CANADIAN HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

December 16, 2020

A Year-end Message to CHBA BC members

The year 2020 is quickly (but not fast enough) coming to a close. Before it does, CHBA BC wants to take the time to applaud members and local associations for making it through this extraordinarily challenging and historical year.

The pandemic brought new challenges for everyone. Yet, in light of this, the residential construction industry rose to the occasion by demonstrating its ability to adapt, implement new safety measures, show resilience and provide an essential economic lifeline for the BC economy.

CHBA BC's advocacy in 2020 started with our written submission on *Climate Preparedness and Adaptation* – just one of many we would provide. A roundtable discussion with the Liberal housing critic took us to Kamloops that was promptly followed by our engagement in consultations with the Expert Panel on Housing Supply.

CHBA BC was then in Victoria to attend the government budget release. A subsequent meeting with the Minister of Finance preceded our engagement with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Selina Robinson, on the importance of the DAPR during our provincial meetings. Then, worldwide events took over.

The COVID-19 pandemic was and still is the biggest challenge we faced this year. Our extensive advocacy and government relations work during this crucial time was a collaborative effort. In the initial days of provincial health restrictions, we participated in daily calls with other groups and maintained regular contact with government officials to reiterate our industry's invaluable contribution to the economy and how our members could play a vital role in an economic recovery. Safety information was coordinated and distributed quickly to ensure the industry was kept safe and essential.

Our strategic cross-stakeholder partnerships and engaging communication tools, like our COVID-19 Impact Surveys, were vital to staying aware of safety protocols and business operations during the disruption. This approach helped CHBA BC serve as a resource for various ministries, such as the Ministry of Finance and Municipal Affairs and Housing, to understand the depth of impact and what kind of measures would be needed to support the industry and the economy.

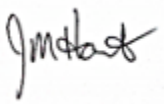
With a surprise snap election announced in late September, CHBA BC quickly sprung into action and created the BCHomeBeliever.ca campaign that created an opportunity for voters to pose housing questions to candidates.

As we enter into the new year, we will continue to ensure that the residential construction industry's voice and interests remain in front of this government. We are already starting to advance conversations with the new majority government, with confirmed meetings with key ministers and staff to begin 2021.

We recognize that your contributions, adherence to safety protocols put in place and your sacrifice during this challenging time helped the industry stay open. For that, CHBA BC extends our gratitude and thanks. We hope that you have an opportunity to spend time with those close to you safely, and we wish you all the best for a happy holiday season.



Neil Moody
CEO



Joe Hart
CHBA BC President, (President, Icon Homes Ltd.)