



# Issue Update

## Community Charter Legislation Tabled

Ted Nebbeling, Minister of State for the Community Charter, tabled legislation today designed to provide greater autonomy for municipalities. The legislation is also supposed to increase accountability and enable better services for local taxpayers. According to the Minister, the Community Charter will be the most empowering local government legislation in Canada.

The legislation is to provide municipalities with greater authority in areas of community interest including bylaws and regulations. It is the result of over a decade of consultation and government has received submissions from over 100 groups, including the BC Construction Association, since the introduction of the draft legislation.

There has been wide spread concern within the business community regarding this legislation. For the construction industry, in particular, we have voiced concerns about the potential for increased regulation and fees at the municipal level. Government believes that the legislation will reduce regulation and red tape by providing municipalities with the tools to enter into public-private partnerships and the ability to enter into agreements with other local governments to co-ordinate regulation.

The charter will come into effect at the end of 2003. The provincial government will be working with local government to develop a resource guide for communities. Information will be posted at: [www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/charter/](http://www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/charter/). Symposiums and information sessions will be held across the province in the coming months.

### Let's Get BC Building!

The mission of the BCCA is to provide leadership and excellence in the representation of, and service to, British Columbia's construction industry.