

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**New *Building Act* receives Royal Assent**

**BURNABY (March 27, 2015)** – The provincial government gave Royal Assent to the new *Building Act* on March 25. This significant milestone is welcomed by the Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC, which was a member of and participated in the Modernization Advisory Group that contributed extensively to the changes that will update and streamline the province's building regulatory system.

"The new Act will establish more consistent building requirements throughout B.C. (with the exception of the City of Vancouver)," said CHBA BC CEO Neil Moody, who was part of the Modernization Advisory Group along with CHBA BC Past President Nathan Stone. "It is the result of years of industry advocacy and will ensure building requirements are the same across the province by establishing the provincial government as the sole authority to create these standards."

Differing building requirements between jurisdictions can slow development and add costs. With a more streamlined and modern building regulatory system, costs will be reduced and efficiency, productivity and innovation in the construction sector will improve.

The new *Building Act* also establishes mandatory qualifications for local building officials, which will improve the interpretation, application and enforcement of the BC Building Code by making sure building officials have standard qualifications.

The *Building Act* was designed to provide for transition periods to give those affected ample time to prepare. Sections of the Act will only come into force following the preparation of supporting regulations. Local governments will have up to two years to rescind local building requirements from their bylaws starting from the time the appropriate sections of the *Building Act* come into force. Requirements for building officials will be staged in over four years from the time the appropriate sections of the Act are enabled.

"The provincial government is preparing a Building Act Guide to help those affected by the new *Building Act*," added Moody. "This will be posted to its website with information rolled out as the supporting regulations are prepared. Other education support such as webinars and presentations are also being planned. CHBA BC will update members as information becomes available."

**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 member companies through an affiliated network of nine local home building associations located throughout the province. The industry contributes over \$17.1 billion in investment value and creates 134,500 jobs – making it one of the largest employers in the province.

**Media Contact:**

Neil Moody, CEO

Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC

[neilmood@chbabc.org](mailto:neilmood@chbabc.org)

604-432-7112