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**Canadian
Home Builders'
Association**



**Association canadienne
des constructeurs
d'habitations**

NEWS RELEASE

Home Builders congratulate Flaherty on job-creating budget

OTTAWA, January 27, 2009 -- The Canadian Home Builders' Association (CHBA) today congratulated Finance Minister Jim Flaherty on a budget that tackles the economic downturn.

CHBA President John Hrynkow of Edmonton said: "Mr. Flaherty has introduced several measures that will benefit individual Canadians and speed the recovery." These measures will help employment and give Canadians greater confidence in their economic prospects.

With respect to housing, Mr. Hrynkow said the housing industry will benefit from the major new funding for core infrastructure, the refundable tax credit for renovations, the tax credit for first-time home buyers, expansion of the *ecoEnergy* home energy retrofit initiative, additional support for skilled trades training and major new funding for core infrastructure.

The refundable tax credit for renovations will help maintain and create jobs and is a major job generator in a \$50 billion industry, he said.

Mr. Hrynkow also noted that the additional funding for *ecoEnergy Program* is also an investment that will produce an immediate increase in economic activity as well as environmental benefits in the longer-term.

"The first-time buyers tax credit is a practical measure that will help first-time buyers with their closing costs."

The industry also welcomes additional commitments to skilled training, particularly the \$2,000 Apprenticeship Completion Grant. "This is a valuable incentive that will help produce more skilled tradespeople."

Allowing first-time home buyers to withdraw an additional \$5,000 from their RRSP (to a total of \$25,000), "will be helpful," Mr. Hrynkow said.

However, Mr. Hrynkow expressed disappointment that the federal government did not increase the GST New Home Buyers Rebate “as this would have improved housing affordability for all new home buyers.”

Mr. Hrynkow welcomed the announcement of an additional \$4 billion over two years for an Infrastructure Stimulus Fund to help the provinces, territories and municipalities to upgrade such core infrastructure as roads and bridges. “We are pleased that emphasis is being placed on projects that can be started in the next two years.”

As well, the industry welcomes the Green Infrastructure Fund – \$1 billion over five years – which will support projects designed to produce cleaner air, land and water.

The industry also welcomes the measures being introduced to improve credit conditions. “This will help to give creditworthy businesses improved access to financing.”

John Hrynkow is Chief Executive Officer of Park Royal Homes, Edmonton. The Canadian Home Builders’ Association (CHBA) is the voice of the residential construction industry in Canada, representing more than 8,000 member firms across the country. Membership comprises new home builders, renovators, developers, trade contractors, building material manufacturers and suppliers, lenders and other professionals in the housing sector.

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