. The process will require many hours of your time, and you may not see all the answers you are looking for.

Consultants and lawyers specializing in the Act and any applicable laws are invaluable and pay for their services many times over when you use them to update your bylaws. You want your bylaws to comply with the Act, stand up to a court challenge, and do what they were designed to do.

# Should I use a consultant or a lawyer?

The answer is you should probably use both, depending on your needs.

Lawyers specializing in condominium property law can address all the legal questions you might have and create bylaws that will stand up in court when needed.

Consultants guide you through the process and ensure that you get bylaws that work for your corporation. Consultants minimize your costs by providing services that a lawyer may not be required for.

Consultants can follow up quickly and provide options and answers to many of your questions.

# Update versus complete rebuild?

If your bylaws are old, have not been ->

Consultants and lawyers specializing in the Act and any applicable laws are invaluable and pay for their services many times over when you use them to update your bylaws.



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updated regularly, are non-compliant, or missing new changes to the Act, they may require a complete rebuild.

If your bylaws have been updated regularly and you want to add a new bylaw or update the recent changes to the Act, they may only require updating.

#### What will it cost?

The cost will depend on what you want to be done and how often you require revisions to each bylaw. Building new bylaws where the Act is silent takes time and research, which may mean extra costs.

Consultants and lawyers may charge a flat fee for services or an hourly rate. Consultants usually charge around \$175 to \$225 per hour, and lawyers charge around \$350 to \$450 per hour. You should budget a minimum of \$7,500 and be prepared to go higher for an entire bylaw rebuild, depending on what you need. (Fees listed in this article are for budgeting purposes only and may not reflect your specific costs).

Get all unit owners involved in the process just before the vote so you can see what they are thinking. What may not be an issue to some unit owners may be a big issue to others.



#### How long will it take?

How long it will take will depend on how long each group in the process returns the required information as the cycle continues. Eventually, the unit owners get to vote in a special resolution. After a successful vote on the updates, the land titles office will need to register the document before it is enforceable.

Expect it to take a minimum of 10 to 12 weeks or six to nine months, depending on how quickly each task is completed.

# Who should be involved in the process?

You have your experienced consultant; you have your experienced condominium lawyer. You have a bylaw committee of three to five people made up of members of the board and some unit owners. Who else is left?

The most important person in this process is the rest of the unit owners. The unit owners will have the final say with their vote. If they are not happy with the revisions, they will not vote yes. All that work for nothing.

Get all unit owners involved in the process just before the vote so you can see what they are thinking. What may not be an issue to some unit owners may be a big issue to others. After getting the unit owners to tell you what they think, you can make revisions that will pass a special resolution vote.

Better bylaws make better-managed properties.

A proper set of bylaws will serve all unit owners well and save your corporation a lot of time and money. One successful court challenge of your bylaws may cover most of the costs of doing it right the first time.



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## Welcome to new members

#### **Individual Member**

Pamela Armstrong
Mark Barnaby
Deborah Bradford
Mark Burnaby
Susan Chittick
Maureen Hendry
Guoying Jiang
Suzanne LeValley
Teresa McDonald
Maria Mulcahy
Patricia Tolppanen
Jim Van Iderstine

**Christopher Wickens** 

#### **Professional Member**

Gary Caouette, Bylaw Consultants
Jeff Alderman, HUB International
Insurance Brokers
Marty Deemter, Motus Consult Ltd.
Stuart Gray, Scott Venturo Rudakoff LLP
Maeve Duggan, Skyline QS Consultants Ltd.

#### **Condominium Corporation Members**

Avenue West End / CC1711770
Copperwood III
Courtyard / CC9011495
Five West Phase II (CC#: 0715974)
North Park Phase 2 (CC#: 8310851)
Riverfront Pointe / CN: 0915127
Rosewood Estates/7910811
Stonewater Corporation /CN: 0714707

#### **Business Partner Member**

Mike Berezowski Alberta Indoor Comfort

Gary Caouette
Bylaw Consultants

Ryan Bedford

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#### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

