



**Taking the Message to MPs** – The CHBA's MP Campaign continues with provincial and local HBAs getting organized across Canada to contact MPs with key messages about the need for GST indexation, a permanent home renovation tax rebate, and effective responses to the underground “cash” economy. In the past month, CHBA President Victor Fiume and members of his leadership team have met with Federal Housing Minister Diane Finley and National Revenue Minister Keith Ashfield in Ottawa. The House of Commons ended its session for the summer on June 17, so MPs are going to be more accessible in their ridings.

**Tackling the Underground Cash Economy** – Last month, CHBA President Victor Fiume was in Fredericton for an announcement by federal Revenue Minister Keith Ashfield on a new campaign to fight the underground economy in Atlantic Canada. This month, he was joined by Executive Board member Mike Cochren for a meeting with the Minister where they presented a series of recommendations to the Minister:

- ❖ That under the \$30,000 small supplier GST Threshold, all those engaged in the sector should be required to have a Business Number.
- ❖ That CRA undertake an evaluation of its efforts with respect to the cash economy, with an emphasis on successes, challenges and opportunities.
- ❖ That a study be undertaken of the experiences and initiatives of other countries in dealing with the underground “cash” economy.
- ❖ That a national Task Force on the Underground “Cash” Economy in the Residential Sector be established, with participants from such key departments and agencies as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Natural Resources Canada, and the Department of Finance. This Task Force would also include consumer and industry representation.
- ❖ That CRA support for the Get it in Writing! campaign be reestablished across Canada, to be enhanced, potentially, by the results of the pilot program being undertaken in Atlantic Canada.

The CHBA looks forward to receiving a response from the Minister.

**Urban Council Forms Issues Task Forces** – As a result of discussions at last month's meeting of the CHBA's Urban Council, four task forces have been formed to flesh out issues and report back to the Council in October. The task forces will deal with wetlands protection, development charges based on the square footage of homes, development charges for fire halls and tree protection bylaws. The task forces are comprised of representatives from a variety of interested provincial and local HBAs.

**Accessibility and Barrier-Free Design** – “Accessibility” and “barrier-free” design was a prominent theme in both the Technical Research Committee and National Marketing Committee meetings held last month in Ottawa. It represents a growing market opportunity with approximately 4.4 million Canadians, or 1 in 7, having some form of disability. In another 20 years, it will be 1 in 5 as the population ages. The CHBA Board of Directors approved the development of a position paper on housing accessibility and visitability and to begin work on the development of a “best practices” guide to help new home builder and renovator members to take advantage of these changing conditions. At the same time, provincial governments are now engaged in reviewing their building code requirements to improve accessibility. The TRC will be working to consolidate information on provincial plans in this area.

**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](http://www.chba.ca/SAMS). Members are encouraged to get an early start by arranging for photos and beginning the work of putting together entries this summer. The deadline for entries is November 5.

**National Conference** – Mark your calendar now for the CHBA's 68th National Conference which will be held from February 25-27, 2011 at the spectacular Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. The theme for the Conference is “Inspire” and the event will explore what it takes to inspire and examine how you can harness the full potential of your business to be the best you can be. Visit [www.chba.ca/conference](http://www.chba.ca/conference) for online registration and more information.