

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT APPEAL BOARD



ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 6, 2022

New interactive application pilot launched

The Board has released the first interactive application of its kind in British Columbia. The Pilot Project - called the Equity Evaluator - provides the power of Artificial Intelligence to residential homeowners. If you have an appeal with the Board, you can [try the application](#).

“The interactive, animated journey deals with a common concern of homeowners in our appeals – the equity (or fairness) of their assessment”, notes Simmi K. Sandhu, Chair - Property Assessment Appeal Board. “This is another tool developed by the Board to assist in understanding appeal issues such as equity which can be complicated and misunderstood in property assessment.”

The application analyzes the homeowner’s specific equity case and evidence. It then:

- Evaluates if the assessment may be reduced and by how much;
- Cautions where the homeowner might have trouble in their appeal;
- Gives an estimate of any property tax savings.

This pilot project is a partnership between the Property Assessment Appeal Board, the Better Justice Lab of [Access to Justice BC](#) and the [Centre for Digital Media](#). Access to Justice BC funded the project - targeted to move online justice services to a whole new level.

Five students from the Master’s program at the Centre for Digital Media were engaged to develop the application. We challenged the students to deal with a serious appeal issue for the public, but deliver online services in a much more engaging way. They did so with an animated journey through BC’s outdoors, with instructive videos and interactive feedback along the way. [Meet the students](#).

The Board's main objectives of this pilot are to provide the public with sophisticated, leading edge technology so they can make more informed decisions:

- How do I obtain better evidence?
- What are the challenges with my appeal?
- Will my assessment likely be changed with my evidence?
- What are the cost – benefits?
- Ultimately, should I continue with my appeal.

Better information and thorough analysis will encourage more resolution of property assessment disputes without expensive and time-consuming adjudication. For cases that still go with adjudication, these tools will allow homeowners to present better evidence for a better decision.

The Board is asking homeowners who use the Equity Evaluator to provide feedback so it can fine tune the application for future years and decide if similar applications for other appeal areas will be beneficial.

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