



Federal Investments in Energy Efficiency – The CHBA has applauded this month's announcement that the federal government will be investing \$78 million in a range of new and expanded energy efficiency initiatives over the next two years. CHBA Acting President Ron Olson noted that many of these investments will assist new home builders and renovators in providing Canadians with increased home energy efficiency, saving them money and helping protect Canada's environment. He noted that the announced funding includes support for the R-2000 Initiative and ENERGY STAR for New Homes, which have made Canada a world-leader in energy efficient housing. The CHBA was also pleased that the announcement also means increased support for the EnerGuide Rating System (ERS) which is in the process of a major updating.

New Municipal Accounting Requirements for their Infrastructure Assets - The Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) notes that as the existing capital asset base of municipalities ages and their population grows, increased demands for new capital assets will place further pressures on the ability of local governments to sustain public services. Last May, the Urban Council received a presentation by Andrew Newman of KPMG, a member of PSAB on this topic. The presentation is being turned now into a toolkit for local and provincial HBAs to use, both in examining municipal financial reports in their own jurisdictions, and also in communicating with local and provincial officials.

National Energy Code for Buildings / Future Targets - The Standing Committee on Energy Efficiency in Buildings (SCEEB) sought direction from the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) on raising the level of energy efficiency in buildings in the next edition of the National Energy Code for Buildings, suggesting a target of 10 percent above the 2011 edition. The CHBA wrote to the CCBFC stating that any increase would be premature until after provincial adoption of the 2011 edition and experience with implementation had been obtained. According to Canadian Code Centre staff, the CCBFC Executive Committee will not set specific targets and will direct that any changes must be considered on their merits.

Radon - CHBA staff were interviewed by the Homeowner Protection Centre, a Toronto-based consumer advocacy group which has received funding from Industry Canada to prepare recommendations for dealing with this health risk. Their report is expected this fall and it will likely call for a national strategy that includes a strong communications component. In the US, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is undertaking a strong national media campaign which links radon with "building it green" and directs consumers to discuss testing for radon with their new home builder. Previously, Health Canada has made presentations to the Canadian Renovators' Council on the possible development of a communications initiative to inform Canadians of the risks from radon in their homes.

Drywall Removal and Asbestos – The CHBA has retained a consultant to assemble available information on the risk from asbestos associated with removing drywall in older houses. This is further to a presentation made at the May meeting of the Canadian Renovators' Council in which an expert made a strong case that requirements in some provinces are excessive.

CHBA National SAMs – Everything you need to get started on the 2011 CHBA National SAM Awards is available now to Members. 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 official "Call for Entries" poster will be arriving in your mail this month. The deadline for entries is November 4.

Create and Transform in Mont-Tremblant – 'Create and Transform', the theme of the 2012 CHBA National Conference, will focus on the powerful forces transforming Canadian housing markets, and the compelling business opportunities this presents to CHBA members. Our Conference brochure, which provides full details on the event, was sent to Members this month by mail. Mark your calendar now for March 16-18, 2012 in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec. Visit www.chba.ca/conference for more information.