

# VISOA SUPPORTS RECOMMENDATION OF ALL PARTY COMMITTEE

December 2, 2008

In its recently released report on Budget 2009, the all-party Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services has recommended that the provincial government consider "Committing to an immediate review of the strata property legislation." The Vancouver Island Strata Owners Association (VISOA) strongly supports this recommendation. One in four properties in the province and one half of all properties in the lower mainland and Victoria are directly affected by strata legislation.

The recommendation for an "immediate review" arose from concerns brought to the attention of the Committee by both VISOA and strata homeowners across the province. The Committee was presented with a broad range of strata homeowner concerns, including:

- Lack of a publicly available authoritative source of legislation interpretation to enable strata owners to operate their strata corporations according to law,
- Inaccessible dispute resolution mechanisms,
- Lack of any requirement to ensure that the financial position of the strata corporation and the condition of its common property are accurately disclosed,
- Lack of prosecution of developers operating contrary to law, and
- Extremely weak standards for licensing and discipline of strata property agents.

Further details of strata owner concerns can be viewed at [www.visoa.bc.ca](http://www.visoa.bc.ca) under *Legislation Issues*.

"We believe that the Committee's recommendation demonstrates support from both NDP and BC Liberal members for a meaningful review of legislation that is not currently meeting the needs of strata homeowners", said Tony Davis, VISOA President. "VISOA is preparing to participate in the government's strata legislation review and will be cooperating with other homeowner associations in the process. This review has the potential to produce legislation that will significantly improve strata living for thousands of homeowners across the province", he said.

VISOA is a non-profit organization that has provided information and education services to strata homeowners and strata councils on Vancouver Island since 1973. It is independent of both government and the real estate industry.

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