



For Immediate Release

Non-residential construction gets big boost in February

(April 7, 2011 - Vancouver) Non-residential construction continued to lead the way in BC with 54 per cent growth in February 2011, according to [building permit numbers](#) released today by Statistics Canada.

“Construction customers have seen the value in construction pricing in the marketplace right now and they’re seizing that opportunity to get building,” said Philip Hochstein, President of the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of BC “We’re in a small window this year with construction prices well below what they were before the recession hit in 2008. But that window won’t stay open forever.”

Hochstein said the good values to be had in construction can be found in a recent BTY Group [report on construction cost pressures](#) combined with ICBA research on wages. ICBA’s wage survey showed expected increases of 2.15% this year and 3.47% in 2012.

On a month to month basis, the value of building permits issued in February 2011 remained steady at just under \$450 million. In the non-residential sector they jumped from \$118 million to \$152 million.

“Construction plays a bigger part in BC’s economy than in any other province,” Hochstein said. “This up-tick in permits is a strong sign that our economic recovery is on track.”

About ICBA (www.icba.ca) ICBA services and represents BC's construction sector. ICBA's 1,100 members – who include both the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) and residential construction sectors - are involved in virtually all major capital projects in British Columbia.

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