



2012 Annual Meeting of Members – The 2012 CHBA Annual Meeting of Members will be held on Friday March 16 at the Fairmont Tremblant Resort in Mont-Tremblant, QC. All information, including Submitted Resolutions, Audited Financial Statements and the Interim Report of the Nominating Committee has been posted in the Members' area of www.chba.ca (under "Your CHBA," then "Governance Committees").

National Building Code Energy Efficiency Requirements for Houses and Small Buildings - The new energy efficiency requirements for houses in the National Building Code is currently the subject of public review that will close on March 2. Builder Members are encouraged to review these changes and to offer comments through the Canadian Code Centre. Visit www.nationalcodes.nrc.gc.ca/eng/public_review/2012_1/introduction.shtml to access the information. Comments received by the Canadian Codes Centre will be considered before the requirements are finalized and then published as interim changes to the 2010 NBC later this year. This will lead to corresponding changes to most provincial building codes. In order to inform CHBA members about the requirements and to encourage their participation in the public review, the CHBA hosted a webinar this month that was attended by more than 100 members. Questions and Answers are being sent to all participants and the materials will be posted in the Members area of the CHBA website.

National Energy Code for Buildings (NECB) - The CHBA has prepared a guide to the new NECB to assist provincial HBAs to engage with provincial governments as they begin the process of adopting and adapting this new Code which was published in November 2011. The Guide, entitled *The National Energy Code for Buildings: Overview and Issues*, also compares the new NECB with its competitor, the US-based ASHRAE 90.1 Standard which is already in use in some Canadian jurisdictions. The new Code is primarily focused on large (Part 3) buildings including high rise residential, but it will also govern some smaller multi-unit residential and commercial (Part 9) buildings.

Federal Long-term Infrastructure Plan - Last November, the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities invited organizations involved in building Canada's urban infrastructure to join in a year-long process leading to a comprehensive plan that addresses all major aspects of infrastructure. The CHBA has indicated to the federal government that as a major funder and builder of local infrastructure, the residential construction industry has both an important place at the table and well-documented views to present. It is anticipated that a federal official engaged in this consultation process will make a presentation to the CHBA Urban Council on March 14 in Mont-Tremblant.

Future CHBA Meeting Dates – The 2012 and 2013 dates for meetings of the CHBA Board of Directors, Standing Committees and Councils have been confirmed. Meetings will be held from March 14-16 prior to the CHBA National Conference in Mont-Tremblant. Subsequent meetings in 2012 will be held from May 31 to June 3 and October 25 to 28 at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel. In 2013, meetings will be held from March 6 to 8 prior to the National Conference in Lake Louise with the subsequent meetings from May 30 to June 2 and October 24 to 27 at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel. Contact the CHBA National Office for more details.

Economic Importance of the Canadian Building Products Sector - Recently, the Altus Group's Peter Norman gave a presentation to the CHBA's Manufacturers' Council outlining the importance of the Canadian building products sector to Canada's economy. The highlights are in a short two-page Altus Group report to the CHBA which can be accessed through the Council's website at www.chbamanufacturers.ca. The key points made are the following:

- The Canadian housing market is performing well in late 2011, but the risk environment is elevated
- There are both short-term and medium-to-longer term risks emerging
- Builders should continue to look for opportunities and bring innovative products to market, but make decisions with the elevated risk environment in mind, and understand that the world has changed

Create and Transform in Mont-Tremblant – The 2012 CHBA National Conference will be held from March 16-18, 2012 at the Fairmont Tremblant Resort in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec. Confirmed Conference speakers include General Rick Hillier, former Chief of the Defence Staff for Canadian Forces, Mitch Joel, author of the business best-seller *Six Pixels of Separation* and columnist on digital media, Sean Wise, venture capitalist and known for his role on CBC Television's *Dragon's Den*, McGill University Professor and author William Watson, who will discuss business opportunities during transformative times and participate in the annual Economic Session, and Dr. Nick Bontis, ranked among the Top 30 management gurus world-wide, and recognized by the Harvard Business Review and Fortune Magazine as "a pioneer and one of the world's real experts in intellectual capital." Visit www.chba.ca/conference to register and for more details on speakers and social events.