



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

MARCH 2015

DATES TO NOTE

March 12:	Modernizing Ontario's Apprenticeship System (Toronto and London)
March 4-6:	CHBA Conference
April 8-10:	OHBA Six-Storey Wood Tour Vancouver
April 20:	OHBA PEO Day and Industry Leaders' Dinner

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT GREENBELT AND GROWTH PLAN ANNOUNCEMENT

On Friday February 27th, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Ted McMeekin, announced the launch of [Phase One of a co-ordinated review of the Greenbelt and the Growth Plan](#). As quoted in the [Toronto Star](#), Minister McMeekin has said he wants to “grow the Greenbelt” to protect even more land and goes on to say, “it’s not our intent to be making radical changes,” noting the government’s own research shows it is one of the most popular initiatives since the Liberals were elected in 2003. This announcement supports the [2014 Liberal Party election campaign](#) commitment to, “work with communities and expand the outer boundary of the Greenbelt over the next six years, using established processes continuing our legacy of protecting Ontario’s irreplaceable ecological and agricultural lands from urban sprawl”. The platform document can be viewed through this link and OHBA has highlighted the relevant sections for members to review.

Along with the public consultation process, the announcement of an expert panel chaired by former Toronto Mayor David Crombie and including Leith Moore – Past OHBA and BILD President – VP at Fieldgate Homes. This panel will be responsible for a report to the government at the end of the Phase One process. As mentioned in the [OHBA media release](#) as well as at the OHBA Board and at some of the local HBA meetings in the past few weeks, OHBA is going to connect all the dots starting by respecting the principle of the Greenbelt and proposing positive ideas to ensure the Growth Plan and the Greenbelt work for Ontario families and the success of the province. As is also quoted in the Toronto Star article, Mr. Crombie stressed “land-use plans are crucial to building a sustainable future for the Greater Golden Horseshoe”.

This review has the potential to impact 14 local associations including: BILD, Brantford, Durham Region, Greater Dufferin, Grey-Bruce, Guelph & District, Haldimand-Norfolk, Hamilton-Halton, Niagara, Oxford, Peterborough & the Kawarthas, Quinte, Simcoe County and Waterloo-Region. OHBA will be actively working to keep locals and members up-to-date on this important review.

TONY DEAN OCOT REVIEW

Tony Dean has announced that he will be visiting several locations outside of Toronto as part of his review of the Ontario College of Trades (OCOT). According to his [latest update](#), he will be visiting eight separate locations as part of his outreach in April. Tentative dates have been provided to OHBA (dates are subject to change). These are as follows:

April 9: Kingston	April 10: Ottawa	April 13: Hamilton	April 14: London
April 15: Sarnia	April 21: Thunder Bay	April 23: Sudbury	Week of April 27: Toronto (North and Downtown)

OHBA recommends using the date provided in your local association to organize a separate discussion on “Modernizing Ontario’s Trades” before meeting with Tony Dean. OHBA has commissioned a report focusing on “Modernizing Ontario’s Trades” along with several other employer construction associations that include: Ontario Road Builders’ Association; Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Associations; Heavy Construction Association of Toronto; RESCON; and the Ontario General Contractors Association. We are also engaging the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and their local network.

In addition, OHBA will also be writing a response that addresses specific questions in the [Dean Review Consultation Guide](#) that are consistent with past positions.

In order to have a meeting with Tony Dean, a local association will have to submit its own response to the Consultation. OHBA will be sending out a document next week that local associations can adapt to inform Mr. Dean of specific local concerns and issues. Local associations must submit a response to the consultation in order to have a local meeting.

“MODERNIZING SKILLED TRADES” – TORONTO EVENT

Ontario’s construction employer associations [invite you to participate in a discussion on apprenticeship reform in Ontario](#). Dawson Strategic will be releasing their research, analysis and recommendations to modernize Ontario’s apprenticeship system in order to make us the leading jurisdiction in North America for skilled training outcomes.

The report will provide fact-based evidence for the Tony Dean Review of the Ontario College of Trades. Get Informed and engaged as we present solutions to the challenges facing Ontario’s apprenticeship system. The event will take place on [Thursday, March 12th \(8:45 A.M.—10:30 A.M.\)](#). OHBA and our partners will be launching other events throughout Ontario to engage home builders and professional renovators as Tony Dean travels the province.

COMPULSORY CERTIFICATION OF SPRINKLER & FIRE PROTECTION INSTALLERS

The province has enacted [a regulation](#) which will change the classification for the sprinkler and fire protection installer trade from voluntary to compulsory following a two year transition period. Prior to the pause in certification reviews, the Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer trade made a successful application through the OCOT certification process to become a compulsory trade. OHBA along with other employer groups opposed certification for that trade and [the ruling was split 2 in favour and 1 against](#).

