



An update on CHBA BC's government relations activities

November/December 2017 | Issue 17

News from the Provincial Legislature

Pre-budget report now available

The next provincial budget will be delivered on February 20, 2018. CEO Neil Moody and other stakeholders presented to the all-party Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government in October 2017 as part of the pre-budget hearings. Read the committee's report [here](#).

Premier John Horgan indicated on November 30 [at a news conference](#) that housing will be a top priority in the February budget. He also indicated it will include initiatives to increase the supply of two and three-bedroom units.

Ongoing Consultations

Submit your feedback for the next BC Codes

CHBA BC members are invited to participate in the codes consultation process for the BC Building, Plumbing and Fire Codes. A link to the survey and information regarding the proposed changes is available on this [website](#).

Recent Events and Meetings

Fair Wages Commission

The provincial government is consulting on a pathway to a \$15 minimum wage. The Coalition of BC Businesses, which CHBA BC is a member of, jointly presented to the Commission on November 23 asking for reasonable and predictable increases to the minimum wage.

Discussion on asbestos

Neil Moody attended a cross-ministry roundtable on asbestos in late November. CHBA BC advocates that any changes to the asbestos regulations should consider cutting extra red tape and ensuring costs do not go up.

Housing Partnerships Conference

CHBA BC attended a Housing Partnerships Conference on December 7 and 8, hosted by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. This conference discussed challenges with building affordable housing in the province. Common themes included approval times, zoning, and partnerships.

Photo: CHBA BC 1st Vice President Matt McCurrach, the Hon. Selina Robinson, Alycia Coulter and Neil Moody discuss housing issues at the event. (Photo: Gov't of BC Flickr)



Annual BC Cabinet Luncheon

On December 8, Neil Moody, President Lynn Harrison and Alycia Coulter attended the annual BC Chamber of Commerce Cabinet Luncheon. CHBA BC representatives were seated with Ministers Melanie Mark, Rob Fleming and Jinny Sims respectively. CHBA BC also had the opportunity to briefly speak with Premier John Horgan at the event.

CHBA BC Open House

CHBA BC held its annual open house on Friday December 15. It was a pleasure to have the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, the Hon. Melanie Mark, stop by the event and host a brief discussion on trades training with builders.

Photo: CHBA BC President Lynn Harrison, 1st VP Matt McCurrach, Minister Melanie Mark and CHBA BC CEO Neil Moody during the Open House.



National Updates

National Housing Strategy released on November 22

The new strategy has a significant focus on the social housing spectrum and details large investments in new units, which will require partnerships with provinces and cities. However, CHBA was pleased to see a portable housing benefit that will be tied to an individual and not a unit. This ensures qualified recipients can relocate without fear of losing the income support. A YIMBY (Yes In My Backyard) campaign was also included, which is positive.

Federal Pre-Budget Consultations

On December 1, Neil Moody and Alycia Coulter attended the federal pre-budget consultation for Vancouver Centre, hosted by the Hon. Dr. Hedy Fry to provide input from the BC perspective. The federal budget will be delivered in early 2018.

Alycia Coulter named Manager, Government and Public Relations

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Alycia Coulter has been promoted to **Manager, Government and Public Relations**. With CHBA BC's new Strategic Plan 2017-2020, Alycia's new role will help fulfill the key priority objectives of the plan that calls for additional emphasis on government relations and public relations. Alycia was previously Coordinator, Government Relations and Communications.