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April 2021



Important Dates:

- **Wednesday, April 14th, 2021** - OHBA #homebeliever Webinar Series: Ontarians on the Move with Special Guest: Mike Moffatt, Senior Director, Smart Prosperity
- **Thursday, April 15th, 2021** - OHBA Board Meeting

Save the Date:

- **Monday, October 4th, 2021** - Wrap-Up Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Meeting of Members - Virtual
- **Tuesday, October 5th, 2021** - OHBA Annual Conference - Virtual
- **Tuesday, November 16th, 2021** - OHBA Awards of Distinction (AoD) - Virtual

For the latest updates, please follow our social media @OntarioHBA

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Preliminary Consultation with OHBA Members on Proposed Greenbelt Study Area

On March 18th, OHBA held a Growing the Greenbelt consultation with members. This was an important opportunity for members from the Guelph and District, Waterloo Region, Brantford, West End, BILD and Greater Dufferin HBAs to share their thoughts, concerns and feedback as OHBA drafts a formal submission to the [government's consultation](#).

OHBA has encouraged the Ontario government to stay focused on the proposed Greenbelt expansion study areas announced for consultation. Any expansion of the Greenbelt must be done in consideration with the required community and infrastructure planning of the Provincial Growth Plan and the *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019*.

OHBA expects the government to remain focused on the study areas they have identified and not turn this into a political mapping exercise that ignores the ongoing community planning and real infrastructure needed for the three million more people joining the Greater Golden Horseshoe region in the next 20 years. OHBA underscored the fact that according to the population forecast in the province's most recent Growth Plan, the communities around the Paris Galt Moraine will see more than 500,000 new residents join their neighbourhoods by 2041.

MECP - Consolidated Linear Infrastructure Permissions Approach

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is moving forward with the Consolidated Linear Infrastructure (CLI) Permissions Approach for stormwater and sewage collection systems. A decision notice has been posted and can be accessed on the Environmental Registry at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1080>.

The CLI Permissions Approach was strongly supported by OHBA through multiple submissions to the MECP in 2018, 2019 and 2020. OHBA struck an Environmental Approvals sub-committee and would in particular like to thank volunteer member Steve Schaefer (Principal SCS Consulting Group) for his efforts spearheading this initiative. The CLI permissions approach is a gamechanger and will streamline the current approvals framework for lower risk, routine sewage works through consolidating approvals for linear infrastructure (e.g. sanitary collection, stormwater works).

With the transition to CLI, a municipality's sanitary collection works will be brought under one multi-media Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) for a municipality's wastewater sewage collection system, and a municipality's stormwater collection works will be brought under one multi-media ECA for a municipality's stormwater collection, treatment and disposal system. The consolidation of approvals and transition to the CLI framework will:

- create an efficient process for low-risk projects
- provide clear, transparent and consistent requirements
- improve environmental protection through updated and consolidated terms and conditions
- establish a more comprehensive picture of sewage works across the province

CLI ECAs will also include pre-authorization conditions which will allow municipalities and developers constructing infrastructure on behalf of municipalities to proceed without first having to obtain individual Ministry permission, provided specific requirements are met. OHBA has consistently supported streamlining the redundant ECA process for SWM facilities and in particular SWM ponds that require sign off by the MECP following municipal approvals - this is a significant regulatory improvement that will help get shovels in the ground for critical infrastructure faster and support new housing supply.

OHBA Supports Legislation to Establish Occupational Safety & Health Day in Ontario

On March 22nd, OHBA, West End HBA, and long-time member and H&S expert, Bruce Bolduc, joined the Legislative Standing Committee on Social Policy to speak in support of Bill 152, *Occupational Safety and Health Day Act, 2021*. Bill 152, introduced by the MPP for Burlington, Jane McKenna, is an important piece of legislation proclaiming the first Tuesday in May of each year as "Occupational Safety and Health Day". This legislation helps establish a culture of health and safety in workplaces across our province.

OHBA emphasized the proactive steps that our members have made throughout the pandemic to keep all workers, suppliers, trades, and clients safe. OHBA also underscored how important it is to help reinforce a culture of health, safety and sanitation on jobsites. We all want safe jobsites and we are all working to keep each other safe. These remain unprecedented times and the residential construction industry is committed to doing our part to keep people and our communities safe.

