

For Immediate Release
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2009 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT INQUIRY AND APPEAL RESULTS

VICTORIA – BC Assessment has recorded significant decreases in both public inquiries and property appeal statistics in response to the 2009 assessment roll.

BC Assessment values approximately 1.85 million properties in nine separate property classes. The taxable value of the 2009 assessment roll is \$953 billion, an increase of \$13 billion or 1.41 per cent over the 2008 assessment roll.

The following points highlight key results for the 2009 assessment inquiry and appeal period from January 2 to February 2:

- 30,613 public inquiries were received province wide at 18 BC Assessment area offices, a reduction of 37 per cent over last year's total of 48,373. The majority of customer inquiries are received by telephone (24,851) followed by email, in-person, fax and regular mail.
- 7,764 letters requesting assessment reviews by the Property Assessment Review Panel (delivered through regular mail, email, fax, or in-person) were received. This is a reduction of 57 per cent over last year's total of 18,241 letters requesting reviews. Most requesters used BC Assessment's online appeal form.
- These requests contained a total of 18,978 individual property appeals, a reduction of 35 per cent over last year's total of 28,966 individual property appeals. The number of individual appeals is much higher than the number of letters requesting reviews because many letters ask for a review of the assessments of several properties.
- 206,286 people visited BC Assessment's website between January 1 and January 31, 2009. Most visitors used the e-valueBC online search tool that enables property owners to compare their assessment to similar properties anywhere in B.C. as well as other properties that have sold in their neighborhoods. During the same period last year, 299,128 people visited the website.

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The following table provides detailed 2009 assessment roll statistics for BC Assessment's 18 regional offices:

Assessment office	Total public inquiries	% decrease over 2008	Total records (letters) of appeal	% decrease over 2008	Total folio (property) appeals	% increase or decrease over 2008
Capital (Victoria/Gulf Islands)	2,974	-24.4	891	-58.4	1,243	-48.2
Central Vancouver Island	3,162	-41.7	429	-73.6	1,112	-42.1
Courtenay	1,443	-47.7	259	-65.3	435	-47.3
Vancouver	3,978	-30.6	1,547	-39.2	4,620	-16.0
North Fraser	1,572	-41.6	394	-63.8	1,107	-42.9
Richmond/Delta	1,169	-41.6	254	-65.8	1,089	-46.7
Surrey/White Rock	1,380	-41.6	424	-43.2	1,670	39.5
Fraser Valley	2,018	-50.4	783	-53.8	1,992	-15.7
Penticton	1,482	-20.5	202	-64.6	493	-40.7
Kelowna	2,469	-26.6	852	-23.9	839	-11.6
Vernon	1,257	-43.0	298	-65.5	766	-37.1
Nelson/Trail	1,003	-48.4	142	-64.9	530	-1.9
East Kootenay	1,115	-32.5	174	-68.2	350	-63.9
Kamloops	1,610	-13.3	212	-72.6	519	-39.7
Cariboo (Williams Lake)	680	-53.6	171	-68.8	314	-49.4
Northwest (Terrace)	720	-22.8	87	-81.7	218	-66.0
Prince George	1,675	-38.4	505	-53.5	560	-45.3
Peace River (Dawson Creek)	906	-35.4	140	-72.5	1,121	-64.2
TOTALS:	30,613		7,764		18,978	

Note: These numbers may vary slightly until the appeal period closes on March 16, 2009.

Property Assessment Review Panels (PARP) are appointed and administered annually by the Ministry of Community Development to hear formal complaints (appeals). February 2 was the deadline to an appeal to PARP. Reviews are held between February 3 and March 16. For more information on the PARP process, visit www.cd.gov.bc.ca/parp/ or www.bcassessment.ca.

Last November, the B.C. government passed the *Economic Incentive and Stabilization Statutes Amendment Act* in order to provide stability for property owners concerned about property values during an economic downturn. This legislation required 2009 assessments to reflect the value of a property as of either July 1, 2007 or July 1, 2008, whichever date provided a lower value.

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