



JUNE 2014

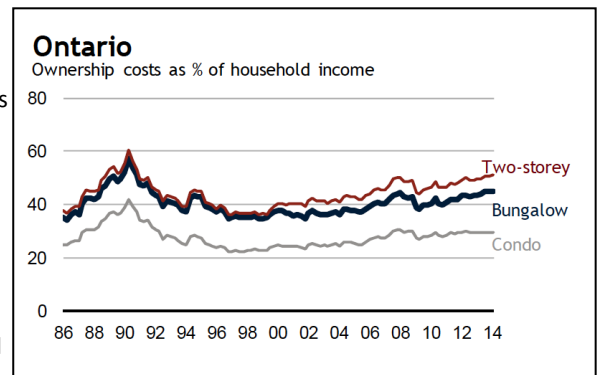
DATES TO NOTE

- June 12: Provincial Election
- June 18: OHBA Board of Directors Meeting
- June 23: Awards of Distinction Submissions Close Online
- September 21-23: OHBA Annual Conference and Awards

ELECTION AND RBC HOUSING AFFORDABILITY REPORT

With the election coming up on June 12th, OHBA has been actively working to keep members informed of all three major parties platforms and OHBA's positions on industry issues outlined in their campaigns. OHBA has been doing this through a series of Election Watch newsletters and has provided overall analyses of all the parties platforms as well as specific newsletters focused on each party's specific campaign. To view the OHBA Election Watch on the Liberal platform, [click here](#), for the NDP platform [click here](#), and for the PC platform, [click here](#).

With the view of keeping members informed and engaged with their local candidates, OHBA produced several one-page [Election Action](#) Sheets for local home builders' associations to utilize in their efforts to advocate, educate and inform candidates in all parties of industry positions. The [OHBA Action Sheets](#) specifically cover issues that directly affect our members and our consumers with information on our advocacy efforts, background on the public policy issues and what our campaign is focused on.



An OHBA action sheet focusing on [Housing Affordability](#) shows that escalating taxes, charges and fees are having a direct impact on housing affordability and choice for new neighbours. [A recently released report by RBC](#) has shown a decline in housing affordability nationwide. The report notes that one of the dominating factors in this decline is the continuing increase in home prices, particularly with single-family homes, making investing in the market unaffordable for the 'average home buyer' in Ontario. OHBA has been advocating to improve affordability through reforms to the Ontario Building Code to allow [six-storey wood-frame construction](#) and in our submissions to the Provincial consultations on [Land-Use Planning](#) and [Development Charges](#).

OHBA will continue to stay on top of these issues as the Provincial election continues. To view the OHBA Action Sheets, [click here](#).

MINISTRY OF LABOUR REGULATION UPDATES

DELAYED- MANDATORY FALL PROTECTION TRAINING FOR WORKERS: The Ministry of Labour has created a [new training standard for Working at Heights](#). The standard is currently voluntary and there has not been a regulation in place to validate the new requirements. [The Working at Heights Training Program Standard](#) would include two modules, both theory and practical, with a duration of both modules lasting 3 and 3.5 hours each. The Ministry had completed a consultation on the proposed new mandatory requirements. OHBA Health and Safety Chair, Bruce Bolduc, OHBA members and OHBA staff participated in the consultations and requested grandfathering provisions for workers that had already completed similar training as well as a reasonable transition timetable for workers who were not trained prior to the regulation. Only Ministry approved trainers will be able to train workers. The Ministry has not announced the process of how to apply to become a licensed trainer or the curriculum the standard must comply with. No regulation has been drafted or put into force.

DELAYED- MANDATORY ENTRY LEVEL TRAINING FOR CONSTRUCTION

One of the recommendations from the [Tony Dean Report](#) was for the Ministry to develop mandatory entry-level training for construction workers. The Ministry has yet to publicly consult on this proposal on what the requirements, length, and type of training this would encompass.

ACTIVE- [Mandatory health and safety awareness training for all workers](#) has been introduced by the Ministry of Labour. This focuses on safety rights and responsibilities and serves as a general introduction to workplace health and safety. Workers can use free online training as one way to meet the minimum training required by the Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training regulation.

