Important news from the MLS® & Technology Council – be ready for June 26!

The MLS® and Technology Council has informed us that June 26 is the day all of the Canadian Real Estate Association's (CREA) data load changes take effect, as data standards is phased in. At the same time, new versions of mls.ca, ICX.CA and the CREA Membership Management System (MMS) will also be launched.

Meanwhile, CREA has been installing new servers and software to improve performance of the existing infrastructure. These new facilities were to be brought on-line with the June releases, but unfortunately the increase in website traffic became too great and CREA had to rush in additional upgrades earlier than planned. This work has now been completed and it is anticipated that the existing versions will remain stable as testing and fine-tuning is completed for the June releases.

Beginning May 25th, the Board can access a beta site to test how the various enhancements impact the display of our property listings or membership information. We can then suggest corrections or make comments to help improve the upcoming launch for members. This is important, because we do not have to make a single change to our upload to take advantage of the new versions of the websites. CREA has carefully mapped the data to the required new fields.

Details on the June 26, 2007 launch include:

- Version 4.0 of mls.ca will include an improved Advance Search, Open Houses, and a redesigned Property Listing page.
- Version 2.0 of ICX.CA will include a new Splash page with search features, a new improved Search page, and a redesigned Property Listing page based on the property type.
- Version 2.0 of the CREA Membership Management System (MMS) will provide enhanced REALTOR® search features for both websites. A board or association can add info about languages, designations, etc., which members and consumers can then use as search criteria.
- Version 4.0 of IXN™ (an extended database for REALTORS® only) will include the same improved Advance Search for REALTORS®. Dozens of new data fields are being added, including historical data.

CREA has been planning these major changes for a long time. They've been tested with both members and with consumers, with the expectation that the enhancements will help keep the technology products relevant for members and effective for consumers. The documentation that details these changes, including the changes to the CREA data load, is posted on CREA's Technology page on REALTOR Link® (see Technical Resources button). The documentation will be revised throughout the testing period.

You can access MLS® through your mobile devices

A mobile browser version of bcmls.net is now available. Members can access a specially-designed webpage — http://mobile.bcmls.net — for quick and easy access to listing information. If you are in your vehicle and don't have access to a computer, you can use the site to search by address or MLS®# or to receive a hotsheet of the current day's listings.

The new program works on any cellphone or PDA browser released in the past two years. BCREA's Technology Committee tested it with iPaqs, Palm TREOs, UT Starcomm, and Blackberry 8703 models.

The program is free for members, however, depending on your service provider, device or contract, charges may be incurred when you access the Internet from your mobile device. To save on bandwidth, it is advised that you disable photos.

Comments or questions? Contact the Help Desk at 604.730.3020.