Pamela Armstrong	Jocelyn Doucette	Guoying Jiang	Maria Mulcahy
Warren Barker	Habiba Elahee	Ernie Johnson	Wendy Noble
Mark Barnaby	Linda Faulkner	Ramsey Kostandi	Frits Pannenkoek
Claire Barnett	Dennis French	Jack Kotyk	Byron Preston
Robert Barradell	Pamela Friesen	Albert Krygier	Cathy Robinson
James Bell	Yves Gagnon	Suzanne LeValley	Martin (Bart) Robinson
Margaret Bell	Shirley Ganong	Laura Lowry	Barry Rosenfelt
Bruce Blight	Terry Gibson	Michelle Lucente	Donna Saari
Deborah Bradford	Nadine Godlonton	Lillian Lupuliak	Glen Schmidt
Linda Brown	Graeme Gorham	Peter Lycklama	Tracy Schuhart
Mark Burnaby	Jonathan Grose	Robert MacLeod	Marie Templeton
John Burton	Jim Haggins	Kathleen McCabe	Patricia Tolppanen
Tannis Carlson	Mark Hambridge	Gail McDermott	Jim Van Iderstine
Susan Chittick	Maureen Hendry	Debbi McDonald	Teresa Van Weele
Therese Cooke	Margrit Henning	Margo McKee	Shannon Walker
Shelley Cooper	Darwin Hoimyr	Patricia Melville	Mairead Walsh
Howard deGa	James Jay	Andrea Morgan	Christopher Wickens
Glenn Dmetrichuk	Maureen Jenkins	Laura Mrochuk	Tom Young

#### cci south alberta chapter members AS OF AUGUST 29, 2022

#### CONDOMINIUM CORPORATION MEMBERSHIP

Agora Condominiums (CP 0010282)

Avenue West End / CC1711770

Braeburn Village

Carefree Resort (CP 8621413)

CC# 9510648 Southridge Village Mall 648

CC#: 8311933 o/a Madison Heights

Champagne Condominium (CC#: 1311832)

Christie Point CC#9512707

Coachway Green CP8211095

Colonial House (CP 9811329)

Condominium Corp #0312860

Copperwood III

Country Lane Estates CC 0311515

Courtyard / CC9011495

Creekside Village CCN 1311195

East Glen Horizon Village (CC#: 8810578)

Eau Claire Estates (CP# 8310913)

Evergreen Village (CP 8911305)

Evolution (CCN 1512254 519)

Ezra on Riley Park

Fairway Greens Condominium (cc 90111137)

Fairway Village Condominiums (CC# 9910225)

Fish Creek Ridge II /7911483

Five West Phase II (CC#: 0715974)

Gateway South Centre CC #0614475

Gladstone Village (931 2049)

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Groves of Varsity CC # 141 1334

Hays Farm IV (CC#: 7710419)

Heritage Bay CC #8010872

Heritage Manor (CP 8011110)

Hidden Hollow Villas CC #9910257

Hunter House - CCN 1412638

Lynnwood Village CC #7710274

Manor Homes of Inverness (Site 1)/ 9610460

Mesa at Crystal Shores 9840 CC No. 0510521

Mountain View Place CC #1410478

North Park Phase 2 (CC#: 8310851)

Norwood Grande

Oakfield Park Villas No. 0413768

On the Park Condos - Condo Corp

Park Place (Condominium Corporation #1310141)

Park Point #1811544

Pine Pointe Place (CP 982 0328)

Point on the Bow (#9910641)

Poplar Green (CC#: 0012525)

Redberry Ridge Condominium (CC# 0915066)

Riverfront Pointe / CN: 0915127

RiverReach Condominium (Corp No. 1312207)

Rosewood Estates/7910811

Roxboro House (CC: 7810681)

Sanderson Ridge Condominium Corporation/ 091 2007

Scenic Gardens Condominiums #9410573

Sheep Creek View Condominium (CC#: 0910178)

Sierra Morena Villas (CC#: 9510122)

Sierras of Country Hills (CP 0012058)

Sierras of Tuscany

Southridge Village Mall (CC#: 9512009)

Stella Nova (CP#: 0414396)

Stonewater Corporation /CN: 0714707

Sunrise Heights Villas (CC#: 0811379)

Sunvale Place Villas (Condo Corp#: 1513108)

The Estates at Terrace View (CCN 0711493)

The Owners Condominium Plan 9210296

The Sierras of Richmond Hill (CC#: 9511939)

The Tudors at the Landings (CP 0311055)

The View at Sunrise (CC#: 0712458)

