CANADIAN HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

ADVOCACY UPDATE

An update on CHBA BC's government relations activities

August 2018 | Issue 25

National Issues

Drywall tariffs officially 'dumped'

In a major victory for CHBA and our builder, renovator, developer and drywall contractors, the Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) tossed-out a complaint by CertainTeed Gypsum Canada alleging that dumping of 54-inch drywall made in the U.S. was hurting their business in Western Canada.

CHBA is pleased that the CITT has taken such a well-considered position. The Association's extensive interventions on drywall tariffs have made it clear to CBSA and the Tribunal that imposing such tariffs has serious and very detrimental financial impacts on builders, drywall contractors and, ultimately, on consumers. The full text of the CITT decision can be found **here**.

Speculation Tax

The tax is expected to be introduced in the Legislature this October during the Fall session. However, opposition to the tax continues to grow with many calling for its removal.

CHBA BC has joined other industry associations in the "Scrap the Speculation Tax" coalition to demonstrate the collective concern and impact on jobs, and B.C.'s economy.

The Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention is taking place from September 10-14. Several policy resolutions, put forward by local governments, in opposition to the tax will be debated by local government delegates. It is positive to see similar concerns from B.C.'s municipal leaders.

In case you missed it, click to read Neil Moody's op-ed on the speculation tax from July. Members can view CHBA BC's official position on the tax here.

Code Changes

The new BC Building and Plumbing Code will be effective Dec. 10, 2018 and will apply to building permits applied for on or after that date. The BC Fire Code is anticipated to be adopted in the fall of 2018 and effective Dec. 10, 2018.

The 2018 BC Building and Plumbing Code includes most of the 2015 National Code requirements and some variations specific to British Columbia.

An online consultation on the code changes took place in early 2018.

For more information about the 2018 BC Building and Plumbing Code, please visit the Building Safety and Standards Branch **website**.

Provincial Consultations

Clean Growth Intentions Paper

CHBA BC submitted to the Clean Growth Intentions Paper consultation in late August. This paper covered potential code changes for new construction and renovations, financial incentives, and mandatory labelling. View the submission here.

Agricultural Land Reserve Report

The ALR consultation took place in Spring 2018, and CHBA BC submitted an initial response at that time. A 'what we heard' summary report on the consultation was released in July 2018 by the committee. It can be accessed here.

Land Owner Transparency Act

The closing date for this review was extended to Sept. 19.

Budget 2019

The Public Accounts 2017-2018 presentation by Finance Minister Carole James indicated that B.C. remains in a budget surplus, with significant revenue coming from housing taxes. Consultation on Budget 2019 begins this Fall and CHBA BC will be submitting stakeholder ideas.



Image: Minister Carole James presents the update. (Gov. of B.C. Photo)

Positions and Issue Updates

Prompt Payment

A select group of contractor associations in B.C. have called on the provincial government to implement prompt payment rules in B.C., based on its implementation in Ontario in December 2017. CHBA BC **is opposed** to this legislation concept for British Columbia. Read the full position here.

Employer Health Tax

Latest updates (July 2018) to the Employer Health Tax (with legislation expected this fall) can be accessed here. CHBA BC **does not** support this tax. Members should, however, be prepared should no changes take place.