



# MONDAY MORNING BRIEFING

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## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The CHBA National spring Board and committee meetings were held May 28-31 in Ottawa. Participating from GVHBA were President Ross Gurney on the Board, Urban Council and Economic Review Committee; John Friswell as chair of the Canadian Renovators' Council; and yours truly as past chair of the Executive Officers' Council Advisory Committee. Economists from Andersen Research, Altus Group and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation presented their revised 2009 housing starts forecasts. There were 211,000 starts nationally in 2008. Andersen predicted 140,000 for 2009, Altus 141,000 and CMHC 141,900. Many of the topics discussed in Ottawa will be communicated to members by CHBA National, but one issue seemed to dominate discussions – the harmonization of federal and provincial sales taxes (HST). My *Vancouver Sun* column this past Saturday detailed the HST experience in Ontario and why the B.C. government, if it is considering HST, should ensure tax neutrality for our industry and customers.

## NATIONAL DOCUMENTS

Posted under Association News in the Member Resources section at [www.gvhba.org](http://www.gvhba.org) are these latest (June) CHBA National documents: *Economic Update*, *The National Scene*, *Ottawa Update*, and *Tax Alert*, which includes a Fraser Institute study – *Canadian Consumer Tax Index 2009* – that shows Canadian families are paying more in taxes than on food, clothing and shelter.

## SUCCESSFUL CONCERT

There has been much fanfare lately about Concert Properties' 20-year anniversary, retirement of Jack Poole and promotion of David Podmore to Chair and CEO. Jack and David have been steadfast guiding lights to Concert's amazing growth and community engagement. GVHBA conveys congratulations to Jack and David. Concert truly is one of B.C.'s premiere business successes.