



New Requirements for Locating Vents in Multi-Unit Buildings – The CHBA has submitted comments to the Canadian Code Centre regarding proposed new requirements for locating outlets that exhaust the products of combustion from multi-unit residential buildings. The CHBA argued that the proposals would cause problems of interpretation and, contrary to the information provided, would be very expensive. The annual public review of proposed changes to the National Building Code was held between October 24 and December 16. The CHBA National Office collaborated with CHBA Alberta in developing its response to the proposed changes to Part 6 of the NBC. A final decision on these proposals will be made by the CCBFC in June 2012.

Asbestos - A report recently completed for the CHBA examines research on the risks associated with handling asbestos-containing drywall compound during residential renovations. The survey found that regulations that require extensive (Level 2) procedures in four provinces may not be warranted. The CHBA is now seeking comments on the report from federal research agencies to ensure that its findings are sound. Based on these findings, provinces with less onerous (Level 1) requirements should not introduce additional requirements without demonstrating that they are needed.

National Energy Code for (Large) Buildings Published - The 2011 NECB has been published by the National Research Council. The NECB contains energy efficiency requirements for the building envelope as well as mechanical, electrical and lighting systems for large residential buildings. These requirements are also intended to apply to those smaller (Part 9) residential buildings that contain more than 300m² of non-residential space. It is expected that most provinces will begin the process of adopting this new code. The Canadian Code Centre is developing a guide for provinces to help them adapt the NECB to suit particular provincial needs. The impact of the NECB on current construction practices for larger residential buildings will be significant in some areas of the country and provincial HBAs are advised to become involved in the adoption process.

2011 CHBA National SAM Awards – Congratulations to all of the Finalists named this month for the 2011 CHBA National SAM Awards – Presented by Schlage and Trane. Commenting on the SAM Award finalists, CHBA's Acting President, Ron Olson, said that this year's SAM Award theme – Create and Transform – says it all; these new home builders, renovators and developers are indeed creating and transforming communities across the country in exceptional ways. The quality and creativity they have demonstrated is truly remarkable and exciting. We are very proud to see our industry represented by these fine projects." Winners will be announced at the 2012 CHBA National Conference in Mont-Tremblant, Québec on March 17. Visit www.chba.ca/SAMS to access the full listing of 2011 SAM Finalists.

R-2000 – The CHBA's R-2000 Coordinator, Gary Sharp, toured Eastern Ontario and the Maritimes this month to meet with R-2000 builders and to learn from them how to launch the "Next Generation" R-2000 Standard as effectively as possible. Grand Opening events for some of the first homes built to the new Standard are planned for February. The new Standard which cuts the energy budget in half will be available starting in January. All R-2000 Homes registered after July 1, 2012 will meet the new R-2000 Standard.

2012 Home Builder Magazine Buyer's Guide - Home Builder Magazine, the official magazine of the Canadian Home Builders' Association, will be publishing its 2012 Builder's Buyer's Guide in February. If you are a manufacturer or supplier member of the CHBA, you can be listed. The Magazine is distributed to all CHBA members and has a total distribution of more than 29,000 professionals working in residential construction and real estate from coast-to-coast. In order to be listed, it is necessary to complete a short questionnaire and return it to the publisher, Work-4 Projects Ltd., by January 9th. For more information, contact homebuilder@work4.ca.

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.