

# Firm building training centre for energy-efficient excellence

By Martin Cash

A Winnipeg company specializing in quality assurance for the construction industry is building a training centre in Winnipeg specializing in energy-efficiency techniques.

Building Professionals Consortium (BPC) is in the process of completing the details on securing a downtown Winnipeg building of about 100,000 square feet for the project, which could become a centre of excellence for energy-efficient construction.

Ryan Dagleish, BPC's vice-president for business development, said the centre could help alleviate some of the skilled labour shortage the construction industry is currently experiencing.

"We're trying to do our bit to help," he said in an interview yesterday.

He said the centre is being envisioned as a mixed-use concept with designers' and contractors' offices on site, as well

as some residential elements to the building. The latter is being included, Dagleish said, for people who enrol in the training programs from out of town.

"We've had a lot of interests from construction companies and trades associations."

Dagleish said a building has been identified, but would not reveal its location because closing details have not been completed. There is concern that an on-going shortage of skilled construction workers might hamper the fairly intense construction schedule in Winnipeg during the coming 12 to 24 months.

Bill Thiessen, the business development officer of CentreVenture Inc., which assists in the redevelopment of downtown locations, said it has shared information with Dagleish.

"We have not seen a detailed business plan," Thiessen said, "but it sounds like a great idea."

Late last month, BPC was awarded a

contract to run a program for energy-efficiency retrofits across the country.

It will manage the quality assurance program for Building Professionals Quality Assurance Program, a recently formed independent organization. BPC has been running a pilot program for a B.C. building contractors association and is also launching similar programs in Alberta and Ontario.

Dagleish said BPC has been specializing in quality assurance programs as they relate to energy-efficiency renovations and retrofitting for several years. He said it is the only company in North America doing so.

Wayne Bollman, president of the Manitoba Home Builders Association, said, "BPC has been members of our organization for some time but the company really doesn't do a lot of work in Manitoba."

With the federal government's EnerGuide for House Retrofit incentive program now available for homeowners who



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**Ryan Dagleish says the centre could help alleviate the skilled labour shortages the construction industry is currently experiencing.**

are investing to make their houses more energy efficient, Dagleish said his company's service can give consumers some confidence when they select the contractors to do the work. He said they expect to get the service up and running in Manitoba early in the new year.

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