

For immediate release

Province announces funding to support training in the construction of high-performance homes

Vancouver, British Columbia. April 22, 2016 – Just ahead of Earth Day, the Government of British Columbia announced yesterday that \$1.4 million from the Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund will go towards programs for homeowners to reduce their home energy consumption, and will support industry training in the construction of high-performance, energy efficient homes.

From this fund, \$100,000 will go towards subsidizing courses offered by Natural Resources Canada and the Canadian Home Builders' Association (CHBA) in three national high-performance building standards: ENERGY STAR for New Homes, R-2000, and Net Zero Energy (NZE) Homes Builder Training.

"With this funding, more builders and renovators who want to develop their skills in high-performance building standards will be able to access the necessary training and courses," said Neil Moody, CEO of the Canadian Home Builders' Association of British Columbia. "We're excited to see the Province of British Columbia support this initiative, and we encourage both industry and homeowners to take advantage of this opportunity."

The training will be provided by CHBA and service organizations licensed by Natural Resources Canada, and will help to increase the number of high-performance builders, homes and buildings in British Columbia. "The programs that CHBA is running have completely changed the dynamic of our business and are allowing our builders to think and look at a home in a different manner," said Joe Geluch, president of Naikoon Contracting Ltd. "This announcement is exciting for the industry across the province, and there is no better time for builders and their teams to get educated on high-performance building standards."

A minimum of 200 builders, renovators, architects, city planners and municipal building inspectors will be able to access the subsidized training.

"Canada has been known for building the best and most energy efficient homes for years. The government funding to support builders' training for ENERGY STAR, R-2000 and Net Zero Energy is a strong step to promote the home building industry towards high-performance construction using Canadian oriented standards," said Arthur Lo, owner of Insightful Healthy Homes Inc.

FortisBC will administer the funds for this program. FortisBC, along with the Homeowner Protection Office and BC Hydro, are project partners and each contributed an additional \$10,000.

The rest of the funds from this announcement will be distributed to the following:

- \$600,000 for the Oil-to-Heat Pump Incentive Program;
- \$600,000 for the Home Energy Coaching Project; and
- \$100,000 for the Passive House Training Subsidy.

To view the Government of British Columbia announcement, [please use this link](#).

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About the Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC:

The Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC is the voice of the residential construction industry in British Columbia representing more than 1,600 members through an affiliated network of nine local home building associations located throughout the province. The industry contributes over \$18.2 billion in investment value to British Columbia's economy creating 133,700 jobs in new home construction, renovation, and repair – one of the largest employers in British Columbia.