Townhomes of Peacekeepers Way CC# 0614675

Tuscarora Manor

Varsity Towers (OCP# 8912018 OP)

Villas at Parkview Estates CCP# 9413081

Villas of Gleneagles

Wellington Retirement Residence Partnership (No 051-3792)

West Condo (CC#: 0811706)

Westchester Pointe Garden

Whitehorn Village Retirement Residence (CP 0210329)

Whitmire Villas NE



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# CONDOMINIUM SERVICES

#### INCLUDE:

- Reserve Fund Studies
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- Technical Audits
- Investigations and Testing
- Energy Audits and Incentive Grant Assistance
- Building Rehabilitation Project Design and Coordination in Occupied Properties
- Mechanical and Electrical Systems Upgrades and Repairs

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Organization	Name	Phone	Email
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Condominium Financial	Jim Critchley	(403) 669-9516	jimcritchley@condominiumfinancial.com
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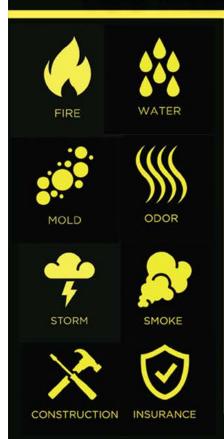
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# Notice of Annual General Meeting

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Call meeting to order
- 2. Calling of the roll and certification of proxies
- 3. Proof of notice or waiver of notice
- 4. Approval of Agenda
- 5. Approval of September 30, 2021 Minutes
- 6. Reports of Officers
- 7. Financial Report
- 8. Appointment of Auditors
- 9. Election of Board of Directors
- 10. Old Business
- 11. New Business and Question Period
- 12. Adjournment

September 29, 2022 11:30 am – 12:00 pm

Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre 1316 - 33 Street NE

NOTE: CCI South Alberta's Annual General Meeting will take place in person. If you cannot attend the meeting in person, we encourage you to complete the Proxy Form and forward it to the CCI South Alberta Administrator.

To view all AGM documents, use the new log in provided on your 2022-2023 Official Membership Receipt, which was forwarded by email with your Membership Certificate. Please email the CCISA office if you require assistance. Documents include:

- · Notice of Annual General Meeting
- Call for Nominations Information
- Consent to Stand/ Nomination to Stand for Election
- Proxy 2022
- Draft 2021 AGM Minutes: September 30, 2021
- inancials 2022
- Letter to the Members from Ryan Coles, CCISA President

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# Residential Security Companies -They are worth it!

By Jennifer Mahoney, HKS Security Group

'n Canada, a property crime occurs every 3.8 seconds (burglary, vandalism, arson, and unregistered guest entry). The numbers add up to almost 200 burglaries per hour and nearly 5000 per day. This is just one statistic you should consider when securing your property.

- 1. Most unregistered guests live within two miles of their target property. Insiders are unlikely to commit such a crime in a crowded building. The fact that they operate in their own neighbourhood allows them to easily locate potential victims and strike at the right time. Night or 24hour guards are key.
- 2. 60 per cent of unregistered guests choose to target an alternative building if your building has a 24/7 guard. Residential security will deter unregistered guests from coming into your complex, and they will focus their
- **Every building** needs a security plan in place if it's targeted by theft, vandalism, arson, and unregistered guest entry. attention elsewhere.

- 3. A security system that provides 24-hour protection will help protect your property from intruders. The idea of an open, safe environment is immediately taken away when you have a 24/7 guard on duty.
- 4. One-third of unregistered guests can be attributed to the tenant leaving the door unlocked or ajar. Unregistered guests are immediately dissuaded from exploring a building with security guards to look for unlocked or ajar doors.
- 5. Unregistered guests target large and small properties. Unregistered guests will only take 10 minutes in an apartment. That's partly because they target property that is easy to break into. Buildings that are guarded and patrolled minimize this risk.
- 6. Unregistered guests approach the front door in more significant numbers than any other entry point — this is more than any other entry point. Many people forget to lock the front entryway or make sure no one enters when they enter or leave. Having security guards in the lobby will scare off unregistered guests. Every building needs a security plan in place if it's targeted by theft, vandalism, arson, and unregistered guest entry.

### Warding off water damage:

# The Risk of Water Leaks is Abundant, So Are Preventative Solutions

By Ayman Ashebir

s the rapid growth of condominium living in Canada continues, corporations and their suite owners need to be on alert for an omnipresent danger: water damage.

