



Summer MP Campaign Reaching its Peak - The CHBA's MP Campaign continues this summer with provincial and local HBAs getting out our key messages to MPs about the need for GST indexation, a permanent home renovation tax rebate, and effective responses to the underground "cash" economy. Almost all MPs targeted have now been reached, with positive reports received from local and provincial HBAs about MP engagement and their learning about CHBA issues and concerns. MPs appear interested in the CHBA's positions on a permanent renovation tax rebate and the underground economy, which they have urged the CHBA to raise in pre-Budget consultations. Several MPs have committed to follow up on these matters with their colleagues, as well as on the GST rebate for new housing. All MPs in the House of Commons will have been contacted, either for face-to-face discussions or via e-mail by the end of this month.

Code Requirements for Energy Efficiency for Houses and Small Buildings - Four sub task groups have been formed and have met via conference calls over the summer to develop a new section of Part 9 of the model National Building Code (NBC) on energy efficiency for houses and small buildings. Their recommendations will be reviewed by the full task group and then the 2 parent standing committees in the fall. Work on developing the new requirements is expected to continue through until spring 2011 followed by a public consultation in the fall of 2011 and then finalized and published as an amendment to the model NBC in 2012. Meanwhile, the proposed energy efficiency requirements for large buildings will go to public consultation this October and then published in late 2011 as the National Energy Code for Buildings.

Water Heater Efficiency - The CHBA has written to Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) regarding proposed new energy efficiency requirements for gas-fired, storage water heaters in 2016. The CHBA letter says that it is "unacceptable" to require the use of equipment that has not yet been invented. There are too many unknowns such as cost, size and service requirements and reliability problems would inevitably result. The proposed regulations would drive consumers toward on-demand water heaters that would strain capacity and toward electric systems that would increase greenhouse gas emissions. NRCan is expected to confirm or modify its intentions regarding water heater requirements later this year.

Guide to Renovation Contracts - The CHBA has just published a 2nd edition of its Guide to Residential Renovation Contracts. The new Guide has been developed by the Canadian Renovators' Council whose members contributed their experience and expertise to the project. It incorporates CHBA's Supplementary Clauses for Residential Renovation Contracts which was formerly a separate document and adds new topics such as radon and hazardous materials. A copy of the new publication has been sent to all CHBA renovator members and can be downloaded from the CHBA website.

Urban Council Task Forces - Both volunteers and HBA staff have continued their efforts leading to specific reports to the Urban Council on the use of development charges for fire suppression infrastructure, the relationship of development charges to infrastructure servicing costs, and how wetlands protection may negatively impact on urban lands. A few key questions for local and provincial HBAs on each topic will be circulated by the task forces in early September.

CHBA National SAMs - Everything you need for the 2010 CHBA National SAM Awards is now available. The Competition is open to all CHBA new home builder, renovator and developer members with the entry forms, category listings, tips and guidelines available online at www.chba.ca/SAMS. The deadline for entries is November 5.

National Conference in Banff - To "inspire" is to lead and the CHBA's 2011 National Conference will explore what it takes to be the best you can be and to stand out from the competition. The Conference will be held from February 25-27 at the spectacular Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. We're bringing back some of our most popular speakers - the CBC's Rex Murphy will deliver a "Call to Inspiration" at our Opening Breakfast and one of the founders of WestJet, Don Bell, will emphasize how people make the difference in customer service. And there will also be some exciting new faces like Jeremy Gutsche, award-winning author of *Exploiting Chaos*, host of *Trend Hunter TV*, and the founder of *TrendHunter.com*, the world's largest network for trend spotting and innovation and Cameron Herold, one of Canada's most innovative business leaders and a leading force behind one of the most successful new business ventures of the last decade, 1-800-GOT-JUNK, who will talk about critical life skills for entrepreneurs and how to handle the moments of both inspiration and doubt on the rollercoaster ride of managing a business today. Visit www.chba.ca/conference for online registration and more information, including details on our early-bird prize for those who register by December 14.