

OMREB-KREB MATRIX® TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have heard rumours that the Kootenay Board (KREB) has joined OMREB?

No, both Boards remain independent operations, but have entered into a technology partnership with OMREB hosting and maintaining an MLS® system on KREB's behalf.

2. Why partner with KREB?

Early in 2012, KREB approached OMREB about forming a technology partnership to facilitate a transition for their membership to OMREB's MATRIX® system. Their Directors and MLS® Committee wanted to move from their MLS® current platform (MLXChange) which they consider is at the end of its life cycle.

Given their membership size, and the number of projects that CoreLogic® (owner of MATRIX®) had already committed to, they were looking at a significant delay in being able to implement a change to the MATRIX® system. It was suggested that if they partnered with OMREB utilizing our skills and experience, they would be able to leverage change for their Members sooner and move forward more quickly.

3. What kind of agreement do we have and who is paying for the transition?

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the two Boards outlining roles and responsibilities as well as costs for KREB to join OMREB's MATRIX® system and for OMREB to manage the project in the transition phase. KREB is covering all the costs of the transition including OMREB's IT Manager's time commitment as the Project Manager and training time for their staff. OMREB's "train the trainer" method allows training of KREB Members to be conducted by a single KREB Staff person via webinar.

4. Will this affect my monthly OMREB dues?

Member REALTOR® fees will remain the same.

5. What's in it for OMREB?

OMREB is excited about this partnership. Once the system is functional for KREB Members, they will pay a fee per member to OMREB. The effective impact is as if OMREB will have 350 more users utilizing and paying for our MLS® system.

6. Won't this put a strain on OMREB's Help Desk Staff and make it harder for OMREB Members to get assistance?

KREB will maintain its own Help Desk so the impact on OMREB Staff in the longer term is miniscule.

7. How will this impact OMREB Members?

There will be little impact on OMREB Members other than a change in the URL for MATRIX® to a regional name: matrix.interiorbc.ca. Each Board will maintain a separate homepage on MATRIX®, and KREB MLS® data will be partitioned within the database.

8. Will OMREB Members be able to see/search KREB listings and will KREB Members be able to see/search OMREB listings? If Kootenay listings are entered into our MLS® database, won't they get mixed up?

No because KREB MLS® data will be separate from OMREB's -- partitioned within the database. While both Boards will be able to search KREB and OMREB listings, KREB Members won't be able to input data in OMREB and OMREB Members won't be able to input data into KREB. A system check will be in place to prevent this.

9. Will we see anything new or different in MATRIX besides the log-in screen?

- **Association Field:** A new Association field will be added with search controls for each Board. There will be no overlap between sub-areas for KREB and OMREB.
- **Maps – Jump to Location Menu:** The list will be larger as it will include Kootenay towns and areas.

10. What effect will the change have on Inter-Board Listings? As a Member of OMREB, will I now be able to take listings in the Kootenay Board area and input them into the Matrix® MLS® system?

You can still take listings in the Kootenay Board area, but you must continue to follow the rules and procedures around Inter-board listings -- the same process that exists today. There will not be direct access for OMREB Members to input listings into the KREB side of MATRIX®, just as KREB Members will not have access to the input privileges for the OMREB side.

11. When does this partnership happen?

The go-live date for the KREB Matrix® MLS® system is April 2nd, 2013.

12. What is the long-term gain for either Board?

OMREB fully expects that working together with our neighbouring Board in such a productive manner for the benefit of all our members will be a shining example of service unification between Boards and a giant step forward towards effective governance of MLS® systems in this province.