

## **Notaries on Douglas Sabrina Hanousek BA, Notary**

### **What is a Notary Public and what do they do?**

*A question asked of Notaries almost every day*

Historically, Notaries Public, (the correct plural of Notary Public), were the principal agents, scribes, and scribes for commercial and judicial law. Currently, Notaries in BC, are legal professionals providing an alternative to lawyers, practicing within clearly delineated areas of law.

These areas include:

- Real estate transfers
- Conveyancing
- Manufactured home transfers
- Mortgage documentation and refinancing
- Wills and powers of attorney preparation
- Attestation of signatures
- Authentication of documents
- And administration oaths.

A Notary's strength is in preparing accurate, reliable legal documents assisting the British Columbia public. Before candidates can begin training for a career as a Notary Public, they must submit to a scrupulous review of their personal, financial, educational and business background. This screening reviews their character, reputation and integrity.

Training for a career as a Notary Public involves an intensive, multi-phased programme conducted through the faculty of Commerce at the University of British Columbia. The program spans sixteen months on the academic and practical aspects of Notarial practice, including: Wills and Estates, Powers of Attorney, Representation Agreements, Land Transfers Conveyancing Procedure, Authentication and preparation of International Notarial documents. A series of seminars, including training as a mediator, directed and supervised The Society of Notaries Public must be completed prior to the candidate writing six Government examinations. Upon successful completion, Notaries are appointed by the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

All members of the self-governing Society of Notaries of British Columbia carry mandatory errors and omissions insurance of not less than \$1,000,000.00. Further protection is provided by the Society's special fund set up to compensate any member of the public who has suffered financial loss through misappropriation of trust funds by a member of the society.