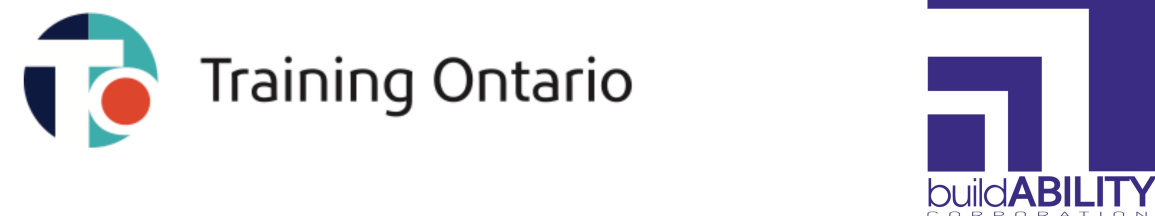
OHBA Welcomes WSIB Stability for Employers with Bill 238



On March 9th, OHBA spoke at the Standing Committee on General Government to Bill 238, *Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*. The legislation provides stability and predictability for employers from an unexpected and dramatic increase in Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) premiums while increasing the maximum earnings cap for worker benefits.

Bill 238 would limit the impact the increase the average industrial wage has on WSIB premiums to 2 percent, making sure struggling business owners aren't subject to sudden undue costs during these challenging times. The residential construction sector is really an ecosystem of small businesses, from your 1 person tile setter, to a 3 person framing crew, to a 5 person masonry team, to a 15-person forming company, to a 25 person home builder and these changes provide more predictability and stability to those employers. At the same time, the maximum cap for worker benefits will increase but it also means the increase is in line with the practical business realities that all employers across all sectors, including those that are working and moving into recovery to rebuild their businesses, can understand and manage.

OHBA New Training Providers



OHBA has partnered with two new training providers - Training Ontario and buildABILITY for our members to access approved educational courses. Learn your way, online or virtually, from anywhere!

[Training Ontario](#) is the leader in education and training for Ontario's new home building industry in collaboration with [Blue House Energy](#) and the Professional Home Builders Institute, Canada's premium provider of homebuilder education and an approved provider for Ontario Home Builders' Association members. Fulfill your licensing requirements with Training Ontario's [Home Construction Regulatory Authority](#) approved courses and professional development courses to sharpen your skills.

buildABILITY and OHBA have partnered to bring you the live training that Ontario builders need and have requested. buildABILITY is proud to present our full suite of builder workshops and HCRA-approved training to members of OHBA. At buildABILITY, we have served the housing industry for over 30 years. Our company offers training to builders, designers, and building officials. We also offer a variety of industry workshops to further your professional development and skill.

Please click [here](#) for more information on OHBA Training Providers.

OHBA Hosts First #homebeliever Webinar Series: Ontarians on the Move



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EnerQuality Upcoming Workshops



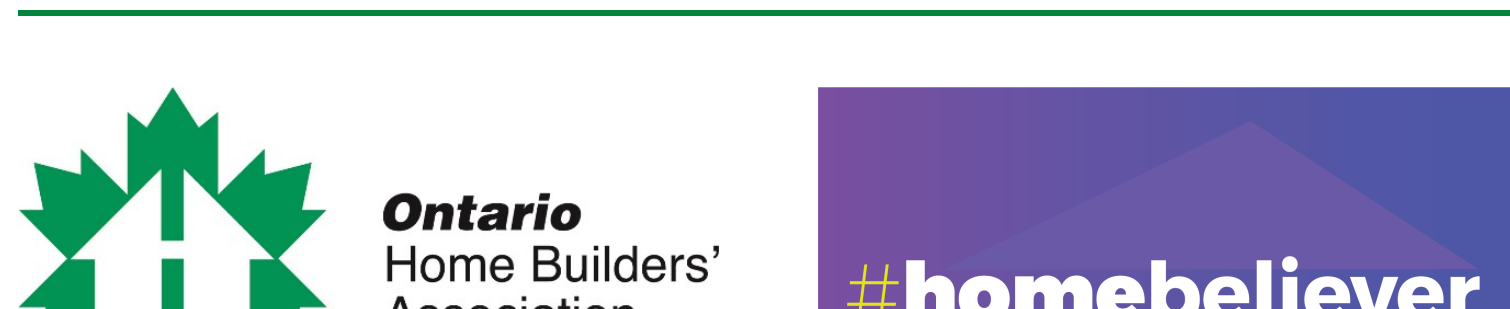
Housing Innovator Series: Enbridge Gas – Geothermal 101
Partnered with buildABILITY
April 21, 11:00am-12:00pm
FREE for eligible Ontario Home Building Professionals

Advanced Building Science
April 28 & 29, 12:30-4:00pm
FREE for eligible Ontario Home Building Professionals

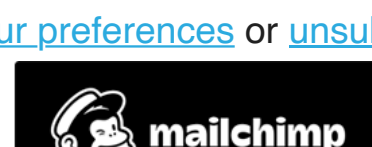
Thanks to our lead sponsor, Enbridge Gas, as well as our other Partners and Sponsors for making this free to Ontario Home Builders.

For more information on our workshops or to reserve your spots in the workshops, please email adrian@enerquality.ca or visit enerquality.ca/education.

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



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