



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

DATES TO NOTE

- February 25: EnerQuality Innovation Forum and Awards

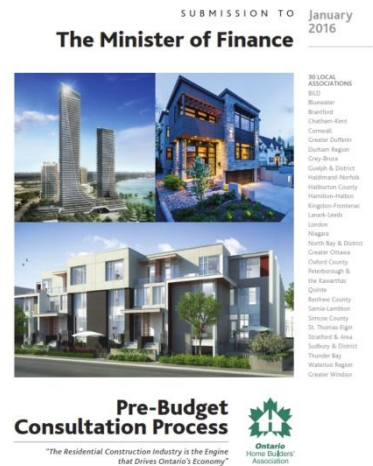
FEBRUARY 2016

PROVINCIAL PRE-BUDGET 2016

The upcoming Ontario Budget will continue to outline Premier Kathleen Wynne and Finance Minister Charles Sousa's fiscal priorities for the coming year. Ontario's home builders, land developers and professional renovators continue to generate economic growth and create jobs in Ontario with CMHC reporting a healthy 70,157 housing starts in 2015 and forecasting 65,100 housing starts in 2016.

The OHBA [pre-budget submission](#) delivered a number of key messages and priorities to the Provincial Government including:

1. The residential construction industry has a critical role to play to address climate change through market transformations to improve the energy performance of Ontario's nearly five million existing homes. If the provincial government is serious about meeting the Paris Climate Change agreement's greenhouse gas emission targets, new initiatives, such as OHBA's proposed *Home Renovation Tax Credit* in combination with *Mandatory Home Energy Rating and Disclosure* on resale, must be introduced. The fact is, millions of existing homes in Ontario are several decades old and simply do not meet modern building code or performance standards.
2. OHBA supports co-ordinated infrastructure investment towards strategic projects based on clearly defined priorities. These targeted investments should support other provincial objectives such as intensification, climate change mitigation/adaptation and the efficient movement of goods and people. Equally important is long-term asset management planning through the ongoing maintenance and state of good repair for Ontario's existing infrastructure.



WASTE-FREE ONTARIO ACT

In November, Ontario introduced the *Waste-Free Ontario Act* that, if passed, would divert more waste from landfills and help fight climate change. The province also posted a draft [Waste Free Ontario Strategy](#) for public and stakeholder feedback. The draft strategy provides a roadmap for Ontario to transition to a province that produces zero waste and zero GHG pollution from waste. OHBA is seeking feedback from members on the draft strategy and proposed legislation.

OHBA previously participated in consultations on waste diversion legislation and made submissions in 2010 and 2013 with recommendations related to extended producer responsibility. The OHBA Land Development Committee is hosting the Ministry for an industry consultation at 20 Upjohn Road at 2:00 p.m. on Friday February 19th. All members are welcome to attend – please RSVP [Mike Collins-Williams](#).

EXCESS SOIL MANAGEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), along with a number of supporting Ministries, has concluded that a clarified and improved policy framework is necessary to support implementation of the directions set out in MOECC's existing "[Management of Excess Soil – A Guide for Best Management Practices](#)" (BMP).

Based on the results of the review, the province has developed a proposed Excess Soil Management Policy Framework which is now posted for a 60 day period on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry ([Registry # 012-6065](#)).

The province intends to complete consultations on the proposed framework and develop priority policies in accordance with that framework. OHBA previously [submitted comments to the Ministry](#) in 2013. If you have any questions regarding the review or proposed framework, please contact Atif Durrani, Senior Policy Advisor, Land and Water Policy Branch (416) 314-3888 or Atif.Durrani2@ontario.ca. OHBA is seeking feedback from members – please provide comments or recommendations to OHBA Director of Policy, [Mike Collins-Williams](#).

ONTARIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SURVEY

OHBA is working closely with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) to prepare a co-ordinated response to government on the proposed Ontario Retirement Pension Plan and the Ontario College of Trades. OCC has requested OHBA and other employer stakeholders circulate this questionnaire among our membership so there is a better understanding about employer perspectives on the economy and skilled labour. The [questionnaire](#) should only take 5-6 minutes.

