

Hon. Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
PO Box 9056, STN PROV GOVT.  
Victoria, BC, V8W9E2

August 21, 2017

Dear Minister Robinson,

On behalf of the Canadian Home Builders' Association of British Columbia (CHBA BC), congratulations on your appointment as the new Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

CHBA BC represents 1,800 members across the province, many of which are small and medium-sized businesses. These members include new home builders and renovators, land developers, trade contractors, product and material manufacturers, and building product suppliers. CHBA BC is dedicated to raising the bar of professionalism in the industry, and maintaining affordability, quality and choice for home buyers.

The association is pleased to see housing as a dedicated ministry, combined with the logical choice of municipal affairs. Housing is a top-of-mind concern for British Columbians right across the province. It is important for industry, municipalities and the provincial government to work together on affordability and come to solutions.

All partners will have to work together on both supply and demand. For the industry, key barriers to more supply include lengthy approval processes, additional red tape and fees, and significant skilled trades shortages. British Columbia is a desirable place to live and we can expect that with B.C.'s growing population that housing demand for all types of housing will continue to rise. CHBA BC would be happy to discuss these supply and demand challenges in greater detail as you prepare the plans to deliver on 114,000 new units across the province.

Transit investments are also critical for a growing population, especially in Metro Vancouver. Increasing density around the new transit lines will help to ensure the most amount of community members will benefit from this investment, whilst decreasing the costs paid by new home buyers. The commitment to fund 40% of the costs for new transit projects is very welcomed by the industry.

It was also positive to see residential energy retrofits in the election platform. This is a shared goal of CHBA BC. A new home built today is 35% more energy-efficient than one built before 1990. In addition, CHBA research demonstrates that one dollar invested in an existing home yields 4 to 7 times more energy savings than a one dollar upgrade to a new home. The opportunity to make significant gains in the existing housing stock is very large, but the right incentives are needed.

CHBA BC would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these industry issues in greater detail. I look forward to working with you in this role. Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Neil Moody, CEO



Ron Rapp, Government Relations Committee Chair

Cc: Hon. Carole James, Minister of Finance  
Jacquie Dawes, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Shayne Ramsay, CEO, BC Housing