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## December 2020



# OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

*Keeping Members Informed*

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### Important Dates:

- **Tuesday, December 8th from 11 - 12 AM** - CACEA Webinar: Modelling in National Energy Codes: Flexible, Transparent, and Objective-Orientated
- **Wednesday, December 9th & Thursday, December 10th from 12:30-4 PM** - EnerQuality Workshop: Air Barrier Training Certification

For the latest updates, please follow our social media [@OntarioHBA](#).

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In late November OHBA and BILD hosted our second Housing Supply Action Plan conference. The two-day virtual event focused on the implementation of the Housing Supply Action Plan. OHBA and BILD were pleased to kick off the conference with an in-depth (virtual) fireside chat between the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Steve Clark, OHBA President Bob Schickedanz, and BILD Chair Cheryl Shindruk. Minister Clark shared with the over 275 members streaming the conference the proactive approach the provincial government is undertaking to cut red tape to make it faster to build new housing in the right places with the housing sector leading a post-pandemic recovery.

OHBA Builders' Council Chair Doug Tarry welcomed the second keynote speaker, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Jeff Yurek, to the virtual conference. Minister Yurek covered a lot of ground in his remarks as he and his team have been very busy over the past couple of years with the implementation of the government's Made in Ontario Environment Plan. The Housing Supply Action Plan conference also featured an in-depth panel of Ministry staff to break down all aspects of a number of key components of the plan, including the recently passed Bill 197 (COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020), the new Community Benefits Charges framework and the recent 2020 amendments to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Day Two of the Housing Supply Action Plan conference focused on a panel of industry experts (Rob Howe, Goodmans LLP and Mathew Cory, Malone Given Parsons) to discuss what the changes to the growth plan and the new Community Benefits Charges framework mean for members. The final panel of the event engaged in a very informative discussion with municipal implementors who discussed how they are navigating other key aspects of the Housing Supply Action Plan. The all-star panel of municipal implementors broke down everything members need to know about the local application of the new provincial policy requirements that will affect planning, housing supply, and most importantly, your business included: Richard Forward (Brampton), Gregg Lintern (Toronto), Heather MacDonald (Burlington), Andrea Miller (Barrie), Andrew Whitemore (Mississauga).

Members can still register for access to the recordings of the HSAP 2.0 conference [HERE](#) and those that already attended can use the password they received to re-watch any of the sessions: <https://pheedloop.com/hsap/login/auth/?redirect=/hsap/virtual/>

## Bill 222 - Ontario Rebuilding and Recovery Act, 2020

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provide our support for the *Ontario Building and Recovery Act, 2020* along with some specific comments related to Schedule 1 (*Building Transit Faster Act, 2020*) and Schedule 3 (*Transit-Oriented Communities Act, 2020*). The proposed legislative amendments through Schedules 1 and 3 directly responds to OHBA's calls over the years for the provincial government to streamline the transportation infrastructure approvals process to get shovels in the ground as soon as possible for priority infrastructure projects.

OHBA strongly supports provincial efforts to expedite the delivery of transit projects of provincial significance by removing barriers and streamlining processes that may result in delays to the timely completion of these transit projects, while enhancing coordination and engagement with private sector stakeholders. While the submission was broadly supportive of Bill 222, OHBA provided some specific comments articulating concerns related to expropriations and a new corridor permitting authority.

## Ontario Budget 2020

On November 5th, Ontario's Finance Minister, Rod Phillips delivered the province's 2020 Fall Budget. This budget is strongly focused on the COVID-19 health crisis while looking forward with measures for post-pandemic recovery. A new feature for the Ontario Budget is that it is based around a three-year outlook that will build on [Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19](#), which was [updated](#) this past summer to make available approximately \$30 billion in response to the global pandemic. As this budget was delayed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there will be another budget tabled in March of 2021. To view the OHBA media release responding to the budget – please click [here](#).

OHBA has been very active in our advocacy efforts in the lead up to the provincial budget. OHBA has hosted over a two dozen “ZOOM” meetings on economic and job recovery with Provincial Cabinet Ministers and MPPs including Finance Minister and MPP for Ajax, Rod Phillips. During the summer OHBA shared seven important recommendations (and 10 sub-recommendations) in our formal [Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee Submission](#).

