



An update from CHBA BC's Government Relations Committee

June 2016 | Issue 6

## Changes to the Minimum Wage

In May, Premier Christy Clark announced that the provincial minimum wage will rise from \$10.45 to \$10.85 in September, and will rise again to \$11.25 in September 2017. See the release using this [link](#).

The small business tax rate will be lowered from 2.5% to 1.5% in 2017 to offset these increases for businesses. The provincial government will also be contributing \$2.38 million from the Federal Canada Jobs Grant to help small businesses train unemployed British Columbians.

Last year, Minister Shirley Bond announced that the minimum wage would be tied to the consumer price index (CPI) so that businesses could plan for steady and regular adjustments. While these increases are larger than expected, and is not tied to CPI, two years of increases will allow small and medium sized businesses to plan ahead. CHBA BC would like to see future minimum wage increases tied to an index such as CPI.

## Coalition of BC Businesses meet with Ministers, MLAs and Staff in Victoria

On May 17-19 members of the Coalition of BC Businesses attended meetings and events in Victoria. CHBA BC representatives included CEO Neil Moody, president Gordon Bliss and government relations chair Ron Rapp.

With the Coalition, Neil attended meetings with Minister Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour, and Minister Coralee Oakes, Minister of Small Business, Red-Tape Reduction and Minister Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch. The Coalition also hosted two receptions for both MLAs and legislative staff members respectively that were well attended and a big success.



Image: Gordon Bliss, Ron Rapp, Minister Rich Coleman and Neil Moody meet at the Minister's office in Victoria.

CHBA BC also held two additional meetings on May 18 with Minister Rich Coleman, Deputy Premier, Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing, as well as a meeting with representatives from the Building Safety and Standards Branch. Both meetings were a great opportunity to discuss member issues from across the province first-hand.



Image: Premier Christy Clark and Neil Moody speak at an event.

## Ongoing Issues and Updates

**Homeowner Protection Act:** For warranty issues and repairs, the money that is offered for replacement materials and services goes to the homeowner, and not the builder who initiated the claim. We have brought forward these concerns to the Homeowner Protection Office for review.

**BC Hydro:** We are working with BC Hydro to address escalated member concerns. Any members who are still experiencing issues should contact our office [by email](#).

**WorkSafeBC and Asbestos Removal:** We formed a sub-committee to study this topic and we will report on its activities and progress in future issues.

**Telus:** Members had indicated concerns about working with Telus on their development sites. Telus has recently launched a [New Market Operations team](#) to work directly with developers and improve their service levels.

### Member Feedback

Are you experiencing any issues with government that are impacting your business? Member feedback is accepted and encouraged on an ongoing basis, which helps to direct the actions of the CHBA BC Government Relations Committee. If you would like to share any potential issues for committee discussion, please [email](#) Alycia Coulter, CHBA BC Coordinator, Government Relations and Communications.