



A bi-monthly update from CHBA BC's Government Relations Committee

April/May 2015 | Issue 3

New Mandatory Education Requirements for HPO Builder Licensing

As announced on March 4, mandatory education requirements are now a prerequisite for builders applying for, and renewing licensing through the Homeowner Protection Office (HPO), a branch of BC Housing, to construct homes under Part 9 of the B.C. Building Code.

As an approved training provider, CHBA BC's seven core training courses have been recognized as meeting the new mandatory education requirements. For information on how to satisfy HPO's training requirements, [click here](#).

CHBA BC's CEO Neil Moody has been on a roadshow throughout the province alongside HPO's VP and Registrar, Wendy Acheson, to provide [free information sessions](#) on the enhanced licensing system. During these sessions, HPO is also collecting feedback from attendees for consideration during implementation. More than 1,600 builders registered for the sessions. *Neil Moody at HPO session*



A Builder Advisory Council and Builder Qualification Committee comprised of volunteer industry experts will be established to provide expert industry advice to the HPO and on the implementation of builder qualifications and other strategic initiatives that affect licensed residential builders. For more information, read HPO's [letter to licensed residential builders](#) and [FAQs](#).

New BC Building Act

On February 12, 2015 Minister Rich Coleman introduced the *Building Act* to establish more consistent building requirements throughout BC, with the exception of the City of Vancouver.

The *Building Act* is the result of years of industry advocating for a uniform building code, including of course the efforts of CHBA BC in our ongoing consultation with the Ministry. Past President, Nathan Stone and CEO, Neil Moody recently participated in the Modernization Review Group during the development of the proposed legislation.

Highlights of BC Building Act:

- BC's first Act dedicated solely to building and construction
- Affects all local authorities that enforce the BC Building Code
- Only the Province can set building requirements
- Comes in to force by regulation with 2 year transition periods
- Building Official minimum qualifications that require exams and continuing professional development.

To read the full news release, [click here](#). You can also find the first reading of the full legislation by clicking [here](#).

BC Hydro's Commitment to Service Improvements

CHBA BC has been working closely with BC Hydro over the last 5 months, directly communicating membership concerns over recent service levels. BC Hydro has been proactively responding to concerns and has implemented changes to improve service as a result.

Some of the changes include:

- Improved customer communications to initiate projects earlier
- Providing developers with key contact information
- Issuing a customer letter and guide to the Customer Build Program for all current and past customers/developers
- Initiated a LEAN review of entire Customer build process, with a target of 20% reduction of project cycle times

For areas in the Lower Mainland, Design Connect coordinators will be issuing clearer quote letters, outlining project timelines, and tracking milestones and commitments for design projects.

CITT Public Interest Inquiry: Concrete Reinforcing Bar

The Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT), in its [procedures](#) looking at concrete reinforcing bar imported from China, Korea, and Turkey, will be holding a Public Interest Inquiry in BC commencing July 27, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. (exact location TBD). Any parties wishing to participate in the public interest inquiry and at the hearing must file a notice of participation with the Tribunal no later than May 19, 2015.

Next Steps: CHBA BC's next step is to engage in the public interest inquiry by gathering a number of voices from our membership to speak to the impact the tariff would have on your business here in BC.

For more information on the Public Interest Inquiry, and CHBA BC's letter submission and stated position on this procedure, [click here](#). If you are interested in participating then please contact Neil Moody at neil@chbabc.org before May 18, 2015.

Are you receiving CHBA BC's *Provincial Update*?

To receive the weekly e-newsletter [Provincial Update](#) and to be sure you are kept abreast of trends and issues in B.C.'s residential construction industry and the work of CHBA BC, [you must opt-in by subscribing](#).

If you have any questions, or if you are not receiving the newsletter after opting-in, please contact Vanessa Joehl for assistance at vanessa@chbabc.org.