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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Residential Construction in Crisis Jobs are in jeopardy – Albertans shutout of home ownership

EDMONTON – Fewer residential construction jobs, less affordable homes and uncertainty surrounding proposed legislation have crippled the industry, and the impacts are far-reaching across the province. More than 120,000 Albertans were employed in residential construction, making the industry one of the largest in the province.

BILD Alberta, which is the unified voice for the land development, home building and professional renovation industry gathered members from across the province to discuss the issues. Some BILD members have been forced to make significant reductions and are concerned there may be more lost jobs.

“We hear from members every day who have had to make the difficult decision to lay off staff,” says Steve Bontje, Managing Partner at Laebon Developments and BILD Alberta Board, “the ripple effect is far-reaching, work order to skilled trades partners have been cut by at least a third.”

There are more than 5,000 unabsorbed new homes on the market, resulting in a significant reduction in housing starts. The new mortgage rules have cooled the housing market across the country, and now the provincial government is proposing new legislation that would further impact housing affordability.

“For every \$10,000 increase in the price of a home 20,000 would be homebuyers are eliminated from the market,” says Carmen Wyton, BILD Alberta CEO, “industry needs to be consulted before changes are made that result in less young families and first time home buyers from home ownership.”

BILD Alberta Association (Building Industry and Land Development) represents more than 1,800 business members from 10 constituent associations committed to building communities throughout the province.

For more information, contact:

Kevin Armstrong

Senior Director, External Relations

Phone: (780) 424-5890 ext. 227

Cell: (780) 717-1221 Email: kevin.armstrong@BILDAlberta.ca