



Pre-Budget Submission – The CHBA has completed its Pre-Budget Submission to the federal government for the 2011 Federal Budget. The Association has concentrated on three specific and inter-related recommendations:

- Adopt a single threshold/full rebate approach for the GST New Housing Rebate across Canada, and commit to review and adjust the threshold level over time.
- Introduce a permanent 2.5% GST Home Renovation Tax Rebate available to all homeowners.
- Vigorously tackle the underground ‘cash’ economy, both to raise government revenues and to protect consumers.

Members can access the submission from the main page of the Members’ Area of the CHBA website.

Summer MP Campaign Continues - The CHBA's MP Campaign continues this summer with provincial and local HBAs getting out key messages to MPs about the need for GST indexation, a permanent home renovation tax rebate, and effective responses to the underground “cash” economy. Since May, all 307 MPs have been contacted through a variety of means from HBA presentations to party caucuses to individual letters, Emails and face-to-face meetings. Reports from local and provincial HBAs have been positive and CHBA First Vice-President Vince Laberge continues to encourage HBA Presidents to take full advantage of every opportunity afforded them to reinforce the message as Parliament reconvenes this month.

National Building Code (NBC) - A series of task groups are currently working on new NBC requirements. The task group developing new energy efficiency requirements for houses and small buildings will meet in mid-October to consider the first draft of the new requirements prepared by sub-task groups over the summer. A survey on current practice has been completed to serve as the benchmark for this exercise. The new energy efficiency requirements will be published as interim changes to the NBC in 2012. Meanwhile, a task group on noise separation held its first meeting earlier this month to begin dealing with a request from IRC to use a new approach that better reflects how occupants perceive noise between attached units. A task group on stair requirements also held its first meeting this month to begin dealing with a large number of change requests to improve stair safety. In both cases, the resulting recommendations will be considered for the 2015 NBC.

R-2000 Update - Work has continued over the summer on revisions to the R-2000 Standard based on recommendations from the CHBA to raise the bar significantly on energy efficiency and to position R-2000 as the “best-in-class” green standard. A series of conference calls and face-to-face meetings of the sub committees working on various aspects of the standard has produced a draft that will be considered for approval by the multi-stakeholder steering committee and will be the subject of a public consultation later in 2010.

2010 CHBA National SAMs – The deadline for entries in the 2010 CHBA National SAM Awards is fast approaching. Take advantage of the late summer weather for photos of your best projects. Everything you need for the 2010 CHBA National SAM Awards – presented by Schlage and Trane is available through www.chba.ca/SAMS. The Competition is open to all CHBA new home builder, renovator and developer members. The deadline for entries is November 5.

National Conference in Banff– Register now for the CHBA’s 2011 National Conference from February 25-27 at the spectacular Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. All Conference delegates who have registered and paid by December 14 will be eligible to win a fabulous prize – a DeWalt 18V XRP 4-Tool Combo Kit. The prize includes a 1/2” hammerdrill/drill/driver, a circular saw, a reciprocating saw, and a flexible floodlight, as well as two 18V XRP batteries and a one-hour charge unit. And take advantage of early registration fees. Visit www.chba.ca/conference for online registration and more information, including details on speakers and social events.