

INSURANCE COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Notice To All Licensees

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING LEGISLATIVE CHANGES COUNCIL TO BE GRANTED RULE MAKING AUTHORITY

In May 2004, revisions to the *Financial Institutions Act* (“Act”) received Royal Assent. The amended Act is expected to be proclaimed in December 2004. This will result in the Insurance Council of British Columbia (“Council”) being given rule making powers that relate primarily to licensing requirements, including education and experience prerequisites and licence conditions, that are now in the Insurance Licensing Regulation under the Act.

While not yet complete, the government is drafting a regulation that will govern how Council makes rules. The proposed regulation will require that Council publish draft rules and then allow a 60 day period for industry to provide feedback to Council. Once all comments have been considered, a final draft of the proposed rules will be prepared. These recommendations, along with comments received, will be provided to the Minister of Finance for consideration. A rule must have the Minister’s approval before it comes into effect.

Council views this change as an opportunity to streamline the licensing process by eliminating administrative requirements that no longer provide a regulatory benefit.

Implementing these changes involves a two step process as the amendments to the Act cannot be proclaimed until rules to replace the existing requirements have been approved by the Minister. Therefore, in keeping with the proposed rule making regulation, Council is publishing a consultation document which contains the draft rules and will be available no later than September 16, 2004. After analyzing all submissions and making subsequent modifications, a final draft will be submitted to the Minister for consideration.

To obtain a copy of the consultation document:

- visit our website where you will find a link on our Home page;
- call our main telephone number to access our Fax-On-Demand system, and request document number 96; or,
- call our office to request a copy be mailed.

Council strongly encourages all interested parties to obtain a copy of the draft rules and submit written feedback by following the instructions provided in the consultation paper.

Council’s contact information is located at the bottom of this page.