

Renovating your home this fall? There's lots of information available

ome renovation is a multibillion dollar industry in L Canada that includes public and private organizations, professional and industry associations, manufacturers and suppliers, financial institutions, and dedicated renovation professionals from coast to coast.

If you are thinking about renovating your home, there is a wealth of information and assistance available from many different sources. It can help you to decide what you want and how to get it and ensure a successful renovation that you will enjoy for years to come. Most of this information is free of charge or available at a province.

modest price.

• Call your local Home Builders' Association and ask for a list of renovator members and information on the renovation process. During Renovation Month, held in October, many local Home Builders' Associations organize special consumer activities such as renovation seminars, parades of renovations and displays. Take advantage of these opportunities; get to know the professional renovators in your community; and learn about the latest trends, products and financing options.

 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) offers a comprehensive series of publications on renovation, from hiring a contractor to dealing with moisture problems in older homes. To get a list of publica-

tions and videos, call 1-800-668-CMHC for service in English or 1-800-463-SCHL for service in French.

· A renovation is an excellent opportunity to improve the energy efficiency of your home. Call Natural Resources Canada at 1-800-387-2000 to order your energy renovation information kit.

 Your municipal government can provide information about building codes and regulations, and the permits and inspections needed for your renovation project. Also ask about the Contractors' Lien Act and the hold-back requirements in your

 Provincial governments that deal with consumer and commercial relations may have publications and other information to guide you in working with renovators.

· Ask banks, trust companies and other financial institutions for information on renovation financing.

 Visit building material suppliers and browse through their display areas to get ideas for your project.

 Many local libraries have a wide selection of books, magazines and videotapes on renovation.

Information courtesy of Canadian Home Builders' Association. For further information on remodeling or new homes check out their Web site at www.chba.ca.

> —Canadian Home Builders' Association