According to Statistics Canada, the share of condominiums among newly built dwellings has increased five-fold since 1980 with as much as 30 per cent of residents in cities like Vancouver and Toronto residing in condos by 2016. For condos housing hundreds of residents, easily addressable leaks of some form can occur at any given moment, whether from a leaky faucet, drain, or appliance. As buildings age, however, there is an increased risk of more significant leaks and floods that can result in considerable water damage.

A KPMG study for the Canadian Institute of Actuaries highlights two primary areas of concern related to the increase in property damage claims: the rise of people living in condominiums and ageing infrastructure. Many condo residents reside in late-twentieth-century buildings that grapple with underlying plumbing and mechanical systems reaching or surpassing their estimated useful life.

The Autorité des marchés financiers in Quebec identified water damage as the leading cause of insurance claims, while internal data from Aviva Insurance found water damage claims doubled over a ten-year period ending in 2012.

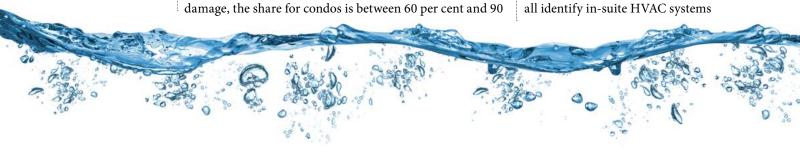
While residential home and commercial owners reported 40 per cent of insurance claims being related to water damage, the share for condos is between 60 per cent and 90 per cent, according to KPMG's study. Unlike in single dwellings where the impact is limited to that home, leaks in condos can become more substantial and widespread.

#### Sprawling water damage

Even mid-size condos often have more than 100 suites, all with their own set of appliances, plumbing fixtures, and HVAC systems. A broken washer, or leak in the fan coil or vertical heat pump of a suite on the ninth floor, can impact suites several floors below.

Recent news reports of sprawling water damage in Canadian condos have illuminated troubling causes such as faulty gaskets, frozen pipes and plumbing failures, all of which impacted multiple units.

Just as condo corporations and suite owners need to cautiously maintain their plumbing and appliances, proactive maintenance of in-suite HVAC systems is also critical. The Canadian Institute of Actuaries, Chubb Homeowners Study, and the Privilege Underwriters Reciprocal Exchange all identify in-suite HVAC systems



#### condo insider

as a leading area of concern for water damage. Looking at fan coils, for example, here are some of the ways leaks and floods can occur:

- 1. Over time, drain pans rust and corrode, potentially creating holes for water to escape.
- 2. Deteriorating insulation within the fan coil cabinet can lead to debris falling into and potentially clogging the drain pan, drain hose, and condensate lines.
- 3. When turned off for extended periods of time during the winter, the pipes and coils can freeze and burst, leading to significant water damage.
- 4. As risers expand and shrink throughout the year, considerable strain is placed on the valves which can lead to leaks and cracks over time.

#### Water damage claims climb

As water damage claims rise Services Authority reports that in 2020, insurance premiums for strata (condominium) corporations in the province increased by about 40 per cent while a Deloitte report on B.C.'s insurance market found water damage deductibles increased by 135 per cent.

According to a 2021 Home Insurance Price Index published by LowestRates.ca, condo insurance rates for suite owners also increased, with year-over-year increases in Ontario, Alberta, and B.C. of 8 per cent, 23 per cent, and 34 per cent respectively, all while residential home insurance rates decreased.

To get water damage claims and rising insurance premiums back under control, corporations and suite owners need to take preventative measures.



Unfortunately, while the damages can be catastrophic, adequate in-suite care remains low.

A 2019 Chubb Homeowners' Risk Survey found that only 20 per cent of homeowners completed even a single water-related risk mitigation activity, and only 19 per cent completed regular inspections of their HVAC systems. In truth, this is more an issue of awareness rather than purposeful neglect. A lack of knowledge was among the principal reasons for the inattentiveness, highlighting the need for increased guidance so corporations and suite owners can use preventative measures to strengthen their protection.

Educating communities about risks Evidently, education is the key to getting ahead of the curve. In addition to actively maintaining plumbing and mechanical systems under its purview, a corporation should take an active approach to educate its community on the need for each suite owner to properly maintain their appliances, plumbing, and in-suite HVAC systems.