LONG TERM AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is anticipated to release an updated [Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy](#) (LTAHS) in the coming weeks. OHBA previously participated in consultations for the original LTAHS in 2009 and OHBA submitted new/updated recommendations in our [July 2015 submission](#).

OHBA notes that during the *Bill 73, Smart Growth for Our Communities Act* consultations that numerous municipalities, associations and stakeholder groups explicitly requested the province to amend the Planning Act to allow for Inclusionary Zoning policies. Furthermore, the NDP has a Private Member's Bill (Bill 3) supporting Inclusionary Zoning and Liberal MPP Peter Milczyn also has a Private Member's Bill (Bill 39) supporting inclusionary zoning. OHBA has produced an information piece – [Inclusionary Zoning Not The Answer](#).

STOP THE UNDERGROUND ECONOMY



Hosted by OHBA and BILD, Ontario's Parliamentary Assistant Laura Albanese launched the first consultation to combat the underground economy on January 11.

MPP Albanese is [consulting with key stakeholders](#), including OHBA, to better understand the scope of the underground economy within the sector. Individuals that run a business or work in the residential construction sector are also invited to submit their ideas on the types of illicit activities that impact their ability to remain competitive to MOF-PPAB@ontario.ca.

OHBA looks forward to working with MPP Albanese and the government on this file to stop the underground economy. [Click here](#) to access OHBA's five suggestions to the government on how to help curb the underground economy.

STOP THE UNDERGROUND ECONOMY

- Get it in Writing!
- Hire a Professional
- Taking Care of Business: Get the Business Number
- No Home Left Behind: Licensed Builder
- The Power of Protection: Home Insurance
- Save the Tax: Home Renovation Tax Credit

PROVINCE MOVES FORWARD WITH PENSION PLAN

Type of employer	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Wave 1: large employers without registered workplace plans	0.8%	1.6%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
Wave 2: medium employers without registered workplace plans	0%	0.8%	1.6%	1.9%	1.9%
Wave 3: Small employers without registered workplace plans	0%	0%	0.8%	1.6%	1.9%
Wave 4: employers with registered plans that do not meet test	0%	0%	0%	1.9%	1.9%

The provincial government is continuing to implement the [Ontario Retirement Pension Plan \(ORPP\)](#) as the federal government has signaled no changes will occur to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) in the short term. Subject to legislative approval, the ORPP will be introduced in 2017 for large employers and phased over the next four years. The goal of the province is to ensure that by 2020 every employee in Ontario will be part of either the ORPP or a comparable workplace pension plan.

Employees and employers will contribute an equal amount, capped at 1.9 per cent each (3.8 per cent combined) on an employee's annual earnings up to \$90,000. The plan will be phased in, with a longer implementation period for smaller employers.

The [Ontario Chamber of Commerce](#) is taking the lead role advocating on behalf of employers on the pension file. OHBA continues to [work along the OCC](#) to communicate to government the impacts the ORPP will have on small and large employers throughout the province.

ENERQUALITY INNOVATION FORUM AND AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

As the #1 certifier of energy-efficient homes in Canada, EnerQuality is proud to present the most innovative and thought-provoking leaders and influencers in the country, as we embark on what will be the most ambitious and transformational decade in residential construction. On February 25, 2016 join EnerQuality for its future-ready forum of keynotes, conversations, presentations and innovation. Learn what's ahead in residential home construction as we drive towards higher standards to be ushered in by the 2017 OBC. Hear all the buzz around Net Zero building and shift up to the edge of your seat as we share plans to introduce the next generation of certification programs! To register and to learn more, visit eqinnovation.ca.



NAHB - NATIONAL AWARDS



The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) held their annual conference January 18-22nd in Las Vegas, Nevada. The well-attended event featured a large tradeshow, daily informational sessions as well as the much anticipated National Awards. This year Ontario did exceptionally well and brought home eleven gold awards and thirty-five silver awards. Congratulations to all the winners of the NAHB awards!

To see a full list of Ontario winners, please [click here](#). To learn more about the National Awards please visit: <http://www.thenationals.com/>.

