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May 2021



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

Important Dates:

- May is Building Safety Month - Read more [here](#)
- Wednesday, May 5th & Thursday, May 6th - ENERGY STAR for New Homes
- Tuesday, May 25th & Wednesday, May 26th - CHBA Net Zero Builder Training

Save the Date:

- Thursday, June 24th, 2021 - OHBA Board of Directors Meeting - Virtual @ 10 AM
- 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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Streamlining Short-Term Water Takings

On April 19th The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) posted a decision notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) at [ERO number 019-2525](#) to amend regulations under the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Ontario Water Resources Act* to streamline permissions for low risk, short-term water taking activities such as pumping tests, to a more flexible environmental approval process.

These amendments follow advocacy by OHBA and a November 2020 [OHBA submission on short-term water takings](#). OHBA was generally supportive with specific technical recommendations to 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. Moving low risk short-term water taking activities, such as pumping tests to a more flexible registration process will save municipalities and developers time and money as well as getting projects built faster while ensuring that Ontario's water resources continue to be safeguarded. The changes align approval requirements with the level of impact associated with low risk short-term water taking activities by:

- Allowing self-registration for seven-day pumping tests; and
- Modifying existing self-registration requirements related to construction site dewatering and road construction and existing exemption requirements related to diversions to remove certain restrictions that did not further environmental outcomes

and created undue burden for developers and municipalities.

Current self-registration criteria have also been expanded to allow self-registration of additional types of projects, such as construction site dewatering for linear projects and water taking for the construction, repair and maintenance of transit projects. The changes allow the ministry to focus its resources on higher risk and more complex water taking activities through the Permit to Take Water process.

HCRA Calls For Industry Discipline & Appeals Committee Members

As part of establishing and applying a Code of Ethics for licensed home builders and vendors in Ontario, the Home Construction Regulatory Authority (HCRA) is now seeking applications from both licensees and the public to sit as members of its Discipline and Appeals Committees, and the Discipline and Appeals Panels. Members who wish to apply for these roles can visit the [HCRA website](#) and [LinkedIn posting](#) for more details. The postings close on Sunday, May 23rd.

Greenbelt Consultation

In April, OHBA submitted formal feedback to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) regarding the Provincial consultation on growing the Greenbelt. OHBA continues to support protecting our province's most valuable environmental resources while balancing that with the need to build livable and sustainable communities. A long-term vision of growth that is coherent, balanced and addresses population growth realities is what is critically needed to meet the economic and population trajectories of the GGH and the province.

In the OHBA submission, we emphasize the considerable growth (4.6 million people by 2046) that are coming to Ontario over the next 30 years and how both municipalities and the province need to account for housing needs beyond the Growth Plan horizon of 2051. Please read our full OHBA submission [here](#).

First #homebeliever Series Webinar: Ontarians on the Move



On April 14, the Ontario Home Builders' Association was thrilled to present the first in our #homebeliever Webinar Series, *Ontarians on the Move* - a data-driven analysis of how population growth today means we need to build many more homes tomorrow if we want to get serious about housing supply, choice and affordability. Mike Moffat, Senior Director of the Smart Prosperity Institute and Assistant Professor with the Ivey Business School at Western University joined OHBA members, municipal and provincial officials to kick off this webinar series with an insightful look at where exactly Ontarians are moving to and what we need to do to accommodate this shift in housing needs.

Through his analysis, Mike explained how a relatively stagnant housing supply and strong demand have made it increasingly difficult for young #homebeliever families who are ready to purchase their first homes to get into the housing markets where they can ideally live, work and play. This movement of Ontarians from the Greater Toronto Area and Greater Golden Horseshoe regions into less populated parts of the province has created a "drive until you qualify" dynamic by which #homebeliever families cannot afford to live, work and play in the communities they want to, and instead must commit to a commuter lifestyle. Consequently, outlying housing market prices have risen significantly in the past several years with this rush of demand making it even harder for first-time buyers to make their #homebeliever dreams a reality. Furthermore, Mike noted how demand is drastically outpacing supply all across the province, creating a significant lack of options for #homebeliever families and individuals at all stages of life.

The challenges that #homebeliever families are experiencing are real. When people cannot find a community that enables families to live, work and play they are cut out of the housing market and fall further away from the great Canadian dream of homeownership. The facts are clear. We have two million more people coming to Ontario in the next 20 years and we need to build more homes in order to bring the next generation of housing supply, choice and affordability to #homebelievers.

To watch the webinar please click [here](#).

OHBA Welcomes the Passage of Bill 238, *Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act 2021*

In April, Bill 238, *Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act, 2021* received Royal Assent. This legislation recognizes that COVID-19 job losses have disproportionately impacted retail and service sectors, causing the Average Industrial Wage to rise well past 7%. The legislation limits that increase on WSIB premiums to 2%, making sure small businesses aren't subject to sudden undue costs during these challenging times while protecting jobs and worker benefits. The maximum cap for worker benefits will increase, but only in line with the practical business realities that members are experiencing. This stability helps ensure members have predictability during an unpredictable time.

OHBA New Training Providers



Training Ontario



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.

EnerQuality Upcoming Workshops



ENERGY STAR for New Homes

May 5th & 6th, 12:30-4:00 PM

Free for eligible Ontario home building professionals

CHBA Net Zero Builder Training

May 25th & 26th, 12:30-4:00 PM

Free for eligible Ontario home building professionals

Many thanks to our Lead Sponsor Enbridge Gas, as well as our other Partners and Sponsors for making this free to Ontario home builders.

Our **2021 Housing Innovation Lounge** takes place June 15th! Visit our [website](#) to learn more and register for free!

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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