OHBA has requested that if the installation of fire sprinklers does become a compulsory trade that plumbers and steamfitters should also be able to install sprinklers as this currently is part of their OCOT Apprenticeship Training Standard. The regulation published on February 2, 2015 creates a two-year implementation approach. During the full two-year period the trade will remain voluntary. However, on February 2, 2017 there will be a number of requirements that change in terms of the practice of the trade.

Membership in the College, along with a valid Certificate of Qualification is key to being in compliance in a compulsory trade- when the classification changes, individuals in the Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer trade will need to be members in good standing in one of the College's membership classes in order to continue to work legally. In light of the numerous scope of work overlaps between SFPI trade and plumber, OHBA is requesting more clarification as to who can install sprinkler systems after February 2, 2017. Presently there is only one approved training delivery agency in Ontario located in Markham. The trainer is jointly run by the Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association (CASA) and [UA Local 853](#). For more information on how transition will work for this trade, visit: www.collegeoftrades.ca

CONSTRUCTION LIEN ACT REVIEW

The provincial government is launching an expert review of the *Construction Lien Act* that will include the examination of payment issues within the construction sector. Ontario has selected Bruce Reynolds as Counsel to conduct the review, Mr. Reynolds is a leading expert in construction law and has represented different parties in the construction industry throughout his career. It is anticipated that the review will be completed by December 2015 and will involve extensive consultation with the construction industry followed by a report to the Province. The report will include the results of the consultation process, the expert advice of Mr. Reynolds and his recommendations for changes, if necessary. OHBA passed a resolution at the [2014 Annual Meeting of Members](#) in anticipation of a review. OHBA will be providing more information on how to participate as additional details of the review are made available.

ONTARIO RETIREMENT PENSION PLAN

OHBA has responded to the [ORPP consultation](#) to inform the province of the negative impacts this plan would have on small and medium sized businesses. OHBA members already are adapting to an increasingly complicated regulatory framework. This includes new neighbour taxes, the costliest workplace safety insurance regime in Canada, a new mandatory WSIB insurance system on small construction firms and new regulations from a variety of Ministries including Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Labour. Now is not the time for a significant new cost to small business through a mandatory provincially run pension plan.

GREAT LAKES PROTECTION ACT (BILL 66)

Ontario is taking action to protect the Great Lakes and has re-introduced a strengthened [Great Lakes Protection Act, Bill 66](#), which recognizes the importance of the Great Lakes to Ontario's environment, economy and health of its citizens. If passed, the new, strengthened *Great Lakes Protection Act* will protect and restore the Great Lakes, to help keep them drinkable, fishable, and swimmable. The strengthened act, if passed, would:

- Help to fight climate change, reduce harmful algal blooms, and protect wetlands and other coastal areas;
- Monitor and report on the health of the lakes;
- Provide opportunities to take local action on priority issues.

OHBA has previously expressed concerns with some aspects of the proposed legislation in [a submission](#) to the government and has participated in previous consultation processes. OHBA notes that the newly proposed legislation has been updated and specifically reflects some of OHBA concerns and recommendations in our previous submission regarding potential duplication. The new legislation includes requirements that any new measures or geographically focused initiatives take into account existing activities, plans and agreements as well as requiring a cost benefit analysis. OHBA is again seeking feedback from members regarding the new legislation – please contact OHBA Director of Policy, Mike Collins-Williams mikecw@ohba.ca. Comments can also be provided directly to the government on the Ontario Environmental Registry until April 19, 2015.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT CLIMATE CHANGE CONSULTATION

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has released a [climate change discussion paper](#) for comment on the [Environmental Registry](#) until March 29th and will be consulting with the public and stakeholders to share ideas about how to successfully fight climate change while fostering economic growth and keeping businesses competitive. [Click here](#) for dates and locations for public town halls and stakeholder sessions across the province.

OHBA will participate in the consultation process and is seeking feedback from members and local associations on the discussion paper, and Environmental Registry posting, to submit formal industry comments by March 29th. OHBA anticipates to submit comments with respect to land-use planning, the energy performance of the residential sector and the building code. The Provincial Government will finalize a Climate Change Strategy by the end of 2015. Please provide OHBA with your feedback either to Mike Collins-Williams (mikecw@ohba.ca) or Pauline Lip (plip@ohba.ca).



Ontario Home Builders' Association

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