CANADIAN HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

ADVOCACY UPDATE

An update on CHBA BC's government relations activities

December 2018 | Issue 29

2018 Highlights

Thank you to all members who participate on the provincial Government Relations Committee, within local advocacy networks, and help to support policy submissions!

Speculation Tax

CHBA BC recommendations to exempt development lands from the annual speculation tax were largely implemented by the Ministry of Finance, saving future homeowners millions of dollars in the long-term. CHBA BC concurrently launched a digital campaign to share its concerns regarding the speculation tax legislation in general that garnered over 1 million impressions on Facebook, and media articles both online and in print.

Drywall Tariffs 'Dumped' - CHBA National

The Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) tossed-out a complaint in August 2018 by CertainTeed Gypsum Canada alleging that dumping of 54-inch drywall made in the U.S. was hurting their business in Western Canada. CHBA National intervened in the case on day one, which ended with no new tariffs applied.

Successful First Legislature Day

CHBA BC held its first "Day at the Legislature" connecting with 62, or over 70% of B.C.'s MLAs at either daytime meetings or the evening reception on November 7, 2018!

Provincial Housing Minister Roundtable

CHBA BC hosted Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Selina Robinson at its 2018 Fall Provincial Meetings to kick off the discussions on development approvals across the province. CHBA BC is a member of the newly created provincial Development Approvals Review Working Group that will meet in the first six months of 2019 and will provide recommendations.

Consultations

CHBA BC participated in several stakeholder groups and consultations throughout 2018. Here are some of the key issues we submitted to either in-person or by email: Budget 2018, Agricultural Land Reserve (April), Rental Housing Task Force (May), Small Business Task Force (May), Labour Code Review (Summer/Fall), Clean Growth Building Strategy (August), Land Owner Transparency Act (September), Budget 2019 (October), Money Laundering in Real Estate (December).

News from the Legislature

Rental Housing Task Force Recommendations

On December 12, the Rental Housing Task Force chairs released 23 recommendations. A key item is to **not** implement vacancy control, which would tie the rent to the unit and not the tenant. CHBA BC advocated against this concept in its submission to the Task Force in May. We will continue to participate in discussions regarding all recommendations in 2019.

Clean Growth Strategy Announced

Today the Province of British Columbia launched its CleanBC strategy. CHBA BC submitted to the consultation in August, and this report summarizes the government's direction from those recommendations. Click to read. Some of the plan's commitments includes ratifying the B.C. Energy Step Code to build net-zero energy ready homes by 2032; incentives to encourage voluntary retrofits; adopt the model National Energy Code for existing buildings by 2024; and support training for industry to meet objectives.



Image: Premier Horgan speaks on cleanBC plan. (Source: BC Gov Flickr)

Development Approvals Review Working Group

CHBA BC is an official member of the new Development Approvals Review Working Group (DARWG). The first meeting was held on December 7 with periodic meetings planned until May. CHBA BC is looking at opportunities to integrate member feedback into the committee's work. Any input in the meantime can be emailed to CHBA BC.



Holiday Office Closure

Please note the CHBA BC office will be closed from Dec. 24 - Jan. 1, 2019.