

Dave Barclay



Kelly Lerigny: Creating a Better Quality of Life

Actions speak louder than words, Kelly Lerigny never has to say a thing.

Personally and professionally, Kelly is a committed volunteer who cares about her community and works diligently to improve it. As her colleague and friend, I've been fortunate to witness her ability to turn ideas into reality.

...what's good for BC and British Columbians is good for real estate.

For several years, Kelly and I have worked together as real estate volunteers. She began with the Chilliwack and District Real Estate Board in 1996 and was elected president in 2000 and 2001. Since 2002,

we have served together as Directors of the British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA), where Kelly has chaired several committees and task forces and is now the Vice President.

Looking at the facts of Kelly's accomplishments is impressive. But dig a little deeper and you really get a sense of her dedication.

Two years ago, while on a fact-finding mission with representatives from the Washington Association of Realtors, we learned about a program called "Quality of Life." At the time, BCREA was transforming its government relations and communications programs; "Quality of Life" sounded like just the branding we were looking for.

Kelly's enthusiasm for the concept was infectious; she has since chaired two task forces to help the Association customize "Quality of Life" for BC and Canada.

What has this meant for the real estate profession? In May 2004, BCREA officially adopted Quality of Life as a philosophy to guide the Association. Very simply, it means that the real estate profession is committed to improving Quality of Life in BC by supporting growth that encourages economic vitality,



Kelly Lerigny (left) with City of Chilliwack councillor Sharon Gaetz, discussing a Sri Lankan home-building project the community is undertaking

provides housing opportunities, and builds communities with good schools and safe neighbourhoods.

The essence of the philosophy is contained in five principles that reflect this basic statement and the values in which Realtors have always believed—that is, what's good for BC and British Columbians is good for real estate. Now the Association is introducing the philosophy to the provincial government and other decision-makers to establish the common ground necessary for making the improvements envisioned in the philosophy.

Recognizing the power of Quality of Life, Kelly has been a tireless advocate. Her current BCREA task force has created a framework for implementing the philosophy for the provincial association.

The BCREA task forces have also provided a forum for sharing ideas with other provincial real estate associations, which led to Kelly's participation on the Ontario Real Estate Association's Quality

of Life Task Force and the creation of the Quality of Life Provincial Group, consisting of representatives from across the country.

The Quality of Life philosophy immediately resonated with Kelly because it's how she lives her life. She has always taken citizenship seriously and now much of her activism is carried out under the Quality of Life banner.

In 2004 she worked with the Chilliwack and District Real Estate Board, encouraging the municipality to adopt a bylaw to help stem the tide of marijuana grow-ops. In 2005 she contributed again by supporting the Board in its endorsement and financial assistance of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. DARE is a community-policing initiative that works to prevent substance abuse and reduce violence among school-age children by helping them recognize and resist social pressures to experiment with tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

Beyond the world of real estate, Kelly and her husband Steve, also a Realtor and the current Vice President of the Chilliwack and District Real Estate Board, are big supporters of Chilliwack Community Services and Ducks Unlimited. They also participate in their church's leadership and training initiatives, with a focus on marriages and marriage mentoring. They are clearly exceptional role models for their friends, colleagues, families, and their grown daughter Kate.

I've never known anyone more consistent in thought and deed or anyone more committed or enthusiastic about improving their community. Kelly Lerigny is truly a positive, driving force. I can hardly wait to see where her passion will take her next. ▲

Dave Barclay is President of the British Columbia Real Estate Association. He is a Smithers-area Realtor and former president of the BC Northern Real Estate Board.

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