

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR
OF THE
MANUFACTURERS' COUNCIL
October 2013**

As directed by the CHBA Board of Directors, the Manufacturers' Council and the other Standing Committees and Councils will be carrying out self-assessments this month on its current mandate, membership, and role in serving the Association. The Council was pleased that I was invited to participate as a member of the CHBA Working Group that developed and reported on initial implementation recommendations to the Board.

The CHBA Manufacturers' Council members represent Canada's major manufacturers and suppliers of building materials and products. The Council's mission and purpose is to support quality, innovation, choice and affordability in residential building products and services, and to promote solid relations between its manufacturers and builders across Canada. The Council will brainstorm ideas on how to deliver increased value to CHBA new home builder and renovator members.

Recently, the federal government introduced legislation to combat the importation of counterfeit products in violation of Canadian trademarks. This proposed legislation died with the prorogation of the last Parliament. Had it become law, Bill C-56 would have given customs border officers the legal authority and discretion to search for, examine, and temporarily detain commercial shipments of suspected counterfeit goods at the border.

Sub-par or unsafe products can increase cost and liability for new home builders and renovators, and undermine the company's reputation and their relationship with customers. In the extreme, they can pose a serious safety risk, including the loss of life and property. At the Council's last meeting, Katalin Molnar from the CSA Group showed evidence of counterfeit protective footwear, electrical fireplace units and other electrical products, plumbing product types including PVC pipe and fittings, drywall, power tools and hardware. The International Housing Association, of which the CHBA is a member, has also taken interest in this area as it has become a growing concern worldwide. Certification markings themselves have become a target for counterfeiters.

Bill C-56 had the support of groups such as the Canadian Anti-Counterfeiting Network (CACN) and other industry associations that have worked to promote awareness and help to increase legislative enforcement of counterfeiting and intellectual property crimes. The Council will be discussing this matter and will consider recommending that the CHBA lend its voice to others championing the re-introduction of Bill C-56 in the new session of Parliament.

The Council welcomes Kevin Lee to his position as the new Chief Executive Officer of the CHBA and members looking forward to working with him.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Fallon
Chair