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**Lower Mainland-Southwest building permit values down in July**  
*Commercial drop and residential dip lead regional building permits declines*

**VANCOUVER, September 9, 2013** – Total building permit values in the Lower Mainland-Southwest region fell 20 per cent in July 2013 from June 2013, according to Vancouver Regional Construction Association's analysis of today's Statistics Canada Building Permit Report.

"Building permits values in the Lower Mainland-Southwest region declined in July led by a large drop in commercial permits and fewer residential permits," said Jan Robinson, interim president of the Vancouver Regional Construction Association (VRCA). "Commercial permits fell back to the recent trend following a surge in June. Non-residential permits saw large gains in the smaller industrial and institutional-government sectors, however."

Total permit values in July 2013 fell 20 per cent to \$542.6 million compared to \$675.9 million in June 2013. Non-residential permits dropped 34 per cent to \$139.9 million in July from \$212.8 million in June. Commercial permits declined 52 per cent to \$81.8 million from \$171.3 million, while institutional-government permits jumped 100 per cent to \$19.5 million, and industrial permits rose 21 per cent to \$38.6 million. Residential permit values decreased 13 per cent to \$402.6 million from \$463.1 million during the same period.

"Commercial and multi-unit residential permits are volatile month-to-month," said Robinson. "Commercial activity going forward will likely continue to be very project specific rather than a wholesale market-wide investment resurgence."

Total building permit values were 12 per cent lower at \$4.03 billion from \$4.55 billion in the first seven months of this year compared to the same period last year. VRCA's 2013 forecast for total building permits is likely a decline from 2012 led by fewer residential and government permits. Commercial and industrial permits may provide some offset since market conditions are generally favourable.

Regional Building Permit Highlights:

- Total permit values in July 2013 declined 20 per cent to \$542.6 million compared to \$675.9 million in June 2013.
  - Total non-residential permit values dropped 34 per cent in July 2013 to \$139.9 million compared to \$212.8 million in June 2013.
    - Commercial permits fell 52 per cent to \$81.8 million in July.
    - Institutional-government permits jumped 100 per cent to \$19.5 million from \$9.7 million in July.
    - Industrial permits rose 21 per cent to \$38.6 million in July.
  - Residential permit values were down 13 per cent \$402.6 million in July 2013 compared to \$463.1 million in June 2013.
- Total building permit values were 12 per cent lower at \$4.03 billion from \$4.556 billion in the first seven months of this year compared to the same period last year.
  - Total non-residential permits were 33 per cent lower at \$1.014 billion compared to \$1.514 billion last year.
  - Permit values were one per cent lower than last year at \$3.016 billion compared to \$3.042 billion last year.

With close to 700 members, VRCA is British Columbia's largest and most inclusive regional construction association, representing union and non-union, general and trade contracting companies, manufacturers, suppliers and other professionals throughout the Lower Mainland from Hope to Whistler.