



An update from CHBA BC's Government Relations Committee

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News from the Provincial Legislature

NDP to lead province with minority government

The provincial general election took place on May 9, 2017. It was a historically close result where the BC Liberal Party won 43 seats, the BC New Democratic Party won 41 seats, and the BC Green Party won 3 seats.

The BC Liberal Party had the first chance to govern when the Legislature was recalled in June, but were not able to secure the needed support to maintain the confidence of the house.

Premier Christy Clark offered her resignation to Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon on June 29. Guichon then offered John Horgan and the NDP the chance to govern, as he had indicated that the NDP received the formal support of the three Green MLAs.



Image: Incoming Premier John Horgan and Dr. Andrew Weaver agreed in May to work together in May to reach the needed 44 seats for a majority (Twitter image).

Next steps

The Premier-designate John Horgan and the NDP begin the transition to government this month. The Premier and new Cabinet will be sworn in on July 18, but the Legislature likely won't be recalled until after Labour Day in September.

When the Legislature is recalled, what are some of the policies on the table? The NDP and Green Party agreement, signed by the 41 NDP and 3 Green MLAs, committed to:

- A referendum on proportional representation in fall 2018;
- Improve fairness for workers and workplace safety;
- Increase the minimum wage to at least \$15 per hour;
- Improve transit and find new ways to fund transit;
- Tighten the rules in the Residential Tenancy Act; and
- Increase supply of affordable housing and 'deal with the speculation and fraud that is driving up prices.'

In the NDP platform, the party also committed to expanding BC's apprenticeship and trades training programs, energy efficiency retrofits to buildings and homes, continuing the Innovative Clean Energy Fund, providing incentives to BC Builders that use wood products, and continuing the planned half-point cut to the small business tax rate. View the BC NDP platform for the full list of commitments [here](#).

Residential Construction data available

Each year, CHBA National releases economic data for cities across the country. This data demonstrates the impact that residential construction has on all communities, big and small. To view the data online, [click here](#).

In 2016, the residential construction industry created **158,438 on and off-site jobs** in new construction, renovation and repair. This is an increase of 15.5 per cent. Wages have increased to **\$9.2 billion**, an increase of 16.5 per cent. Investment value has risen to **\$23.1 billion dollars** from \$19.0 billion, an increase of 21.5 per cent. The investment value of new homes, renovations and repairs in 2016 is based on Statistics Canada Building Permits data, which do not include land value generated.

You can use the **3 clicks to tweet your MP** resources on the CHBA National website to share the impacts in your community directly with your MP. [Click here to view](#) this resource online (you will need to be logged in.)

New rules for construction heat

Gas furnaces manufactured on or after May 1, 2017, are not permitted to be used in Canada for heating of buildings or structures under 'construction.' Work by CHBA National has led to an understanding that construction is 'complete' after drywall installation, sanding, and priming. Once this stage is complete, furnaces are eligible to activation to provide finishing heat.

Work is taking place in Ontario to establish a protocol with gas utilities and the Ontario Technical Standards Safety Authority (TSSA), to provide a model that can be applied in other provinces. Any details for implementation in BC will be released once available.

While CHBA is opposed to the idea that furnaces should not be used for construction heat, CHBA has been at the table to provide clarity for implementation for members.

BC Energy Step Code

Information about the upcoming BC Energy Step Code will be released this summer by the BC Energy Step Code Council. This includes analysis of



local government implementation plans, strategies for industry training, energy advisor distribution across the province, and the cost benefit analysis for each step. A new website for the Step Code will also launch, providing one location for information on the Step Code.