

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two-year transition period for Section 5 of the new *Building Act* now underway

BURNABY (December 16, 2015) – One of the main changes in the new provincial *Building Act* that became law in March 2015 was the introduction of the concept of consistency of building requirements between provincial and municipal authorities. This section of the Act is being phased in; the two-year transition period began on December 15, 2015. Going forward, the Province is the sole authority to set building requirements (except in the City of Vancouver and on federal lands and reserves). This move will streamline the building regulatory system.

“This has been a long time coming and we’re very pleased to see this section of the Act begin to take effect,” said Canadian Home Builders’ Association of BC CEO Neil Moody. “Our Association has been asking for a standard (or unified) approach for years as contradictory requirements between governments can slow development and adds costs. Consistency should reduce expenses and improve efficiency.”

The Canadian Home Builders’ Association of BC (CHBA BC) was a member of and participated in the Modernization Advisory Group that contributed extensively to the new *Building Act*. The Association’s Past President Nathan Stone, along with Neil Moody, were part of the discussions and consultation process.

By December 15, 2017, local governments with existing building requirements in their bylaws will have no legal force. To avoid confusion, the provincial government is encouraging local governments to amend their bylaws and eliminate such requirements.

The new *Building Act* also establishes mandatory qualifications for local building officials, which will improve the interpretation, application and enforcement of the BC Building Code by making sure building officials have standard qualifications. Requirements for building officials will be staged in over four years from the time the appropriate sections of the Act are enabled.

“The provincial government has posted a Building Act Guide on its website,” added Moody. “It is being prepared in sections as the regulations are developed and explains what the Act is, how stakeholders are affected and new procedures that result from the Act. The government has indicated that it has planned a section on what the construction sector needs to know about the Act that it will post over the coming months.”

Further information about these sections and their effects on local governments is available on the *Building Act* website at www.gov.bc.ca/buildingact.

About the Canadian Home Builders’ Association of BC

The Canadian Home Builders’ Association of BC (CHBA BC) is the voice of the residential construction industry in British Columbia representing more than 1,600 member companies through an affiliated network of nine local home building associations located throughout the province. The industry contributes over \$17.1 billion in investment value and creates 134,500 jobs – making it one of the largest employers in the province.

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