



Professional Engineers  
and Geoscientists of BC

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For Immediate Release

## News Release

### **COLLABORATION AND COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC PROTECTION KEEP BC SCHOOL KIDS SAFE**

VANCOUVER—Today marks the UN's International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC) is affirming its commitment to disaster reduction in BC. Together with the BC Ministry of Education and Western Economic Diversification Canada, APEGBC's Seismic Peer Review Committee consisting of nine APEGBC members have created a performance-based approach in assessing schools for the purpose of seismic upgrades. Eight hundred and fifty schools have been assessed to date. This performance-based approach has also been applied to develop life-safe, cost-effective seismic retrofit design concepts for use by professional engineers who have extensive experience in the seismic engineering of buildings in BC. Twenty-six seismic upgrade projects have been completed, are underway or have been approved. In addition, another 62 schools are undergoing feasibility studies for seismic upgrade.

In recognition of their efforts, APEGBC's Seismic Peer Review Committee will be formally recognized at the Association's Annual President's Awards in Whistler on Oct. 26, 2007. This will mark the first occasion that a committee has been formally recognized for its substantial and innovative contributions to public safety in BC.

The focus of the UN's 2007 International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is education. In 1989, the General Assembly of the UN designated the second Wednesday of October as the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction to promote a global culture of natural disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

Founded in 1920, APEGBC is the licensing and regulatory body for professional engineers and geoscientists. With over 24,000 members, APEGBC is one of the largest professional associations in BC. From mineral exploration to seismic safety, APEGBC is dedicated to protecting the public and the environment through setting and maintaining high standards of entry and professional practice. APEGBC regulates the professions of engineering and geoscience under the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*.

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