ACTIVE- [Supervisor Health and Safety Awareness training](#) introduces supervisors to the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The Program can be completed by using the workbook or the e-Learning module. The online module takes 45-60 minutes to complete. You must save or print the certificate as the ministry will not maintain records.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR SUMMER BLITZ

The Ontario government will focus on the safety of new and young workers during a four-month enforcement blitz across Ontario.

Beginning May 1, 2014, Ministry of Labour inspectors will check that employers are complying with Ontario's [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#). This will include checking that new and young workers:

- are being instructed, trained and supervised on the job;
- meet [minimum age requirements](#), and are;
- following required safety measures and procedures to prevent injuries.

SPECIES AT RISK UPDATE

On March 28, 2014, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) received a report from COSSARO, regarding 22 species that were assessed and classified in 2013. In accordance with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List will be amended and species which are newly listed as endangered or threatened, or those which have changed classification, will receive species and general habitat protection. The species to be added to the list are:

- Mottled Duskywing (Butterfly) - Endangered
- Riverine Clubtail (Dragonfly) - Endangered
- Eastern Small-footed Myotis (Bat) – Endangered
- Lilliput (Mussel) - Threatened
- Threehorn Wartyback (Mussel) - Threatened
- Bank Swallow – Threatened

O. Reg. 242/08 (supported by OHBA through the association's involvement on the MNR's ESA Stakeholder Roundtable) allows certain activities to proceed that would affect threatened or endangered species and that would otherwise not be allowed, provided specific conditions are followed to protect species and their habitat. As additional species are listed on the SARO List, the ministry assesses whether amendments to O. Reg. 242/08 are warranted. MNR is proposing regulatory amendments to O. Reg. 242/08 (search for #012-1553 at www.ebr.gov.on.ca) to make it apply generally to the new species that will be added to the SARO List no later than June 27, 2014. [OHBA responded to the proposed regulatory amendments in a letter](#) on May 22nd to the Ministry of Natural Resources supporting the proposed changes.

REGISTER NOW - THE 2014 OHBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AWARDS!

OHBA's Annual Conference is just around the corner! This year, OHBA is excited to welcome everyone to our nation's capital, Ottawa, from **September 21-23, 2014**, at the Ottawa Convention Centre.

OHBA has been busy planning an exciting conference; here are a few of the events to look forward to:

1. **Canada Day in the Capital** - OHBA has planned an exciting opening reception where we get to celebrate Canada Day all over again! Show your Canadian pride - come in your favourite Canadian jersey, red and white or the infamous Canadian Tuxedo!
2. **Awards of Distinction 2014** - The much anticipated Awards of Distinction will be held on Monday, September 22nd. We've added new categories this year, including Renovator of the Year, so make sure to visit the website to check them out - submissions close on June 23rd, visit: www.ohbaod.ca
3. **Business Sessions** - OHBA is working hard to bring you insightful, interesting and engaging sessions. Some session highlights include: Keynote speaker Dave Hemstad from CBC's *The Debaters*, Customer Service Excellence, CMHC Housing Outlook and many more! Sessions are constantly evolving so check back often to see what else we have in store!
4. **President's Gala** - Our conference will conclude with the inaugural President's Gala where OHBA will formally welcome our new president!



Don't miss out on this exciting program, register today: www.ohbaconference.ca

INTERNATIONAL HOUSING TOUR: OHBA IN NYC!

Last week, OHBA and 30 member delegates headed south of the boarder for OHBA's first international housing study tour to New York City, a big thank you to everyone that attended!

Hosted by Darlene Fraser of Eastforest Homes, the two-day tour was jam-packed with a combination of residential, community and cultural sites.

The first day of the tour featured a guided walk on the High Line, an incredible luxury loft conversion of a historic building at 42 Ann Street and the Toll Brother's condominium and hotel Pierhouse project overlooking Brooklyn Bridge Park and the Manhattan Skyline.

Our second day featured a very solemn visit to the World Trade Center memorial where we were guided by three individuals who were directly impacted and who shared their moving stories of that tragic day. Our afternoon included a presentation by [Projects for Public Spaces](#) and a walking tour of the West Village and we concluded with an outing to Yankee Stadium to watch the Twins defeat the Yankees (further solidifying the Jays first place position in the American League East).

Be sure to check out photos on OHBA's [facebook page](#)!

