



**Energy Efficiency and the National Building Code** - CHBA staff attended the meeting of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes - Executive Committee this month and followed up with letters to the Commission on the development of energy efficiency requirements. The CHBA is recommending that the new objective on energy efficiency should be well focused on energy use and not stray into other environmental areas. The CHBA has also alerted the Commission to a number of key issues affecting energy efficiency requirements for large buildings that require its direction. The new requirements for large buildings will go to public review in the fall. Finally, the CHBA has identified important issues regarding energy efficiency requirements for houses that also require direction from the Commission. A task group will start work on the energy efficiency requirements for houses and small buildings in March that will include a number of CHBA builder members. The new requirements for houses will go to public review in the fall of 2011.

**R-2000 Standard Update** - Work is well underway towards a new, updated R-2000 Standard that will restore the initiative to its leading-edge market position. Natural Resources Canada has established an external Advisory Committee to guide this work, based on recommendations put forward by the CHBA. While final decisions are still some months away, there appears to be an emerging consensus that a 50% increase in the energy efficiency requirements for R-2000 homes makes sense. The CHBA is very pleased with the progress being made by NRCan.

**Comparison of Energy Efficiency Requirements for Houses** - Governments in several provinces have adopted new energy efficiency requirements for houses while others are planning to follow suit. Meanwhile, the National Building Code (NBC) process to develop new energy efficiency requirements for houses is about to get underway. Different units of measure have been used and there is a need to consolidate information to allow comparison. The new CHBA report is intended to assist provincial HBAs in their dealings with provincial governmental counterparts and to serve as a reference for the NBC task group that will begin its work shortly.

**Building a Greener Future** – The CHBA has completed an update of its *Building a Greener Future* brochure and copies have been provided to local and provincial HBAs across Canada. The brochure highlights the significant environmental progress made by Canada's residential construction industry in relation to energy use, water use and climate change. Both new and existing homes have seen considerable improvement in energy efficiency in recent years, building on a decades-long trend. The CHBA views this as a good-news story that needs to be shared with the public, media and with government decision-makers. The updated brochure was produced to help HBAs in these efforts.

**Canadian Construction Materials Centre (CCMC)** – The CCMC plays an important role in our industry by providing assurance to authorities that new products meet the requirements of the National Building Code. This service, which is provided by the Institute for Research in Construction at NRC, was the focus of a recent program review. The CHBA updated its discussion paper on material conformance assessment to contribute to this review and a CHBA representative participated on one of a series of focus groups. The review found a high level of satisfaction from authorities, but some concerns from manufacturers about the time and cost to obtain an evaluation report. The CHBA will be providing comments on the interim report.

**Annual Meeting of Members** – All information, including Submitted Resolutions, Audited Financial Statements and the Interim Report of the Nominating Committee, for the 2010 CHBA Annual Meeting of Members which will be held on Friday, March 5, 2010 at the Victoria Conference Centre (adjacent to the Fairmont Empress Hotel) has been posted in the Members' area of [www.chba.ca](http://www.chba.ca).

**National Conference** – It's not too late to register for the CHBA's 66th National Conference which will be held from March 5-7 in Victoria. The Conference will offer a tremendous lineup of leading-edge speakers who will give valuable insights into future trends and directions that will shape the industry. Register online at [www.chba.ca/conference](http://www.chba.ca/conference).