



An update from CHBA BC's Government Relations Committee

March 2016 | Issue 5

## Changes to the Property Transfer Tax

CHBA BC attended the provincial budget lockup on February 16, 2016 in Victoria where changes to the PTT on new housing were announced by the Minister of Finance. The [PTT exemption](#) on new construction up to \$750,000 will save purchasers up to **\$13,000** on a newly constructed home and is estimated to provide approximately **\$75 million** in property transfer tax relief for new construction in 2016-17. For more details, read the post-budget statement [here](#).

## B.C. celebrates the first Red-Tape Reduction Day

The Hon. Coralee Oakes, Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction hosted British Columbia's first Red-Tape Reduction Day on March 2, 2016. To view the engagement report, use this [link](#). CHBA BC was at the Minister's launch event that evening in Vancouver, which was well-attended by members of British Columbia's business community.



Image: Neil Moody speaks with Min. Coralee Oakes at the event.

## CHBA BC attends Forum for Growth in Ottawa

CHBA Members from across Canada were on Parliament Hill on March 8, 2016 for the [Forum for Growth](#) event.

The CHBA BC delegates met with several MPs, including Dianne Watts (South Surrey-White Rock), Dan Ruimy (Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge), Mark Strahl (Chilliwack-Hope), Mark Warawa (Langley-Aldergrove), Randeep Sarai (Surrey Centre) and Todd Doherty (Cariboo-Prince George).



Image: Nathan Stone, Blake Hudema and Bob de Wit meet with Member of Parliament Mark Strahl (second from left) in Ottawa.

## Technology Skills Appreciation Week

CHBA BC and the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASSTBC) were in Victoria at the B.C. Legislature on March 17 for the proclamation of Technology Skills Appreciation Week on March 21-25, 2016. Ministers Shirley Bond, Amrik Virk, and Parliamentary Secretary Greg Kylo were also in attendance to help launch this unique event. Technology Skills Appreciation Week in B.C. recognizes the valuable contribution of people working in technological skilled trades to the province's economy and labour force. See the announcement using this [link](#).



Image: Ron Rapp, Chair of the Government Relations Committee, Min. Shirley Bond and Neil Moody with the proclamation.

## Federal Budget 2016

In February, CHBA BC participated in the Vancouver Centre Federal Pre-Budget Consultations with the Hon. Dr. Hedy Fry. During the discussion, CHBA BC shared the National pre-budget submission messages that focused on housing affordability, including measures that will help first-time home buyers enter the market.

The Federal Budget, tabled on March 22, included changes to the infrastructure funding ratio for the federal government, as well as investments in public transit, infrastructure and housing. Read the full statement from CHBA CEO Kevin Lee using this [link](#).

### Member Feedback

Are you experiencing any issues with government that are impacting your business? Member feedback is accepted and encouraged on an ongoing basis, which helps to direct the actions of the CHBA BC Government Relations Committee. If you would like to share any potential issues for committee discussion, please [email](#) Alycia Coulter, CHBA BC Coordinator, Government Relations and Communications.