



[CONNECTING]

Effective communication to members on the One Voice - One Industry initiative is critical for continued support. This newsletter is one way CHBA - Alberta is communicating its Strategic Goals and Business Plan, desired outcomes of tasks, successes, advancements and most importantly, benefits to members. Members will also receive communication via email, mail, the website and presentations by CHBA - Alberta President, Ralph Hutchinson at local dinner meetings.

[WORKING FOR YOU]

ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE WORKFORCE

- Partnerships are being developed in several areas to address current skills shortages and build a training system that works better for the industry.
- Consultations have taken place with colleges, governments and others, to create awareness of residential construction labour issues.
- Meetings have been held with Education Minister Liepert, as well as two Education Assistant Deputy Ministers, to explore potential industry-government partnering on a residential high school initiative.
- A productive meeting was held with Employment, Immigration and Industry Minister Iris Evans to discuss regulations around the immigration of foreign workers to our industry, and the development of relevant labour market information. Follow-up is now underway with senior staff.
- Positive discussions have taken place with the Advanced Education and Training Deputy Minister Fessenden and Assistant Deputy Minister Dul regarding a new model of Apprenticeship for residential construction. CHBA - Alberta has also initiated consultations with CAREERS: Next Generation to jointly develop a residential Apprenticeship model for high school co-operative education credits.
- Ongoing liaison with stakeholders to map regulations and processes for bringing foreign trades workers to Alberta.
- CHBA - Alberta is the residential construction representative on the *Construction Sub-Strategy* committee as part of the Government's 10-year plan: *Building & Educating Tomorrow's Workforce*.

ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

- Workshops were held in Calgary and Edmonton to gather industry input on waste reduction strategies on residential construction sites in Alberta.
- Meeting held with Peter Watson, Deputy Minister of Alberta Environment to update him on CHBA - Alberta energy efficient goals and objectives in Business Plan.

INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT HOUSING-RELATED POLICIES

- After months of consultations and meetings with government, major advancements have been made on the time it takes for Alberta Land Titles to process transfers. CHBA - Alberta played a role in influencing a 22 business day reduction in processing times, resulting in thousands of dollars of savings to members.
- Influenced changes to the Condominium Property Act. Upon Cabinet approval, title insurance will become an option for buyers, meaning property sales will close more quickly, freeing up financing. Some members report that they will see a reduced operational cost of \$1,500 per month.
- Developed a strategy to address some of the recommendations contained in the report on the Minister's Council on Municipal Sustainability.
- The Alberta Affordable Housing Task Force has completed its work. One of the committee's 16 members was CHBA - Alberta's Director of Government Relations, Kathy Watson. She provided the task force with the residential construction sector's positions and reported a positive experience. The Government has since announced additional affordable housing funding for municipalities, increased the provincial budget for housing assistance and emergency housing and passed bill 34 - Tenancies Statutes Amendment Act, without imposing rent controls.

PROMOTE PROFESSIONALISM AND IMPROVE PERCEPTION OF INDUSTRY

- Alberta Builder Connect has had continued success with an increase of 400 jobseekers and a 31% increase in unique visitors to the site in its first month of being a free service to members. The site now has over 6,500 jobseekers registered browsing over 100 jobs advertised.
- The Workers Compensation Board rebated thousands of dollars to members across the province that hold their COR or SECOR in safety.
- Working with industry partners to improve the tracking of COR and SECOR holders and expect an accurate record in June.
- In an effort to encourage safer worksites, many builder members have taken advantage of the opportunity to share with customers the site safety video, *Safety Sense - Your Construction Site Safety Guide*.





[BUILDING THE WORKFORCE]

Skilled labour shortages are the number one issue facing the industry today and into the future. They are affecting both consumer confidence in quality and members' margins. The commitment of members through OVOI has enabled CHBA - Alberta to prepare a comprehensive, industry-based workforce development plan called Skilled Labour Development (SLD), which will be launched in late June. The plan involves joint initiatives with governments, colleges and industry partners. It addresses opportunities for increased labour development in areas of apprenticeship, immigration, industry training, high school mentorship and retention of employees. Providing a voice for residential construction on provincial task forces and committees, and developing relationships with governments and key stakeholders, are some of the driving factors affecting the success of the plan. Members can expect to see both short and long-term benefits resulting from SLD and the OVOI initiative.

[A FINAL THOUGHT]

“Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism.”

[ANON]



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