CANADIAN HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

ADVOCACY UPDATE

An update on CHBA BC's government relations activities

July 2018 | Issue 24

Meetings and Events

Coalition of BC Businesses meets Minister of Labour

CHBA BC and other business organizations met with Minister of Labour Harry Bains on July 4. CEO Neil Moody raised member concerns about the upcoming employer health tax to the Minister and his staff.



Image: Coalition of BC Businesses meets with Minister Bains.

Roundtable with MP Dan Albas

On July 13, representatives from CHBA BC, GVHBA and CHBA Fraser Valley met with MP Dan Albas (Central Okanagan - Similkameen – Nicola) and other stakeholders in Vancouver to discuss provincial housing affordability.

Liberal Caucus MLAs attend CHBA VI Summer Social in Nanaimo



On July 25, BC President Matt McCurrach spoke at the CHBA Vancouver Island Summer Social in Nanaimo. CHBA was pleased to have MLAs from the B.C. Liberal Caucus attend the event, while in town for a caucus retreat, and speak with members about key issues. *Image: CHBA VI members Peter Schultze, Ron Bickford, CHBA BC President Matt McCurrach and MLAs John Rustad, Tom Shypitka, Jordan Sturdy and Mike Morris.*

Speculation Tax

CEO Neil Moody's op-ed was in the Vancouver Sun on July 24, which discussed the impact of the proposed speculation tax on home builders, home owners, and the economy. Click to read the article. It was also published in the Georgia Straight, Times Colonist and Penticton Herald.

Members can view CHBA BC's official position on the tax here. For all updates on CHBA BC's progress on this issue, view this link.

Provincial Consultations and Issues

Clean Growth Intentions Paper

Feedback is welcome until August 24 for the Clean Growth Intentions Paper, announced in late July. The proposals include: building labelling requirements, financial incentives, new code standards for existing buildings, a stronger code requirement, and new measures to increase adoption of electric vehicles. Read the paper for buildings here.

Land Owner Transparency Act

Members are encouraged to review the *Land Owner Transparency Act* white paper, outlining plans to create a beneficial ownership registry for B.C. Comments will be accepted until August 19. Read the white paper here. You can also submit direct feedback to CHBA by email, for consideration in the association submission.

Changes for REALTORS® in B.C.

Changes to real estate rules came into effect on June 15. This change included that REALTORS® cannot represent both the buyer and seller in the same transaction. Please email CHBA BC if you have feedback on the changes, and how it may be impacting your business (such as using a REALTOR® to market a development in a small town.)

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. There are significant initial concerns with the legislation, including mandatory payment timelines, new invoicing practices, and a costly adjudication process that will be a burden and complicated for small businesses. From CHBA BC's perspective, an established clear need specific to residential construction is required before broad changes should be implemented. CHBA BC has followed up with the Ontario Home Builders' Association, which opposed prompt payment legislation that was implemented in December 2017, to learn more about the issues.

B.C. Energy Step Code

Read the CHBA BC position paper on the Step Code. It describes the best practices identified by CHBA BC before the code is applied in new areas without previous energy-efficiency bylaws, including strong industry consultation, energy advisor capacity, and a costing analysis. It also confirms that CHBA BC's local associations should be the authoritative voice on any local consultations taking place. What works in one community may not work well in others, and strong industry consultation with local builders is a necessary step to hear the "on-the-ground" perspective.