



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

DATES TO NOTE

December 12: OHBA/EnerQuality Technical Committee
December 31: Retail Sales Tax Rebates and Refunds Deadline
January 28: OHBA Presidents and EOs Seminar
January 28: OHBA Board of Directors
January 28: Industry Leaders Dinner

December 2012

GREENBELT EXPANSION PROPOSAL: PUBLICLY OWNED LANDS

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is proposing an amendment to the *Greenbelt Plan* under the Greenbelt Act, 2005 that would:

- Add 255 hectares (630 acres) of provincially owned lands, which are part of the Glenorchy Conservation Area in Oakville, to the *Protected Countryside* area of the *Greenbelt Plan*. An amendment to the Greenbelt boundary regulation (O. Reg. 59/05) would be needed to allow the proposed addition of lands;
- The proposed amendment would introduce a new "Urban River Valley" designation to the Greenbelt Plan. This new designation would help to facilitate adding publicly owned lands in urban river valleys currently outside the Greenbelt into the Greenbelt Plan. Should a municipality be interested in having the "Urban River Valley" designation (if approved) apply to public lands within their jurisdiction, the municipality would submit a request to the Ministry based on the 2008 *Growing the Greenbelt* criteria.

The government is holding three public meetings on the proposal. For more information, [click here](#).

Toronto	Mississauga	Oakville
Dec 11, 2012 6:30pm - 9:00pm Black Creek Pioneer Village 1000 Murray Ross Parkway	Dec 13, 2012 6:30pm - 9:00pm Tomken Twin Rinks Arena 4495 Tomken Road	Dec 18, 2012 6:30pm – 9:00pm Oakville Town Hall 1225 Trafalgar Road

DRAFT PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is the statement of the government's policies on land use planning. The Provincial Government is in the process of reviewing and updating the PPS. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing recently conducted a consultation at a joint meeting of the OHBA Land Development Committee and BILD Urban Land Council in late November. OHBA is very concerned that the draft statements as written will challenge housing affordability, limit housing choice, constrain opportunities for economic growth and job creation. OHBA has been very involved in this process and has submitted industry concerns with the draft policy statements to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – the OHBA submission will be available at www.ohba.ca.

RETAIL SALES TAX REBATES AND REFUNDS

Now that the province has moved to the federally administered Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), a number of refund and rebate programs under the former Retail Sales Tax (RST) are coming to an end. All completed applications and supporting documentation for a refund or rebate of RST must be received by the Ministry of Finance by December 31, 2012.

Visit Ontario.ca/finance for more information about available RST rebates and refunds, including:

- [RST Information Notice](#)
- [RST Guide 700 – Refunds, Rebates and Adjustments](#)
- [Refund/Rebate Application Form](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The December 31, 2012 deadline does not apply to applications for refunds or rebates of RST paid in respect of insurance premiums and for private transfers of used vehicles.

If you need any additional information, please contact the Ministry of Finance at 1 866 ONT-TAXS (1-866-668-8297).

COLLEGE OF TRADES FEES

The [Ontario College of Trades](#) (the College) is currently funded directly by the provincial government but will begin to become self-funded by charging certain tradespeople membership fees starting in 2013. The November 14th fee announcement establishes a self-funding membership model for the College. It is the College's objective to become 100% self-funded in the near future. The annual membership fee amounts are as follows:

- Apprentices ---- \$60
- Tradespersons ---- \$60
- Journeyman Candidates ---- \$60
- Journeymen ---- \$120
- Employers/Sponsors (OPTIONAL) ---- \$120

What does this mean for you and your workers?

If you work in a **voluntary trade and hold a Certificate of Qualification in that trade**, you will **automatically become a member of the College in the Journeymen Class** (you will be 'deemed in') but will **need to pay an annual membership fee of \$120**. If you **do not pay this membership fee** to the College by the date specified on your invoice, your **membership will expire**. However, you **will still be legally able to work in that trade because it is a voluntary trade**. You will be receiving an invoice and other correspondence from the College in the coming weeks.

Similarly, if you work in a **compulsory trade and hold a Certificate of Qualification in that trade**, you will **automatically become a member of the College in the Journeymen Class** but will **need to pay an annual membership fee of \$120**. If you **do not pay this membership fee to the College** by the date specified on your invoice, your **membership will expire and you will not be able to work legally in that trade** until you pay your membership fee and any other applicable fees to reinstate you as a member in good standing in the Journeymen. You will be receiving an invoice and other correspondence from the College in the coming weeks.

If you are working in a **voluntary trade (such as carpentry) and do not hold a Certificate of Qualification in that trade**, you will **not automatically become a member of the College and do not have to pay a membership fee to the College**. However, you can apply to join one of the College's membership classes if you so wish.

You are an **apprenticeship sponsor only if you hold a valid registered training agreement (RTA)** with the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities. You **will not be required to become a member of the College and pay a membership fee**, but are welcome to do so if you want. The College also has an **Employers/Sponsors Class that is optional to join**.

If you **own a home building/ renovation company and employ workers who have a Certificate of Qualification**, you **will not be required to become a member of the College and pay a membership fee**. However, you are welcome to join the College's Employers/Sponsors Class if you wish.

OHBA SUPPORTS RELEASE OF PROPOSED GROWTH PLAN 2041 FORECASTS

OHBA has strongly advocated for the Ministry of Infrastructure to provide additional certainty to the industry and our municipal partners by releasing draft population and employment forecast numbers for the *Growth Plan* to 2041. The Growth Plan's horizon currently extends to 2031, but it is clear that the region's population and economy will continue to expand beyond that timeframe. Recognizing that growth will continue and that 2031 is only 19 years away, the Minister of Infrastructure is proposing an amendment to the Growth Plan to update the growth forecasts for the extended horizon to 2041.

OHBA was consulted extensively on the growth plan population and employment forecast methodology and is supportive of the release of the new draft *Schedule 3* population and employment forecasts for further consultation. A *Proposed Amendment 2* to the *Growth Plan* includes extended forecasts for upper- and single-tier municipalities to 2041 and outlines proposed policies relating to those forecasts. The Minister of Infrastructure is accepting comments until February 8th and OHBA will prepare an industry response – please share any feedback with OHBA Director of Policy [Mike Collins-Williams](#) as OHBA gathers information to prepare our submission. For more information on the *Proposed Amendment 2*, please visit the [Places to Grow website](#) .



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