



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

Ontario 2013 Budget Release

Strong Housing Sector Contributed to Growth in Revenue Province Must Focus to Improve Business Environment

Toronto, May 2 2013 – Ontario Home Builders' Association President Leith Moore applauded efforts to reduce the deficit and noted that higher than expected levels of new construction activity contributed to growth in provincial revenues.

“Housing starts in 2012 were over 10,000 units higher than last year’s provincial budget forecast. That means the residential construction industry was a solid partner in delivering more jobs, higher wages and additional unanticipated tax revenues to the provincial treasury,” stated Moore.

It is critical for the provincial government to support job creation through improvements to the business environment in Ontario. OHBA continues to support efforts to streamline regulatory and approvals processes and to eliminate red tape where it is redundant or unnecessary.

OHBA COO, Joe Vaccaro said, “OHBA looks forward to working with the provincial government to improve housing affordability and support job creation. We continue to work on ensuring the effective implementation of the growth plan, remodeling of WSIB premiums, tackling the underground economy and improving the apprenticeship system. The provincial government needs to take a very serious look at regulations and policies to create a more business friendly environment to support economic growth.”

Moore commended the government on the implementation of the *Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit* which will allow seniors to age-in-place, improve the quality of Ontario’s aging housing stock and reduce underground economic activity. However, Moore expressed concern that the provincial government did not aggressively target the illegal underground operators in the construction sector by providing a broad-based tax credit program for consumers that would ensure contractors are operating above board and paying their fair share of taxes.

“There has been an increase of underground activity in the renovation sector since the HST was implemented. More and more homeowners are paying cash to avoid paying taxes and legitimate contractors just can’t compete anymore,” said Moore who added, “We know there are huge opportunities for the government to recoup lost tax revenues and reduce the deficit by targeting underground activity.”

The Ontario Home Builders' Association is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 30 local associations across the province. The industry contributes over \$43 billion dollars to Ontario’s economy, employing over 325,000 people across the province.

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*For further information or to arrange an interview with OHBA COO Joe Vaccaro
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