



MEDIA RELEASE

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CHAMBER GEARS UP TO FIGHT SPEC TAX (AGAIN) “Still a Bad Tax” – Amendments Don’t Make it Work

Kelowna: The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce once again is gearing up to push back against the government’s tabled legislation implementing the Spec Tax. “It’s still an anti-Canadian tax, punitive to BC residents, detrimental to the Kelowna housing market, hurting our workers, and not based on economic studies or fact,” said Carmen Sparg, President of the Kelowna Chamber. “It’s still a bad tax.”

“We agree with West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater’s comments when the legislation came out that ‘What this is really going to mean is less growth, less construction of all types of new housing stock, less revenue to pay for things like policing and fewer construction jobs’”, said Sparg. The City of Kelowna noted that the newly-tabled legislation wasn’t going to make more affordable housing units become available to residents.

And on Thursday, when the government announced hastily-written amendments alongside the Green Party’s leader Andrew Weaver, the Chamber called the new amendments “window dressing at best, and no help to Kelowna and West Kelowna.” “This action is likely to depress the housing investment market and slow development of new housing,” said Carmen Sparg.

“We’re pleased our advocacy efforts moved the needle a little on this issue but continue to be disappointed that the government didn’t press the pause button altogether,” concluded Sparg. “Even though resolutions were passed at the BC Chamber and at the UBCM calling for a halt to the tax, for an economic impact study, for proof that the tax would make a difference to affordable housing: nothing changed.”

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