Many suite owners are unaware of simple, yet vital, safety tips like keeping their HVAC systems running while on extended absences. Corporations can share knowledge and best practices through notice boards or interactive displays, newsletters, general meetings, and welcome packets provided to new owners.

Corporations should also raise awareness for necessary maintenance, repair, and retrofit work where needed. Semi-annual maintenance services for fan coils often include the removal of debris and water tests for clogs and leaks. Modern components like flood sensors and automatic shutoffs can be added to older plumbing and mechanical systems as helpful safeguards.

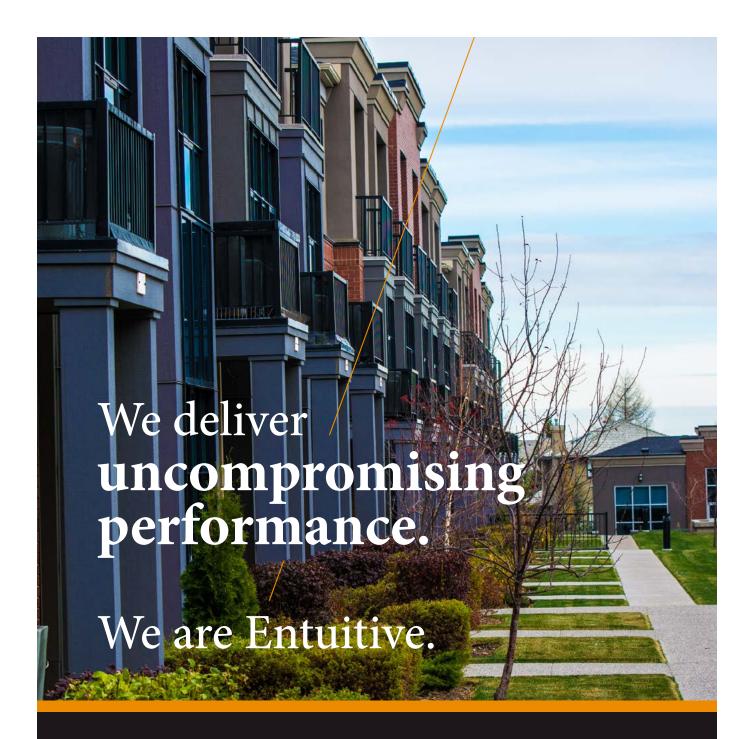
Corporations can engage the original equipment manufacturer to provide condition assessments of ageing equipment and estimate its remaining useful life.

In ageing buildings where a complete retrofit is the best course of action, owners should be alerted to the risks of inaction before it's too late.

Ultimately, while the risk of water damage is pervasive, so too are the preventative solutions. And through increased knowledge, shared community awareness and due diligence, many of the risk factors of water damage can be avoided.

Ayman Ashebir is currently the director of sales at Unilux CRFC Corporation. He can be reached at ayman@uniluxcrfc.com / Company Website: www.uniluxcrfc.com

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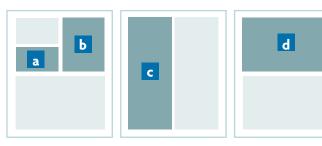
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Summer	May 30	June 30

# production requirements

The CCI Review provides the following specifications to ensure the highest quality for ad reproduction:

- colours must be converted to RGB;
- minimum resolution of 300 dpi for all images;
- completed ad must be submitted as high resolution PDF or EPS;
- all ads, except full page ads, must have defining border on all sides;
- do not use crop marks;
- ensure all artwork is embedded and all fonts are set to outlines.

# advertising submission

Advertising in the CCI Review is now even easier! Please go to <a href="https://conventionall.swoogo.com/ccisa\_review22-23">https://conventionall.swoogo.com/ccisa\_review22-23</a> and complete the online form. With your contact information, ad size, and the edition(s) you would like your advertisement to appear in selected, you directly upload the advertisement and an invoice/receipt is generated immediately. By streamlining the process CCI South Alberta is able to better mitigate a timely delivered newsletter quarterly! Questions or concerns, can be forwarded to: admin@ccisouthalberta.com.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

https://ccisouthalberta.com/sites/default/uploads/files/CCI SA-Sponsorship2022-2023-FINAL.pdf