



# OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

## September 2014

### DATES TO NOTE

- September 12: [OHBA Toronto Mayoral Debate](#)
- September 21-23: [OHBA's Annual Conference and Awards of Distinction](#)
- September 22: OHBA Annual Meeting of Members

### OHBA 2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

OHBA's Annual Conference and Awards of Distinction are just a few short weeks away and you don't want to miss out on this exciting event! Taking place in our nation's capital, Ottawa, from September 21-23rd at the Ottawa Convention Centre, the three-day conference combines interactive and informative business sessions with the celebration of our 2014/2015 President and the much anticipated, and highly sought after, Awards of Distinction!



OHBA is also pleased to announce that the Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, will be the keynote speaker at the President's Gala on the Tuesday night. This is the first opportunity the industry will have to hear from the Minister on key files of importance to the industry.



You don't want to miss out - register today, visit: [www.ohbaconference.ca](http://www.ohbaconference.ca)

#### Business Sessions

- ❖ A Housing and Economic Outlook Panel moderated by Neil Rodgers, Tribute Communities, with Ted Tsiakopoulos from CMHC and Robert Hogue from RBC the session, will discuss the future of the housing market in Ontario.
- ❖ An interactive Builders' Panel with Steve Upton, Tridel, Jeff Paikin, New Horizon Homes, Jonathan Whyte, Mountainview Homes, and moderated by Josh Kardish, the Regional Group.
- ❖ Dave Hemstad: Comedian; Regular on CBC's The Debaters
- ❖ Customer Service Excellence and best practices with Andrew Milne from BV02
- ❖ Tarion Update, Smart Home Technology, NRCan update and much more!

#### Gala Events

OHBA has switched it up this year and will be hosting the coveted Awards of Distinctions on Monday, September 22nd. Dress in your finest for an evening under the stars! The following day we will be welcoming our incoming president with a big gala celebration, with keynote speaker Honourable Ted McMeekin that will conclude our conference festivities.

#### Additional Activities

Our hosts the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association has worked hard planning a truly Canadian opening reception. This year we will get to relive Canada Day in the best city to celebrate it in - Ottawa! Come in your favourite jersey, red and white or the infamous Canadian Tuxedo and let's kick off the conference in style! In addition to that, here's a list of some other activities:

- ❖ OHBA Annual Golf Tournament: Stonebridge Golf Club
- ❖ Ottawa Housing Tour
- ❖ Spa Day at Holtz Spa

### DRAFT RESOLUTIONS TO OHBA AMM

OHBA has put together [a package of draft resolutions](#) for review prior to the upcoming OHBA Annual Meeting of Members on September 22nd in Ottawa. OHBA welcomes any comments, questions or concerns regarding the draft resolutions as we set the association policy agenda with the newly elected Liberal government. Please note that OHBA will continue to advocate, educate and inform Cabinet Ministers, the Premier's policy advisors and government officials on active OHBA policy positions that have been established through resolutions passed in previous years AMMs.

Please take the time to review the Draft Resolutions package. There are currently nine draft resolutions proposed for consideration at the upcoming OHBA AMM:

Greenbelt	Illegal Building
Construction Lien Act	Whitebelt
OHBA College of Trades Advocacy	OBC - Six-storey Wood-Frame Construction
Transportation Planning Policy Statement	Respect for Rural Ontario and Small Business
Exemption of record of Site Condition for Temporary Roads	

OHBA continues to invite and encourage local associations to submit resolutions to OHBA for consideration at the OHBA Annual Meeting of Members - Our 31 local associations have a voice in the policies and priorities of our organization. Please provide us with your input.

## WSIB PREMIUM RATES UNCHANGED FOR 2015

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) announced today that in 2015, for the second consecutive year, premium rates will be maintained at current levels for the majority of employers. The WSIB Maximum Insurable Earnings Ceiling for 2015 is \$85,200. This is an increase of 1.3 per cent from \$84,100 in 2014. Changes to the Maximum Insurable Earnings Ceiling are directly linked to changes in average earnings in Ontario as measured by Statistics Canada, and provisions under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act

Since 2004, construction injuries have declined by 36 per cent, and yet, over the same time period, the average maximum construction premium per worker has increased by 41 per cent. Employers are continually investing in health and safety training and technologies, but they have not seen a return for this investment through decreasing premium rates in over a decade. By way of comparison, a home builder in Alberta pays \$1,698 to insure a worker earning \$100,000. The same employer in Ontario would pay 4 ½ times this amount to cover the same amount of risk. OHBA is advocating for changes to WSIB premium rates that would introduce more fairness that considers the true risk profile for employers.

For additional details [Click Here](#).

Construction Rate Group Premiums		
704	Electrical And Incidental Construction Services	3.69
707	Mechanical And Sheet Metal Work	4.16
711	Roadbuilding And Excavating	5.29
719	Inside Finishing	7.51
723	Industrial, Commercial & Institutional Construction	4.55
728	Roofing	14.8
732	Heavy Civil Construction	7.03
737	Millwrighting And Welding	6.9
741	Masonry	12.7
748	Form Work And Demolition	18.31
751	Siding And Outside Finishing	10.25
755	Non-Exempt Partners and Executive Officers in Construction	0.21
764	Homebuilding	9.1

## MTO - CORRIDOR PERMIT FEE STRUCTURE

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is currently reviewing their corridor permit fee structure. MTO currently reviews applications and issues permits for encroachments, building and land use (B&LU), entrances and signs to ensure safety, operating efficiency of public highways and to protect highway corridors for future expansion. The current fee structure was not developed on the basis of the recovery of administrative costs and the Ministry is now consulting with stakeholders as they consider moving to a full cost recovery model.

The MTO is considering a number of changes to adjust the corridor management permit fee structure to:

- Reflect the cost of administration/review
- Minimize “cross-subsidization of fees” by basing fees on the complexity of the review, rather than the current structure based on the size of the development (for commercial development)
- Move fees closer to full cost recovery (from current 35 per cent cost recovery to approximately 50 per cent cost recovery)
- Include an annual inflationary increase

MTO will continue to consult with stakeholders including OHBA and finalize proposed changes to the fee structure and submit for approval through 2015/16. The proposed new fee structure will have a phased implementation period through 2016-2021.

## OHBA HOUSING TECHNOLOGY TOUR

With Doug Tarry Jr. of Doug Tarry Homes as our host, industry delegates embarked on the Ontario Home Builders’ Association’s (OHBA) housing technology tour from the GTA to Hamilton, to showcase some of the practices that are changing the future of home building. Our housing tour visited three locations, Brockport Home Systems, Minto’s Southshore site and Multi-Area Developments Discovery Home.

Brockport, a division of Great Gulf Homes, is leading the way for automated assembly in new home construction. Each home is digitally constructed through the use of sophisticated 3D modelling and then physically constructed inside the controlled environment of Brockport’s state-of-the-art facility. Our second stop on the tour brought us to Minto’s Southshore stacked townhouse project. Targeting LEED Silver, ENERGY STAR for New Homes and Tier 2



of the Toronto Green Standard, the project showcases the latest strategies being used to minimize environmental pressures, including the urban heat island effect. Our last stop took us to Hamilton with Multi-Area Developments’ discovery home under Union Gas’ Optimum Home Program. Through the Optimum Home Program’s leading-edge technical support and whole-house approach, the builder found solutions to design challenges in order to produce some of the most efficient homes on the market. To see more photos from the tour, including incoming Vince Molinaro’s ALS Ice Bucket Challenge which took place over lunch at Barangas on the Beach in Hamilton, please visit our [Facebook page](#).