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FEBRUARY 2020



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

Important Dates to Note

- Wednesday, April 1st- Friday, April 3rd, 2020: CHBA Conference
- Tuesday, April 14th, 2020: EnerQuality Awards
- Tuesday, April 14th, 2020: Presidents' and Executive Officers' Seminar

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Conservation Authorities

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks are hosting multi-stakeholder engagement consultations on Conservation Authorities to be held on:

- **Friday, January 31, 2020, in Barrie**
- **Friday, February 7, 2020, in Peterborough**
- **Friday, February 14, 2020, in London**

The purpose of these meetings is to engage key stakeholders to gather input on how to improve efficiencies, consistency, transparency and oversight of conservation authorities. OHBA members that are interested in attending to share experiences and insights that may be crucial to the development of *Conservation Authorities Act* amendments and associated regulations should contact OHBA Director of Policy Mike Collins-Williams (mikecw@ohba.ca) and RSVP to attend directly with the Ministry through the Great Lakes Office (glo@ontario.ca) ASAP as space is limited.

These consultations will build on previous actions the provincial government has undertaken through the *Housing Supply Action Plan* and the *Made in Ontario Environment Plan*. Earlier this year MECP [launched a consultation](#) proposing to modernize operations and the *Conservation Authorities Act* (013-5018) and a second [regulatory consultation](#) focusing on Conservation Authority development permits on the protection of people and property (013-4992). The amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* were included as a schedule in the *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019 (Bill 108)* which was passed on June 6, 2019. [OHBA submitted our recommendations](#) to government on Conservation Authorities in a submission on May 10, 2019. OHBA encourages members and local HBAs to participate in the upcoming consultations.

Bill 108 - DC Deferrals and DC Freeze

On December 19th, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. [Steve Clark wrote to OHBA CEO Joe Vaccaro](#) regarding changes to the [Development Charges Act](#), made by the

(General) under the *Development Charges Act*, which came into effect on January 1, 2020. The letter has indicated the following regarding Bill 108 Development Charge matters:

- On January 1, 2020, the provision of Bill 108 allowing rental housing builders, non-profit housing and institutional developments to defer development charge payments until occupancy will take effect;
- Also, as of January 1, 2020, the provision of Bill 108 allowing development charge rates to be set for site plan or zoning amendment applications when these applications are submitted to a municipality. Changes to Ontario Regulation 82/98 mean that the rate would continue to be frozen for two years after planning approvals have been received- will also take effect; and
- The letter reminds stakeholders that Bill 108 (ss.26.2(3)) does allow municipalities to charge interest to cover costs associated with both the deferral and the freeze, and indicates that the province will not be prescribing a maximum interest rate.

2020 OHBA Pre-Budget Submission

OHBA submitted its recommendations for the 2020 Provincial Budget to the Ministry of Finance and to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. The [OHBA Pre-Budget Submission](#) delivered a number of key messages and priorities to the Provincial Government including:

- OHBA is supportive of and looks forward to working with the government to implement the *Housing Supply Action Plan* and explore further opportunities to reduce timelines, streamline approvals, reduce red-tape and improve Ontario's land use planning system to deliver housing to the market faster.
- OHBA supports the *Made in Ontario Environment Plan* and is working with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to explore further opportunities to reduce red tape and eliminate duplication.
- Address the underground economy and climate change through a combination of policy initiatives, including a home renovation tax credit specifically targeting improving the energy efficiency of Ontario's five million existing homes.

Continue to make significant investments in public transportation and transportation infrastructure to address increasing congestion. Enhance provincial investment in other key areas of core infrastructure, especially upgrading and expanding water and waste-water systems.



Public Reviews on Proposed Changes to Codes Canada Publications

The final public review of proposed changes to the 2015 editions of the National Building, Fire, and Plumbing codes, and the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings 2017 will be held from January 13 – March 13, 2020.

This includes changes to:

1. National Building Code of Canada 2015
2. National Fire Code of Canada 2015
3. National Plumbing Code of Canada 2015
4. National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings 2017

The changes relative to 9.36 can be found in PCF 1608, 1610, 161, 1617, 1620. These relate to alignment with EnerGuide Rating System, airtightness and tiered prescriptive and performance requirements. OHBA plans to aggregate member comments for submittal to CHBA in response to the public review, which can be provided to Miyoko at moikawa@ohba.ca.

[From: National Research Council Canada](#)

\$200 Million infrastructure investment in Small, Rural and Northern Communities

OHBA has been a strong advocate for provincial infrastructure investments to support growing communities across Ontario. On January 17th the provincial government announced a \$200 million investment this year through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) to help 424 small, rural and northern communities build and repair critical local infrastructure, including roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure. As part of the government's [Plan to Build Ontario Together](#), OCIF helps eligible communities invest in local infrastructure and asset management planning to address their priority needs.

OHBA's 2020 Pre-Budget submission outlines infrastructure priorities for the residential construction industry with a strong focus on core infrastructure (roads, transit, water and waste-water) in support of delivering much-needed housing supply to a growing population. OHBA supports coordinated infrastructure investment towards strategic projects based on clearly defined priorities.

Provincially Significant Employment Zones

As part of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's 2019 Growth Plan, the Ontario government introduced provincially significant employment zones as economic development tools that would require provincial approval for employment area conversions within the zone. After reviewing requests from various stakeholders, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing recently [updated the map of provincially significant employment zones for the Greater Golden Horseshoe](#).

The Ministry continues to review requests for potential new zones and plans to consult further on the potential long-term economic functions of provincially significant employment zones. For more information, please contact growthplanning@ontario.ca and the Ministry will consider reissuing revised zone maps based on feedback.

Excess Soils Regulation & Amendments to Record of Site Condition (Brownfields) Regulation

In December, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Honourable Jeff Yurek released a final excess soils regulation under the Environmental Protection Act as well as an amendment to the Record of Site Condition (brownfields) regulation 153/04. The MECP has finalized a package of regulatory amendments generally supported by OHBA that will make it safer and easier for more excess soil to be reused locally by clarifying rules for managing and transporting excess soil. Full details on the announcement can be found [HERE](#).

The MECP released a proposed Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan earlier this year which OHBA responded to with the [OHBA Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan Submission](#) in January 2019. The OHBA submission articulated our support for the MECP setting clear rules to allow the industry to reduce construction costs, limit soil being sent to landfill and lower GHG emissions from trucking by supporting beneficial reuses of safe soils. OHBA made an [Excess Soils Submission](#) generally supporting a proposed environmental registry posting (ERO-013-5000) on June 17, 2019.

The amendments posted on the Environmental Registry (ERO 013-5000) include:

- A new On-Site and Excess Soil Management Regulation
- Complementary and burden reduction amendments to O. Reg. 153/04 (Records of Site Condition)
- Complementary amendments to Regulation 347 (General: Waste Management)
- Complementary amendments to O. Reg. 351/12 (Registrations under Part II.2 of the Act - Waste Management Systems)
- A document adopted by reference in the On-Site and Excess Soil Management Regulation titled "Rules for Soil Management and Excess Soil Quality Standards"
- Beneficial Reuse Assessment Tool and Related Guide

OHBA thanks the many volunteer members that have been involved in the excess soil consultations over the last five or so year. In particular, OHBA would like to thank DRHBA & BILD member Jeff Goldman who has been the OHBA representative on a number of MECP Excess Soils committees over the past three years.

[View the archive](#) of OHBA Government Relations newsletter, Activity Summary.

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