



Ask an Ontario Home Builder Why Home Prices Keep Going Up: OHBA meets MPPs

TORONTO, March 20, 2017 – Today, the Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) hosts its annual Queen's Park Advocacy Day with builder and renovator members from across the province. In meeting with MPPs, Cabinet Ministers and policy makers, OHBA members will be educating and advising them on how provincial policy decisions impact the supply, choice, and affordability of housing across Ontario.

"OHBA recognizes that everyone is discussing and debating why home prices keep going up in communities across Ontario, and most acutely across the Greater Golden Horseshoe. OHBA represents the provincial industry that delivers 95 per cent of all new housing supply in Ontario, and our members welcome the opportunity to share their challenges and frustrations with MPPs, regarding new housing supply in their communities," explained OHBA CEO Joe Vaccaro.

MPPs are returning to Queen's Park with a full legislative agenda that covers every aspect of building and planning for new housing supply, including the Co-ordinated Review of the Growth Plan; Construction Lien Act Reform; Inclusionary Zoning; Skilled Trades Shortages; OMB Reform; Ontario Building Code Updates, the Climate Change Action Plan and many additional public policy-related items.

"The decisions made by MPPs during this legislative session will have a direct impact on housing supply, choice and affordability for Ontarians. These important decisions are all connected and will ultimately impact the market and the price of housing that consumers are facing. Today, all MPPs have the chance to ask an OHBA member what is happening in their community and what impact their decisions have on new housing supply, housing choices and the price of housing," explained Vaccaro.

Recognizing that housing affordability is a complex issue, OHBA, along with the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) are calling on the Provincial Government to create a housing experts task force to lead a comprehensive, rational and evidence-based discussion of all the factors affecting new, resale and rental housing. The housing experts task force should examine all factors, including demand, supply and public policy ideas to increase housing supply and ensure that housing remains affordable for individuals and families across Ontario.

The Greenbelt is an important part of the Ontario's future. At the Legislative Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on December 8, 2016, Vaccaro stated, "OHBA supports the Greenbelt, and we support growing the Greenbelt through a science-based approach that protects significant environmental features." OHBA continues to support the Greenbelt, including publically supporting the creation of the Urban River Valley (URV) Designation in 2013 with Environmental Defence, whereby the province proposes to add 21 major urban river valley areas to the Greenbelt.

OHBA looks forward to continuing to have an evidence-based conversation with all parties on important issues that impact the supply, choice, and affordability of housing in Ontario.

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