



**Renewal of Retrofit Program** - The CHBA has applauded federal Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver on the announced details of a renewed ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program. CHBA President Vince Laberge said that the announcement means that homeowners can begin the process of making their homes more energy efficient, right away. The program is complemented by the government's on-going support for the R-2000 initiative, the EnerGuide Rating System and ENERGY STAR for New Homes. By requiring written receipts for expenses eligible for a grant, the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program has the added benefit of encouraging people to work with professional renovators. This will bolster the government's efforts to combat the underground cash economy in home renovation services. "The renewal of the ecoENERGY Retrofit program will help to enhance the quality of our country's housing stock, particularly in terms of its environmental performance," Mr. Laberge said. "The residential sector is already a leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and this federal government commitment will help homeowners achieve even more. Improved energy efficiency saves homeowners money, and it helps Canada meet its environmental goals." For more information on the renewed Program, you can visit <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/media/newcom/2011/201160-eng.php>

**CHBA Calls for Deputy Ministers to Meet** – The CHBA this month reiterated a request that the National Research Council convene a meeting of Deputy Ministers responsible for building codes to reaffirm their commitment to work toward uniform regulations governing building construction in Canada. The CHBA has written to Chris Fillingham, Chair of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes, noting that it has been 10 years since the Deputy Ministers last met and that it has been over 20 years since a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Provinces, Territories and the National Research Council to work toward uniform regulations governing building construction across Canada. The CHBA is concerned that the spirit of cooperation required to sustain effective code uniformity between and among jurisdictions requires reaffirmation owing to many examples in recent years where the importance of uniform regulations have been ignored, creating unnecessary disruption for industry, and risking unintended consequences. There has been an enormous investment during the intervening period to make the National Code Development Process more compatible and integrated with provincial processes in order to improve the Codes' quality and the timeliness of its adoption. The Canadian Home Builders' Association (CHBA) believes it is time to take stock and to renew commitments to these worthy goals.

**Executive Officers' Council** – Congratulations to Donna Moore, CHBA-Calgary Region, for being named the winner of the Executive Officers' Council Award of Honour at the Council's recent Professional Development Forum in Winnipeg. She receives the Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership and contributions to the Council during her tenure in Calgary. Alan Thomarat, CHBA-Saskatchewan and the Saskatoon & Region HBA, was elected as the new Chair of the Council at the meeting in Winnipeg. The Council also announced that its 2012 Professional Development Forum will be held in St. Andrews, NB from June 13-15 and will be hosted by the CHBA-New Brunswick.

**CHBA National SAMs** – Everything you need to get an early start on the 2011 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 take advantage of the summer months to arrange for photos and begin the work of putting together your materials. 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. Conference business sessions will feature leading business speakers who will examine the key market, technology and business changes occurring today, and how entrepreneurs can use these opportunities to build new avenues for success. Our 2012 Conference location is superb – the Fairmont Tremblant Resort, is located at the heart of Mont-Tremblant, a European-style mountain village, and just steps away from the ski lifts and the village centre that combines European ambiance with Québécois hospitality. It will be an exceptional Conference in a unique location. Mark your calendar now for March 16-18, 2012 in Mont-Tremblant. Visit [www.chba.ca/conference](http://www.chba.ca/conference) for more information.