



Professional Engineers  
and Geoscientists of BC  
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# NEWS RELEASE

**Contact:** Wayne Gibson, P.Eng.  
Director, Communications  
Phone: 604-430-8035  
Fax: 604-430-8085  
E-mail: wgibson@apeg.bc.ca  
#200 – 4010 Regent Street  
Burnaby, B.C. V5C 6N2

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**For Immediate Release**

## **BC's Professional Engineers Meet OECD's Challenge to Improve School Seismic Safety**

**BURNABY, B.C.** BC's professional engineers are working to keep our children safe from the risks posed by earthquakes in British Columbia. Recent tremors have reminded us again of the importance of addressing seismic safety in a timely manner.

Individual engineers in British Columbia, together with the academic and regulatory communities, are advising governments to act quickly to ensure the seismic safety of schools by developing and implementing new technologies. The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia, in cooperation with the provincial Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia, is working to address this issue in a timely and cost-effective manner through the application of new technologies, methodologies and advanced training programs for engineering professionals undertaking seismic risk assessments.

Andy Mill, P.Eng., Chair of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC's Seismic Risk Task Force, will participate in an OECD press conference about school seismic safety on Tuesday, August 3, 2004 at 12:30 pm in Room Five of the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre as part of the 13<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Earthquake Engineering.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's news conference will focus on their recent report *Keeping Schools Safe in Earthquakes*. Dr. Carlos Ventura, P.Eng. of UBC's

Department of Civil Engineering will be a guest on a panel of world experts who helped develop the report.

The OECD's report on school seismic safety (available to journalists on the web at <http://www1.oecd.org/media/journalists/journalists.htm> ) calls upon all participating countries to significantly lower seismic risks to prevent injury and death by improving building design and construction, quickly and at a reasonable cost.

APEGBC will continue to work with the provincial and national governments to take a leadership role in addressing school seismic safety in British Columbia.

For further information please contact:

Andy Mill, P.Eng., Chair, APEGBC Seismic Risk Task Force	604-984-3503
Dr. Carlos Ventura, P.Eng., Director, Earthquake Engineering Research Facility, University of British Columbia	604-822-6946

***The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C. is the authority responsible for licensing over 19,000 engineering and geoscience professionals throughout British Columbia, and ensures the health, safety and welfare of B.C. citizens through the promotion and enforcement of the highest standards of practice. Only licensed professional engineers and professional geoscientists are permitted to practise engineering and geoscience in B.C. under the provisions of the Engineers and Geoscientists Act.***