



News from the Provincial Legislature

Coalition of B.C. Businesses meets Labour Minister

CHBA BC's CEO Neil Moody and the Coalition of B.C. Businesses met with **Minister of Labour Harry Bains** in early September. Coalition members talked about WorkSafeBC rates, minimum wage changes that occurred on Sept. 15, and the new Fair Wages Commission that is tasked with how to raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2021.



BC Budget Update 2017

On September 11, Minister of Finance Carole James delivered a budget update in Victoria. Neil Moody and Alycia Coulter attended the budget lockup for CHBA BC. The budget update announced plans for **a provincial housing strategy** and new affordable housing units.

The provincial housing strategy will partner with federal and municipal governments, First Nations, developers, and not-for-profit associations. In the [CHBA BC budget news release](#), CEO Neil Moody said, "... In this new strategy, measures to improve market housing affordability for all British Columbians must be considered. The private sector will be an important voice in the consultation process."

In the budget update, the provincial government has allocated \$208 million over four years towards the construction of 1,700 units of affordable rental housing for various populations, including low-to-moderate income renters, seniors, and adults with developmental disabilities or mental health challenges. An additional \$291 million will be spent on 2,000 modular housing units for the homeless.

The next budget will be delivered in **February 2018**. CHBA BC will be sending in a written submission, as well as presenting to Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services in October 2017.

Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention

The Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) annual convention was held at the Vancouver Convention Centre on September 25-29, 2017. CHBA BC delegates participated in conference sessions on housing, connected with municipal representatives in attendance, and spoke about housing affordability at **CHBA BC's trade show booth**.

National Updates

CHBA Submission on proposed tax changes

CHBA National collected member feedback throughout September for its submission to the Finance Canada consultations on proposed tax changes for small businesses. Thank you to all members who participated. Read the submission, **against the changes**, [using this link](#).

B.C. Energy Step Code

The costing study for the B.C. Energy Step Code is now available. [Click here](#) to read the summary report, or [use this link](#) to access the full report.

The Step Code Council members received an award recognizing its hard work at UBCM, from **Environment Minister George Heyman**. CEO Neil Moody was in attendance to receive the award on behalf of CHBA BC, and Mark Sakai attended as the GVHBA representative.



Upcoming Consultations

B.C. Building Code

CHBA BC was invited by the Building Safety and Standards Branch to participate in targeted consultations on the next B.C. Building Code. A general public review is expected to take place this fall. Thank you to all members who have volunteered to participate.

WorkSafeBC 2018 rates

WorkSafeBC has announced that the preliminary average base rate for 2018 will be 1.55 per cent of employers' assessable payroll. Consultations with stakeholders on the new rates will now take place in October 2017. These consultations are an opportunity to provide information about upcoming proposed rates, the injury trends in B.C., and to discuss how to prevent injuries and reduce claims costs. Further details will be posted online by WorkSafeBC soon. [Click here](#) to read the announcement.

Non-medicinal cannabis

The provincial government has initiated public consultation on implementing the federal *Cannabis Act*, that will come into force in July 2018. This legislation relates to the housing industry with personal cultivation in residential properties, renovations or remediating properties, and for employers. If you have comments on this topic, you can participate in the consultation before November 1 [using this link](#).