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Advocacy Bulletin 7

Dear Members:

March 16, 2020

While it has been a little while since we published an advocacy bulletin, there has been no shortage of work being done in this area and we will get back to providing regular updates.

On Tuesday, January 21, the WRLA held its 1st annual Advocacy Summit. Members participated in a half-day session to identify areas where the WRLA needs to advocate to governments on behalf of its membership. The session was facilitated by Eric Pelletier of Prospectus Associates, an advocacy firm that we are working with to move our advocacy program forward.

Robust discussion was had and several pain points members are experiencing were put forward. There was constructive discussion on initiatives that can be implemented by government to make an impact in the area of climate change while also stimulating the economy in the west.

We are in the final stages of formalizing our plan for the year and will communicate it to membership in the coming weeks. Regular progress updates will be provided to members as well.

The Hon. Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Forestry and Agriculture with the Alberta government attended the WRLA Buying Show on Friday, January 24. The tour and discussion connected Minister Dreeshan to the scope of the industry, in addition to the diversity of businesses that operate within it. It was our first opportunity to introduce the WRLA and connect the new Alberta government to the LBM industry.

On January 29, Liz Kovach, WRLA president, and Len Regier with the WRLA board of directors, attended a political forum in Regina where presentations were made by the current government and official opposition. During question period, the WRLA asked the government if they would consider implementing an eco-retrofit tax credit in their upcoming budget. While no commitment was made to budgetary items, this is an initiative that we will continue to build a case for and continue to push.

This past February, the illegal rail blockades had a big impact on a lot of Canadian businesses, and in response to these illegal blockades, the WRLA issued letters to the Federal Minister of Transport and Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry urging them to work with the provinces and law enforcement agencies to resolve the rail blockades and restore full rail service to Canada.

This letter was copied to the Premiers in each of the Western provinces, so they too were made aware of the WRLA's efforts in this area.

On Friday, February 21, the WRLA was also asked to conduct a brief interview with Global News to discuss the impact the blockades were having on members.

I believe that's it for now. Again, I trust you are finding this information useful. Any questions, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Best regards,

Liz Kovach

WRLA President

Director of Prairie Provinces, Building Materials Council of Canada

Cc: WRLA board