



An update from CHBA BC's Government Relations Committee

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CHBA BC Actions on the Drywall Tariff

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) invoked the Special Import Measures Act on September 6th, 2016, making a preliminary determination of alleged dumping with respect to certain gypsum board (drywall) originating from the United States to Western and Northern Canada. Therefore, CBSA has imposed a provisional duty on drywall ranging from 105.2% to 276.5%. For a detailed summary of the issue, [view this link](#).

CBSA is within its mandate to impose this tariff, but the Canadian Home Builders' Association and CHBA BC believes the imposition of astronomical duties is not in the public interest and will adversely affect the industry and housing affordability. CHBA BC has contacted several Members of the Legislative Assembly directly on this issue to express its concerns, and provided ongoing information to relevant provincial stakeholders on the issue. CHBA National will be speaking to the Canadian International Trade Tribunal during the Injury Inquiry in Ottawa later this year before a final decision is made on the tariff in January.

A recent survey has been provided to members in Western Canada to help quantify the adverse impacts of this tariff. Please contact [Jason Burggraaf](#) at CHBA National if you did not receive the survey link. Members are also encouraged to contact their local MP or MLA directly – a template is available in the members-only section of the [CHBA website](#).

CHBA BC meets with provincial and municipal stakeholders at Union of BC Municipalities event

The annual Union of BC Municipalities event (UBCM) Convention was held Sept. 26-30 in Victoria. Housing was one of the primary topics for delegates, including sessions on private/public housing success stories, short-term rental sites, BC's contribution to the National Housing Strategy and the new BC Energy Step Code.



Image: Prov. Cabinet Ministers Hon. Shirley Bond (Labour), Hon. Todd Stone (Transportation), Hon. Mike de Jong (Finance), Hon. Amrik Virk (Technology), and Hon. Andrew Wilkinson (Advanced Education) participate in a UBCM panel on Strong Economy and Jobs.

During the week, CHBA BC also participated in meetings and conversations with provincial cabinet ministers, MLAs, and councillors on policy opportunities to address housing affordability and the recent drywall tariff.



Image: Neil Moody and Alycia Coulter from CHBA BC speak to Premier Christy Clark at UBCM 2016.

New federal mortgage rules impact first-time buyers

On October 3, federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau announced a series of proposed changes to federal policies and legislation affecting mortgage loan insurance, mortgage lending rules, and tax treatment of capital gains from principal residences for foreign buyers.

CHBA advocates that the prime objective of federal housing policy should be to support stability and predictability in Canada's housing markets and housing finance system. CHBA has undertaken analysis of the mortgage rate stress test and is very concerned about the impacts on first-time home buyers and slower markets. [Click here to view](#) the latest economic report on this issue.

CHBA BC Pre-Budget Submission

A pre-budget submission has been sent to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services as part of the province-wide consultations for the 2017 budget. [Click here](#) to view the CHBA BC submission.

Ongoing Issues and Updates

HPO Warranty Insurance: A meeting was held with HPO and warranty providers in September. This issue was raised at the meeting and CHBA BC will be following up on this issue with the warranty providers to continue the discussion.

BC's Energy Step Code: Representatives from CHBA BC continue to participate in stakeholder discussions on the implementation of the step code next year. CHBA BC continues to advocate for voluntary incentives and affordability during the meetings.

Reconstruction Loan Program: We have recently raised this issue directly with the Minister for Small Business in BC.

The CHBA BC website has been updated with a new Current Issues page. This new page will provide ongoing updates of all key issues that CHBA BC's Government Relations Committee is working on. Check it out [here](#).