CHBA - ALBERTA
PROGRESS REPORT - SUMMER 08

Alberta
One Voice – One Industry

Canadian Home Builders' Association

CHBA – Alberta has being working collaboratively with local CHBAs and industry partners to improve the residential construction industry in a proactive, strategic way while ensuring all associations are speaking with one voice.

The association strives to keep members updated on issues being addressed at the provincial level; educate members on the importance of the issues; communicate the expected outcome and impact on members businesses; and inform members of next steps being taken.

[WORKING FOR YOU]

HIGH INTENSITY RESIDENTIAL FIRE RECOMMENDATIONS

Background: The Alberta Government formed a High-Intensity Residential Fires Working Group in 2007. It was given a mandate to review the factors surrounding high-intensity residential fires in Alberta and develop recommendations for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on methods to reduce the occurrence and severity of these events in the future. The Working Group then prepared its recommendations at which point CHBA – Alberta was invited toparticipate in a high-level consultation prior to the recommendations going to cabinet. In late May, Minister Danyluk announced which of the recommendations are moving forward.

Why this is important: Once the Working Group completed its report, the residential construction industry was then given a short period of time to provide a response to the report with the intention of keeping the best interests of home buyers and the industry top of mind.

Expected Outcome & Benefit to Members: By encouraging government to involve the residential construction industry, some recommendations have been deferred and will require additional study. The provincial government has agreed to collaborate with CHBA - Alberta on fine-tuning the recommendations on a move-forward basis. Any occasion when industry is involved, practicality and affordability have a better chance of being a consideration for government when making decisions.

Next Step: CHBA – Alberta will inform members on building code changes to facilitate a smooth transition. Participating in the consumer and worksite safety programs resulting from the recommendations is also a CHBA – Alberta priority.

More information is available on chbaalberta.ca.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE MANAGEMENT

Background: CHBA – Alberta and its sustainable housing division EnerVision, in partnership with the Alberta Construction Association, have been working with Alberta Environment to develop criteria for the Construction and Demolition (C & D) Waste Management Program (WMP).

Why this is important: Working collaboratively on the WMP allows the industry to guide future legislation and allows builders to make the WMP as practical and user friendly as possible.

Expected outcome and benefit to members: The goal is to jointly assume the role of guiding C & D waste management allowing the program to be industry centered and flexible. Industry is concerned if C & D waste management was a government driven program, there would be less control on cost and flexibility.

Next step: EnerVision's Waste Management Team is currently conducting research and development while consulting with municipal and industry contacts.

FRAMING DESIGNATION

Background: Existing apprenticeship training programs are not meeting the specific needs of residential construction, specifically for framers.

Why this is important: There is an opportunity to equip workers with formal training, marketable skills, recognition and credentials contributing to improve the level of professionalism in our industry.

Expected Outcome & Benefit to Members: A framing designation specialization would reflect home building and renovation technologies, materials and techniques, making apprenticeship training more accessible and in sync with the industry.

Next Step: The CHBA – Alberta Framing Subject Matter Experts Working Group is meeting to finalize an application for trade designation, which will be submitted to the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION STUDY

Background: Upon examination of the available Labour Market Information (LMI), it was determined that it wasn't focused on the residential construction industry. In response, CHBA – Alberta has completed an industry specific LMI study.

Why this is important: Gauging current and future skilled labour development needs specific to the industry and assessing how many members use temporary foreign workers is a key element in determining how to address skilled labour development for members.

Expected Outcome & Benefit to Members: Through the identification of gaps and opportunities, CHBA – Alberta can address members' skilled labour development needs in a targeted way.

Next Step: The report is in its final stage. Results will be communicated to the Board of Directors and Skilled Labour Development Advisory Committee shortly.

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Background: *CHBA – Alberta staff and volunteers have been involved in strategic communications with the Premier and many members of cabinet.*

Why this is important: *It is important to build relationships with decision makers and have a purposeful relationship in place when an issue arises.*

Expected Outcome & Benefit to Members: *CHBA – Alberta will be readily trusted and credible leading our industry to be consulted and understood when acting as the voice of residential construction industry.*

Next Step: *Staff and volunteers will continue to foster these relationships.*

[SAFETY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES]

Addressing building technology and safety issues affecting the residential construction industry with a strategic and proactive focus is important to making the industry better for CHBA – Alberta members. Working with members to provide information on the National and Alberta Building Codes; new building technologies and construction techniques; and encouraging members to adopt a culture of safety contributes to member's ability to operate successful businesses.

Michael Nyikes filled the newly created position of Director of Safety & Technical Services in February of this year. Below are a few building technology and worksite safety items CHBA – Alberta is working on with local CHBAs, industry partners and government:

- Identifying 2006 Alberta Building Code issues Alberta Housing and Industry Technical Committee (AHITC);
- Identifying and creating standatas for 2006 Alberta Building Code clarification with Alberta Municipal Affairs;
- Developing the provincial Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion program with Alberta Environment;
- Develop Model Energy Code requirements with CHBA;
- Review current Act for changes to residential construction regulations Occupational Health and Safety;
- Identify and target problem areas for safety issues and incidents with HBA member companies Safety Committee, and more.

Watch for continued information on CHBA – Alberta's technical and safety services.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Michael Nyikes at 1-877-239-5447 or michael@chbaalberta.ca.

A FINAL THOUGHT

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

[Helen Keller]

Alberta

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Ask questions and share your opinion. Contact CHBA - Alberta at 1-800-661-3348 or visit www.chbaalberta.ca