CANADIAN HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

ADVOCACY UPDATE

An update on CHBA BC's government relations activities

November 2018 | Issue 28

Legislature Day (November 5-8, 2018)

Thirty delegates from all 9 of CHBA BC's local associations came together for our first Legislature Day in Victoria. This event was all about demonstrating to MLAs the industry expertise our members can provide on housing policy.

After a training day on November 6, CHBA BC delegates held 20 scheduled meetings with 45 MLAs, including many Cabinet Ministers, on November 7. A packed reception that evening followed the meetings, with over 50 in attendance. This meant CHBA BC connected with 62 MLAs or 70% of the House in one day! All three political parties were invited and participated in CHBA BC's events. To read CHBA BC's policy brochure provided to all MLAs, use this link.

CHBA BC as a group was recognized in the Legislature on November 7, 2018 by both the government (by Minister of Housing Selina Robinson) and opposition (by MLA Sam Sullivan) during Question Period. You can see the transcript with this link.



Image Above: Garett Wall, Bob Deeks, Ben Nishi and Kerriann Coady, with South Fraser MLAs Jagrup Brar, Rachna Singh and Ravi Kahlon.

Image Below: Neil Moody, Matt McCurrach and Ron Rapp with B.C. Liberal Leader and MLA Andrew Wilkinson



Speculation Tax

The Speculation and Vacancy Tax Act received Royal Assent on November 27, 2018. CHBA BC recently held a technical briefing with the Ministry of Finance to discuss the exemptions for land under development. CHBA BC will be working with the Ministry on guidance documents for members ahead of February. In addition, CHBA BC will continue to monitor the tax impacts in the months ahead.

New Issues

Development Approvals Review Working Group

CHBA BC is an official member of the new Development Approvals Review Working Group (DARWG). The group includes market housing associations, non-profit housing providers, municipalities, and other technical experts. The committee will meet between now and May to review the development approvals process in B.C. and create recommendations for improvement. CHBA BC is pleased to be invited to this group and to contribute to this important discussion.

Labour Code Review

CHBA BC and 12 other business organizations signed a joint submission in response to the provincial labour code review that closed this month. Key issues discussed in the review include how workers certify a union in the province.

Money Laundering Review

The government recently created an Expert Panel to review whether "B.C.'s housing market may be vulnerable to criminals looking to launder money." The public input review closes on December 14. You can participate here.

National Updates

New Housing Affordability Caucus

CHBA National CEO Kevin Lee presented to the newly created Liberal Party Housing Affordability Caucus on November 19, 2018. View his opening remarks here. This caucus was a key ask of CHBA for many years, and we are pleased to see it come to fruition.

Federal action on free building code documents

The Government of Canada is making the National Building Codes available for free across Canada, amongst other economic competitiveness measures. This is a long-standing ask of CHBA, and is a welcome move. Read the federal news release here.