

# Condominium Home Owners Association

A non-profit association serving strata owners since 1976

Bulletin: 300-001

## Condo Smarts

Headline: Condo guy to the rescue

Topic: CHOA intro

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Condo owners were left high and dry when the B.C. government ended its Superintendent of Real Estate condominium services this summer.

What should they do if a new neighbour cut a skylight hole in the roof for his unit without asking permission? Could people really be fined for having a dog? Who was suppose to pay for a new fence around the property?

Questions like these deal with the ongoing issues of condo and strata life and once the provincial office ended its condo services, they had to be referred to a tiny scattering of condominium associations that weren't set up to handle the increased demand for information.

Enter the Condominium Home Owners' Association, which was founded in 1976 and is an independent, non-profit organization with professional staff and services.

The workload at CHOA leapt from an average of 35 calls a day to 80 calls after the provincial office closed and now the number has skyrocketed to more than 120 call a day.

"We've been smokin'," say Tony Gioventu, CHOA executive director. "For the most part, our staff has been working six to seven days a week just to maintain the call loads."

Next Friday, Gioventu launches Condo Smarts, a new column in the *Province Fabulous Homes* section, which he hopes will help ease the strain on confused condo owners.

"More than 50 per cent of the residences in B.C. are strata titled," says Gioventu, who column will include both the horrible and the heartwarming stories of strata ownership, update readers on strata law and give condo dwellers a heads-up on how to avoid problems in the first place.

"Strata has had a rough road in B.C. recently," he says. "The purpose of our organization is to show how to make a strata a positive living experience, how to make it a good investment, how to protect that investment, how to cure conflicts before they become serious – and how to build good communities."

For more information on CHOA resources and benefits visit [www.choa.bc.ca](http://www.choa.bc.ca)  
or contact the office at 1-877-353-2462 or email [office@choa.bc.ca](mailto:office@choa.bc.ca).

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