



Manulife Financial Business Centre certified by BOMA Canada ***Updated green building certification program unveiled at BOMEX 2008***

(Vancouver, October 2, 2008) The Manulife Financial Business Centre, at 2723 Joseph Howe Drive in Halifax, was recognized last night as a BOMA BEST Level 3 certified building by the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of Canada.

BOMA's newly integrated program, which combines the Go Green and Go Green Plus initiatives, acknowledges excellence in environmental building and standards. Called BOMA BEST, it includes four possible levels of certification. BOMA BEST Level 3 buildings, such as Manulife Financial Business Centre, meet all of the BOMA Go Green best practices and achieve 80 - 89% on the Go Green Plus assessment. Buildings at this level of certification have higher performance and demonstrate excellence in management.

"BOMA Canada is proud to honour the people at the Manulife Financial Business Centre for their commitment to operating in an ecologically responsible manner," said Diana Osler-Zortea, BOMA Canada President. "They deserve a round of applause for leading the way."

BOMA Canada hopes that the program's enhanced accessibility and simplified application procedure will better serve the industry, facilitating performance improvement and helping building owners and managers to reduce their carbon footprint.

"BOMA BEST is about providing a quality certification program, a cost-effective way to make buildings more environmentally friendly and cut operating costs," Osler-Zortea added. "It's also a great learning opportunity, since participants evaluate their own facilities through the online questionnaire. They find out where they're at, and what best practices and recommendations they can implement to improve their performance." BOMA BEST also ensures that each applicant building is evaluated by a third-party verifier.

The program currently focuses on commercial buildings, but new assessment criteria are being developed for shopping centres, industrial and retail strip developments and multi-unit residential properties.

The inaugural BOMA BEST awards were presented at BOMEX 2008 in Vancouver. Twelve buildings from across Canada were recognized during the gala. Details on all twelve buildings are available at: www.bomabest.com/news.html.

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*The **Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)** of Canada is the voice of the Canadian commercial real estate industry with over 2,500 members in regional associations across Canada. On behalf of the building owners, managers, developers, facilities managers, asset managers, leasing agents, brokers, and the product and service providers to over 1.9 billion square feet of commercial real estate in Canada, BOMA Canada addresses*

issues of national concern, and promotes excellence in the industry through information, education advocacy and recognition.