

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT APPEAL BOARD LICENCES TECHNOLOGY TO ALBERTA

The Property Assessment Appeal Board (PAAB) is about to reap the benefits from licensing technology to Alberta.

The Technology:

In 1999, PAAB developed an advanced Oracle database and office automation program which incorporates:

- case management system (for tracking appeals, workflow management);
- document management system, including document production, automated distribution, electronic filing and recovery of all appeal documents;
- Web interface for filing appeals, posting appeal statuses & Board decisions;
- Management and statistical reporting.

As a result the Board members can manage their caseloads and correspond with parties in a paperless environment.

This case management technology has been adopted and modified by a number of other BC Boards, Tribunals and Ministry programs.

The Licensing Deal:

In March 2004, BC signed a licensing agreement with the software developer (OA Holdings Inc.) to produce for Alberta a software application largely based on PAAB's Property Assessment Appeal Management System. Alberta will upgrade and enhance PAAB's application for their property assessment appeals handled by the City of Edmonton and the Alberta Municipal Boards.

Staff from BC's Intellectual Property Program (IPP) negotiated the deal whereby BC retains ownership of the core technology used in the Alberta system and enhancements and modifications made by Alberta.

The Benefits:

The IPP program structures licensing agreements which will retain ownership of the Province's intellectual property, protect the Province from potential liability, and potentially secure royalty payments.

All revenues from disposal of intellectual property, including annual license fees, are received by IPP. A portion of these revenues may be distributed to the ministry with responsibility for the licensed material (the source ministry). Traditionally, the source ministry has received up to 50% of the net revenue.

It is up to the tribunal or board to negotiate with the source ministry on whether or not the revenue is added to the tribunal/board's base budget.

The key benefit to the Property Assessment Appeal Board is access to new technology enhancements that Alberta will be developing. Alberta will spend in the order of \$1 million on the new appeal system. PAAB is keenly interested in acquiring new features, including more advanced scheduling and reporting and a legal opinion database. These features will come from Alberta to BC with no licensing costs, such that PAAB will only have to fund any necessary adaptations to incorporate the new features.

More Information contact:

Steve Guthrie
Registrar
Property Assessment Appeal Board
Phone: 604 775-3122
Email: Steve.Guthrie@gems1.gov.bc.ca

Victoria Heasman
Manager of Intellectual Property
Intellectual Property Program
Phone: 250 356-9153
Email: Victoria.Heasman@gov.bc.ca