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**NEWS RELEASE**

**ONTARIO HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION WELCOMES PROVINCIAL 2021 BUDGET**

**MARCH 24, 2021**

**TORONTO** – Today, provincial Finance Minister and President of the Treasury Board, Peter Bethlenfalvy delivered Ontario's 2021 budget entitled [\*Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy\*](#). This budget will support the health and safety of Ontarians as we defeat the COVID-19 pandemic while laying out the pathway to economic recovery.

"The measures outlined in today's provincial budget reinforce the government's commitment to supporting people and businesses hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic," said OHBA President, Bob Schickedanz. "These are important steps to help weather the final stretch of the COVID-19 pandemic and create a stable economic environment for our sector to reignite Ontario's economy in the year ahead."

Today's budget also laid out some important changes for businesses. For instance, the government is proceeding with digitizing and automating Ontario government services which will help provide a 24/7 business focused experience for members when they utilize government services. As well, the province will invest \$288.2 million in 2021–22 in its Skilled Trades Strategy to help promote in demand skilled trades and apprenticeships while making it easier for employers to connect with the workers that they need.

"With the budget measures announced today, OHBA members will be well prepared to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic in a strong position to grow their businesses," said OHBA CEO, Joe Vaccaro. "These are important government measures that will help OHBA members rebound from the financial impacts of COVID-19 so that they can continue to deliver keys to #homebeliever families across Ontario."

OHBA will continue to strongly advocate for the use of Pay-on-Demand Surety Bonds as part of the provincial recovery effort. Pay-On-Demand Surety Bonds will unlock millions of dollars of needed housing investment and create the necessary housing supply and choice we need in Ontario with no cost to the provincial treasury. OHBA continues to support this governments Fall 2020 Senior's Home Safety Tax Credit as an important first step to an expanded Home Renovation Tax Credit that will capture millions of dollars of renovation investment in Ontario's legitimate economy.

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