



# VIREB

VANCOUVER ISLAND REAL ESTATE BOARD

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COMMERCIAL DIVISION



VIREB Commercial Council for 2007: from left, Chair Jay Cousins, Past Chair Ralph Walker, Councillor Dave Hammond, Vice Chair Guy Bezeau.

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Commercial Division completes first year, holds first ever AGM**

NANAIMO – The Commercial Division of the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB) has completed its first year, holding its first ever Annual General Meeting and naming a new Commercial Council for 2007.

**Jay Cousins** is the Chair for 2007. He is joined by Campbell River's **Ralph Walker**, Past Chair; Vice Chair **Guy Bezeau** from Ladysmith; and Councillor **Dave Hammond** in Nanaimo.

"Even though the division is in its infancy, there were many accomplishments throughout 2006," Cousins told the nearly 30 commercial practitioners attending the AGM at the Grand Hotel in Nanaimo.

"This included a mini Strategic Planning Session, creating a new commercial logo, hosting several professional development events and mapping out the key objectives of the division."

Past Chair, **Dale McCartney** was recognized for his dedication and service and presented with a plaque.

Cousins says the aim of the Commercial Division is to serve the specialized needs of REALTORS® who assist buyers and sellers with commercial properties. 50 commercial practitioners on Vancouver Island north of Victoria have been targeted to join.

"The perception in the business and developer community is that commercial practitioners are held to a very high standard," Cousins says. "By forming the commercial division and joining the network of 5,200 commercial practitioners in the National Commercial Council (now the Canadian Council of Commercial REALTORS®), we are ensuring the continuity in maintaining that standard," he says.

Cousins explains objectives for 2007 includes continuing to promote the benefits of membership.

"We want to see increased networking events and a continued focus on education and marketing," he says.

"We're planning on a continued presence with other boards through things like BC Commercial Council and the Canadian Council of Commercial REALTORS®. We'll be attending some Canadian National Commercial forums both to bring back ideas and trends, and we'll be exploring starting our own commercial website."

VIREB represents approximately 1,090 licensed REALTOR® members in more than 80 member offices on Vancouver Island (north of Victoria).

- 30 -

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