



BRITISH COLUMBIA
REAL ESTATE
ASSOCIATION

For immediate release

December Home Sales Mark Strong Finish to Record-Setting Year

Vancouver, BC – January 16, 2006. The real estate profession ended last year on a high note, as home sales in December remained well above 2004 levels and helped solidify new records for 2005.

The British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) reports 5,698 homes, worth more than \$2.02 billion, were sold in the province on the Multiple Listing Service® (MLS®) in December—a 21.52 per cent increase in dollar volume and a 3.9 per cent hike in the number of units sold during the same month in 2004. Ten of the 12 real estate boards reported at least a double-digit percentage increase in dollar volume sales over December 2004; nine reported a boost of at least 25 per cent.

“December tends to be among the quieter months in terms of real estate sales, but last month was very busy for realtors throughout BC.” said BCREA President Dave Barclay. “We’ve seen significant increases in dollar volume sales since the summer, and that trend continued all the way through the holiday season.”

Last month’s figures further increased the year-end records in dollar volume and unit sales that had already been broken in November. In 2005, more than \$35.3 billion and 106,290 units were sold, easily surpassing the 2004 record of \$27.8 billion and 96,352 units (see table below).

“These records are a clear indication of how strong the real estate market has been over the past year,” said Barclay. “British Columbians are confident with our economy and see real estate as a sound investment. We look forward to another active year in 2006.”

A study prepared by Clayton Research Associates Limited found the average BC home sold on the MLS® between 2002 and 2004 triggered an estimated \$27,873 in additional spending, including legal fees, moving expenses, furniture and appliance purchases and taxes.

BCREA represents 12 member real estate boards and their more than 15,000 realtors on all provincial issues, providing an extensive communications network, standard forms, government relations, required post-licensing courses and continuing education. To demonstrate the profession’s commitment to

improving Quality of Life in BC communities, BCREA supports growth that encourages economic vitality, provides housing opportunities and builds communities with good schools and safe neighbourhoods.

For detailed statistical information, contact your [local real estate board](#). MLS® is a cooperative marketing system used only by Canada's real estate boards to ensure maximum exposure of properties listed for sale.

Multiple Listing Service® - **December 2005** - BC Residential Sales Data

	Dec. '05 Residential Sales (\$)	Dec. '04 Residential Sales (\$)	Per Cent Change	Dec. '05 Residential Sales (Units)	Dec. '04 Residential Sales (Units)	Per Cent Change
Provincial Totals	2,025,770,575	1,667,008,882	21.52%	5,698	5,484	3.90%

	Residential Sales (\$)	Per Cent Change	Residential Sales (Units)	Per Cent Change
2003 Record	\$24.2 billion	22.5%	93,211	12.6%
2004 Record	\$27.8 billion	15.0%	96,352	3.2%
2005 Record	\$35.3 billion	26.8%	106,290	10.3%

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For more information, please contact:

Dave Barclay, President, 250.847.5999 or 250.847.0365

Kyle Thom, Communications Coordinator, 604.742.2784