It is no surprise to OHBA members that our sector is ready and able to help spur economic and job recovery as we move through COVID-19. In the 2008-2009 economic crisis, the residential construction sector played a key role in helping our province rebound economically by delivering housing and renovations, spurring economic activity and creating jobs across Ontario. Knowing this, OHBA prepared a [Pre-Budget Submission](#) for the 2020 Fall budget which included policy proposals which will help the province unlock more

OHBA has been strongly advocating for the provincial government to adopt a Home Renovation Tax Credit as part of the post-pandemic recovery. OHBA is pleased to report that the provincial government is proposing a new **Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit** for the 2021 taxation year. The intention is to help seniors stay in their homes longer by making their homes safer and more accessible. Seniors would be eligible regardless of their incomes and whether they owe income tax for 2021. Family members who live with them and support them would also be eligible. The Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit would be worth 25 per cent of up to \$10,000 in eligible expenses for a senior's principal residence in Ontario. The maximum credit would be \$2,500.

## Streamlining Short-Term Water Takings

On November 19<sup>th</sup> [OHBA made a submission on short-term water takings](#) responding to a Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal [ERO posting 019-2525](#) to amend regulations made under the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Ontario Water Resources Act*. OHBA is generally supportive with a few specific technical recommendations to further improve the proposal that would streamline permissions for low risk, short-term water taking activities through exemptions and by modifying Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) requirements.

The proposal to move low-risk, short-term water taking activities, such as pumping tests, to a more flexible approval process will save municipalities and developers time and money. MECP's regulatory proposal also expands the current EASR criteria so that additional types of projects (e.g. linear projects under construction dewatering and transit projects under road construction) can be self-registered on the Water Taking EASR.

## Excess Soils

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, [OHBA made a submission on excess soils](#) responding to the Ministry of the Environment Conservation & Parks (MECP) proposal on [Regulatory Amendments \(ERO-019-2462\)](#): Extending Grandfathering for Infrastructure Projects and Providing Additional Flexibility for Excess Soil Reuse. The Ministry proposed amendments to the On-Site and

arose from COVID-19. Earlier this year, in response to those challenges, the first phase of implementation of the O. Reg. 406/19 was extended by six months from July 1, 2020, to January 1, 2021.

OHBA supported the MECP proposal to extend the date applicable to the grandfathering provisions by which construction projects must be entered into by one year - from January 1, 2021, to January 1, 2022, as this would ensure projects delayed due to COVID-19 can proceed as quickly as possible. MECP is further providing added flexibility to soil management rules such as those for soil storage and reuse of soil impacted by salt. MECP also proposed regulatory amendments so that the *Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority* (RPRA) would operate and deliver the Excess Soils Registry.

## Pay-On-Demand Subdivision Bonds Webinar

To help demystify the use of Pay-On-Demand Surety Bonds for municipalities, OHBA along with our partners at the Surety Association of Canada held a webinar to educate and share information on how this instrument can protect the municipality and secure new housing investments. OHBA has made this a priority recommendation to support Ontario's Economic Job and Recovery. Check out the webinar link here:

## Meeting with Northumberland-Peterborough South MPP, David Piccini

OHBA was [pleased to join MPP David Piccini](#) in a virtual meeting to discuss OHBA proposals as the province moves towards the March 2021 budget. Surrounding HBA members from Durham Region, Quinte, and Peterborough and the Kawarthas, joined the meeting to share our sector's perspective on the use of pay-on-demand surety bonds for securing municipal agreements, modernizing the HST threshold for new housing and building upon the recently announced Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit with a province-wide Home Renovation Tax Credit. OHBA thanks MPP Piccini for taking the time to meet with members and discuss these important proposals to help spur job and economic recovery throughout the province.

To help ensure members have the health and safety information they need to navigate a winter with COVID-19, OHBA held a Toolbox Talk in partnership with Construction Safety Training Ltd, and the IHSA. Health and Safety experts Bruce Bolduc and Dean Dunn helped respond to many key concerns members have as we move into winter, highlighting the increased importance of hand wash and comfort facilities as well as contact tracing on jobsites. Members can review the resources from the [Toolbox Talk here](#).

## EnerQuality Workshops



### **Air Barrier Training & Certification – December 9 & 10 12:30pm-4pm ET**

**Instructor:** Andy Oding, General Manager and Director of Building Science at Building Knowledge Canada

High-performance air barriers and low infiltration rates are essential for ensuring healthy, comfortable, durable, efficient buildings and enclosure systems. Learn why Air Tightness is so important and leave with a certificate!

Why is Air Tightness important?

- Airtight construction leads to greater comfort for your customers.
- Leaky homes lead to higher heating and cooling costs – proper air barriers lead to increased savings.
- Ventilation systems only work properly if the building envelope is airtight.
- Airtightness provides better sound protection for the inhabitants.

**What you will leave with:**

- Certificate of completion certifying trained status.
- Sample Site checklist for Air Barrier completion
- Sample Air Barrier details-best practice.

Learn more + register: [www.enerquality.ca/education](http://www.enerquality.ca/education)

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