



An update from CHBA BC's Government Relations Committee

January 2016 | Issue 4

Changes to the New BC Building Act

The Hon. Rich Coleman, Minister Responsible for Housing introduced the *Building Act* in February 2015. The act is the result of years of CHBA BC and industry stakeholders advocating for a uniform building code.

One of the main changes in the new act is establishing consistent building requirements between provincial and municipal authorities. From now on, as per Section 5 of the Act introduced on December 15, 2015, the Province is the sole authority to set building requirements (except in the City of Vancouver and on federal lands and reserves). Visit this [link](#) to learn about the *Building Act* and recent changes.

Minister Coleman attends Fall meeting in Vancouver

CHBA BC held its annual fall provincial meetings on September 24-25 in Vancouver. Minister Coleman attended a roundtable discussion with builders and provided an update on opportunities that will result from LNG projects, the new *Building Act*, and other policies that influence the residential construction industry.

BC Hydro's Commitment to Service Improvements

CHBA BC continues to work closely with BC Hydro and communicate membership concerns over service levels. We appreciate the efforts of BC Hydro as a proactive partner in this process and the resulting changes to improve service for our members. Please advise our office if you are experiencing issues in the future.

CHBA BC meets with Ministers in Victoria

CHBA President Simon Howse, Vice President Gordon Bliss and CEO Neil Moody met with senior government officials in Victoria on October 6 and 7, 2015. The two-day events included a meeting with Minister Coleman and Deputy Minister Jeff Vasey to discuss housing affordability. Moody and Howse also met with the Hon. Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines and Responsible for Core Review. *(From left to right; CHBA BC CEO Neil Moody, Hon. Rich Coleman, CHBA BC Vice President Gordon Bliss and CHBA BC President Simon Howse)*



Additional events were organized by the Coalition of BC Businesses. Moody represented CHBA BC in the meeting with the Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour, and the

Hon. Coralee Oakes, Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Minister Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch. That night, Moody attended a reception that included 40 MLAs and offered the chance to discuss housing issues and further strengthen the presence of CHBA BC.

Pre-Budget Submission sent to Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

In October 2015, CEO Neil Moody sent a 2016/17 pre-budget submission that outlined several recommendations to help address housing affordability and contribute to jobs and economic growth. CHBA BC continues to advocate for an increase in the threshold of Property Transfer Tax and reduced government-imposed costs on new housing at all levels of government. To read the submission, click [here](#).

Upcoming Issues

We will be discussing these issues at our next Executive Committee meeting and will provide any updates in future issues of the *Advocacy Update*.

Homeowner Protection Act: When legitimate repairs take place, the money that is offered for replacement materials and services by the manufacturer goes to the homeowner, and not the builder who initiated the claim. Homeowners are not under any obligation to sign or transfer the money, which means that in some cases the builder must wrongly accept the full cost of the repair to avoid penalties.

WorkSafeBC and Asbestos Removal: The classified risk of drywall removal is not consistent across Canada. Some provinces classify the removal as Type 1 (normal dust control) but in BC it is considered to be a Type 2 operation (moderate risk). Some research has indicated that little or no asbestos fibres are released during the demolition and the costly Type 2 precautions may be unnecessary.

Telus: Telus is currently not servicing new residential developments in BC. This is impacting our builders within the province who may have to proceed without any TELUS services.

Welcome to the Team!

We are very pleased to welcome Alycia Coulter as the **Coordinator, Government Relations and Communications** effective January 5, 2016. If you have any questions or issues, Alycia can be reached at 604-432-7112 ext. 302 or by e-mail at Alycia@chbabc.org.