

**Rick Evans**



## Mentoring among BC Notaries

In the Spring 2002 issue of *The Scrivener*, Marny Morin, a Notary Public practising in Vancouver, provided a quotation from The Mentoring Group based in California. The Group described mentoring as “the process in which successful individuals go out of their way to help others establish goals and develop the skills to reach them.” The group went on to state that mentoring can help a person “acquire skills, open doors, increase confidence, widen your perspective, avoid many errors, otherwise enhance your career and life, and help your organization succeed.” The Society of Notaries Public of BC embraces the concept of mentoring, both for its existing members and for Notarial students.

Notaries have long been encouraged to be available to assist other Notaries with practice issues and to seek out assistance when needed. As a result, BC Notaries co-exist in a friendly and cooperative manner.

Approximately six years ago, The Society established a mentoring

“hotline.” This is a direct line to me as Education Coordinator. My function is to assist Notaries with practice questions. Well used, the “hotline” averages 40 to 50 calls per month.

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Notary students are also matched with mentors during the time they are completing the Notary Preparatory Course. The purpose of this form of mentoring is to introduce the students to the practical aspects of what they are learning and to have them experience the day-to-day activities that take place in a Notary’s office. In other words, it allows the students to put their theory to the test. Equally as important, the students have an early opportunity to meet with and come to know a practising Notary Public.

In many respects, teaching is a form of mentoring; it embraces the second quotation found in the first paragraph above. For many years I instructed real estate licensees in their Post-Licensing Course on the drafting of the contract of purchase and sale. While this gave new licensees the chance to expand their knowledge, it gave me the opportunity to expand mine, as well. There is no better way to learn than by instructing.

The student/instructor relationship is very much a symbiotic one. Each assists the other in comprehending the course material and relating the material to its practical application. This is mutual mentoring.

Besides the thrill of instructing, teaching potential Realtors became one of the best forms of marketing I could have ever imagined. ▲

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