



# OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

## NOVEMBER 2011

### DATES TO NOTE

- November 8: OHBA Renovators' Council
- November 9: OHBA Executive Committee
- November 9: OHBA Board of Directors
- November 10: OHBA Technical Committee
- December 1: OHBA Land Development Committee



**OHBA  
HUMANITARIAN  
BUILD**

OHBA Conference  
Dominican Republic  
November 22 - 29, 2011

### NEW ONTARIO CABINET ANNOUNCED

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Government of Ontario announced changes to the Ministers responsible for key portfolios that affect the residential construction industry. OHBA looks forward to working with the new Cabinet to promote housing affordability and choice for all Ontarians.

#### **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing: Hon. Kathleen Wynne (Don Valley West)**

This is now the sixth Minister in this portfolio since 2006, and although OHBA has concerns regarding Ministerial continuity and leadership as we work through some very complicated issues, we recognize that with Minister Wynne's service as Minister of Transportation that she has a strong institutional grasp of the need for land use policy to support transit investment.

#### **Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation: Hon. Bob Chiarelli (Ottawa West-Nepean)**

With the merger of Transportation and infrastructure we believe this creates policy alignment between infrastructure priorities with important public transit and highway projects. The Ministry of Infrastructure not only delivers key infrastructure initiatives, but is also responsible for administering the Growth Plan. OHBA encourages action related to Official Plan Conformity as well as reducing barriers to intensification. Similarly, the Ministry needs to immediately resolve the unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles which are blocking responsible development in the Seaton lands in Durham Region.

#### **Ministry of Finance & Deputy Premier: Hon. Dwight Duncan (Windsor –Essex)**

OHBA is encouraged by the continuity in this portfolio during this period of economic uncertainty. We encourage the Minister to continue to make Ontario's taxes more competitive and to examine policies aimed at tackling the underground economy. The recent Liberal Platform commitment for a Seniors' *Healthy Home Renovation Tax Credit* is supported by OHBA and we encourage the government to move quickly on this commitment. OHBA encourages the government to consider widening the scope of this rebate to include other forms of renovations such as energy retrofits and retrofits for all forms of accessibility.

#### **Ministry of Labour: Hon. Linda Jeffrey (Brampton-Springdale)**

Minister Jeffrey will be responsible for executing legislative and regulatory changes that have occurred recently. OHBA encourages a balanced approach to the *WSIB Unfunded Liability Review* that considers methods to reduce expenditures in addition to exploring other revenue sources. The Minister will also be responsible for the implementation of the Tony Dean Panel recommendations which includes the creation of the Office of the Chief Prevention Officer.

#### **Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Hon. Glen Murray (Toronto Centre)**

The development of the *College of Trades* remains a key concern for OHBA. To date, the College has been unrepresentative of the residential construction industry, yet has moved forward, despite strong objections from many construction associations. OHBA looks forward to engaging Minister Murray as he reexamines the government's direction with the *College of Trades*. OHBA also intends to forward Minister Murray our resolution calling for changes to the journeyman-to-apprentice ratio to 1:1.

## ONTARIO TO RECEIVE 13 ADDITIONAL SEATS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will table legislation that will provide the Ontario an additional 15 seats in the House of Commons – half of the 30 new constituencies being proposed. Under the revised plan, Ontario would be boosted to 121 seats from 106 in time for the 2015 federal election to reflect population growth.

Changes in population have not been met with changes in the allocation of seats over the years, which means some ridings are significantly underrepresented when compared to other populations. For instance Brampton West (170,420), Oak Ridges-Markham (169,645), Vaughan (154,215) are particularly underrepresented.as the average riding in Canada has 105,000 residents.

OHBA passed a resolution in 2008 calling on the federal government to take action to make the representation in the House of Commons more equitable with other provinces and territories.

Province	Current Seat Count	Proposed Seats
Ontario	106	+15 = 121
Quebec	75	+3 = 78
British Columbia	36	+6 = 42
Alberta	28	+ 6 = 32
Manitoba	14	
Saskatchewan	14	
Nova Scotia	11	
New Brunswick	10	
Nfld/Labrador	7	
PEI	4	
PEI	4	
NWT	1	
Yukon	1	
Nunavut	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>338</b>

## HYDRO ONE: CHANGES TO OFFER TO CONNECT AGREEMENT

Hydro One has a [new legal agreement](#) as part of their Offer to Connect. Key changes within this agreement are that Hydro One now takes expansion deposits and the warranty periods have changed for alternative bids.

As of January 3, 2012, Hydro One Networks will require an expansion deposit (a guarantee that the forecasted revenue projected for your project/development will materialize), in addition to the capital contribution, from the developer. For expansions that require a capital contribution, the expansion deposit payable to Hydro One from the developer will equal the present value of the forecasted revenue used in the economic evaluation model as shown in the Ontario Energy Board's Distribution System Code. If no capital contribution is required then the expansion deposit is equal to the present value of the projected capital costs and ongoing maintenance costs of the expansion project.

Once per year, within 30 days after the anniversary date of energization, the developer will be entitled to rebate/reduction. This rebate/reduction will be based on the number and type of connections in the development for that prior year. In the event that all anticipated connections are not made, after the connection horizon expires, Hydro One will keep the remaining deposit.

For more information, see section 3.2 Expansions of the Distribution System Code available at

[www.ontarioenergyboard.ca](http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca). Or click the following links for [“Changes to Offer to Connect Agreement”](#) and a powerpoint on [“Subdivision Project for Developers”](#)

## REMINDERS / AVAILABLE FROM OHBA

- ✓ OHBA Growth Plan Amendment Submission (Simcoe County)
- ✓ OHBA 2011 Membership Directory
- ✓ Ontario Housing Issues Status Report: Fall 2011
- ✓ YOUR VOICE – How OHBA Works For You
- ✓ OHBA Magazine Fall Issue
- ✓ OHBA 10-Year Capital Plan Submission
- ✓ OHBA Endangered Species Act Submission
- ✓ OHBA/BILD Joint 2011 Brownfield Submission



Ontario Home Builders' Association

20 Upjohn Road #101, North York, Ontario M3B 2V9 (416) 443-1545 Toll Free:800-387-0109 Fax:(416) 443-9982 [info@ohba.ca](mailto:info@ohba.ca)