



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

***MEDIA* RELEASE**

New Energy Efficiency Standards will Challenge Industry **Maintaining New Home Affordability will be the Challenge**

June 29, 2006 –Toronto – There are over 700 changes to the 2007 Ontario Building Code, including the new energy performance standards for 2012 and the move to an objective-based format. These represent a significant change for the new home construction industry.

“As an association, we are always concerned with the affordability of new homes for consumers. With escalating new and resale house prices, rising interest rates, escalating development charges and increased cost of materials, and now the addition costs related to the implementation of the new Ontario Building Code package, housing affordability will continue to be a challenge for Ontarians,” says Victor Fiume, President of the Ontario Home Builders’ Association.

Fiume added, “The energy efficiency targets set out by the government for 2012 represent a monumental shift for our industry. We estimate that additional costs will be in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 dollar range. This will seriously affect affordability of housing in the future.”

OHBA has concerns regarding moisture and mould issues as they relate to the 2009 requirement for near full-height basement insulation. “As home builders we are exploring ways to resolve this potential issue through improved building techniques. In the end, we have a responsibility to consumers to build healthy and safe homes,” Fiume explained.

"Ontario home builders have always been industry leaders in providing the best built homes in the world however, the new Ontario Building Code's energy efficiency standards represent a challenge. OHBA is committed to working in partnership with the provincial government and other agencies to meet the new requirements. We recognize we have a responsibility like all Ontarians, to practice and promote energy conservation,” concluded Fiume.

The Ontario Home Builders’ Association is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 31 local associations across the province. We contribute \$35 billion dollars to Ontario’s economy, employing over 440,000 people across the province. Our members build 80% of the new housing in Ontario.

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