

The Voice of the Residential Construction Industry in BC

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate release:

## CHBA BC Applauds Mandatory Education for Builder Licensing

**BURNABY**, **B.C.** (March 4, 2015) – Today the Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing and Deputy Premier, Rich Coleman announced that mandatory education requirements will now be a prerequisite for builders applying for, and renewing licensing through the Homeowner Protection Office (HPO), a branch of BC Housing, to construct homes under Part 9 of the B.C. Building Code.

The seven core training courses offered by CHBA BC have been recognized as meeting these new mandatory education requirements and the Association is an approved training provider under the new regulation.

"As a home builder, I strongly support this progressive action by the BC government," stated Simon Howse, President of CHBA BC. "It promotes professionalism in our industry, and provides assurance to consumers that their new homes will be well-built", he added. "Our industry also appreciates that the new requirements will be phased in, to allow our members time to ensure they meet the new standard."

CHBA BC, along with other industry organizations, has been advocating for minimum education as a requirement for builder licensing for the past decade. "One of our guiding principles as an association is the importance of raising the level of professionalism within the residential construction industry", says CHBA BC CEO Neil Moody. "The government's action today helps to ensure this will happen, and be reflected in the quality of homes that are built throughout the province, with the aim of increasing satisfaction and trust among home buyers".

CHBA BC has been delivering continuing education courses to its members for over 25 years and was the first industry association to meet and exceed national benchmarks in home building and renovation education. It's award-winning programs have been recognized nationally by the Canadian Home Builders' Association.

As leaders in delivering continuing education for the residential construction industry, CHBA BC and its builder members were involved in ongoing consultation during the development of this regulation. Our Association is optimistic about the positive impact that minimum education requirements will have on British Columbia's home building industry.

To read the full news release from the Ministry Responsible for Housing, <u>click here</u> or visit <u>www.hpo.bc.ca</u>.



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