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November 2021



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

Important Dates:

- **Thursday, November 18th** - OHBA Board of Directors Meeting - Virtual

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New Report "Baby Needs a New Home" Continues to Gain Momentum!



A recently released report by Dr. Mike Moffatt, Senior Director of Policy and Innovation at the Smart Prosperity Institute, identifies and shows that Ontario will need to build one **MILLION** new homes over the next ten years in order to meet increasing population growth and family formations that are happening in communities across our province.

The new report titled, "[Baby Needs a New Home](#)" explores population and demographic trends across Ontario, specifically looking at the increased demand from young families that have started to, or would like to start a family, but their housing needs have not been met or are out of reach. Failure to build enough housing in our cities and communities will increase the number of young families *driving until they qualify* in search of affordable, attainable and sustainable housing across the province. Members are encouraged to read the full report and share it widely. [#BeAHousingChampion](#)

[Read Full Report](#)

New Business Registry

In October, the Minister of Government and Consumer Services, Ross Romano announced that the province has launched the new online Ontario Business Registry. [The new registry](#) will make it easier and faster to access government services for employers while digitizing numerous services and processes of the old system. Members can find more information on this important modernization [here](#).

Bradford Bypass Project Regulation

Notification was received from the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks [click here](#) regarding a regulation made under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) to exempt the Bradford Bypass linking Highways 400 and 404 from further EAA requirements. In this case, an individual environmental assessment process was undertaken for the project which received approval under the EAA to proceed. The intention is to exempt critically needed transportation infrastructure such as the Bradford Bypass from the duplication of additional work that would prolong the implementation of much-needed improvements. Please email Larry Kotseff at lkotseff@ohba.ca if you have any related questions.

Closing the Labour and Skills Gap

The Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development has brought forward Bill 27, [Working for Workers Act, 2021](#). This legislation will help to close the labour and skills gaps in Ontario by making it easier for Ontario employers to find the skilled workers they need,

- Eliminating Canadian work experience requirements for professional registration and licensing unless an exemption is granted based on a demonstrated public health and safety risk. These requirements may create situations where workers are unable to obtain Canadian work experience because they don't have it. This is often cited as the number one barrier Canadian immigrants face in obtaining a job that matches their level of qualification.
- Reducing burdensome duplication for official language proficiency testing, so people

would not have to complete multiple tests for purposes of immigration and professional licensing.

- Allowing applicants to register faster in their regulated professions when there are emergencies (such as a pandemic) that create an urgent need for certain professions or trades.
- Ensuring the licensing process is completed in a timely manner to help internationally-trained immigrants start working in careers that match their skillset.

Regulatory Proposals Under the Conservation Authorities Act

Notification was received from the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) regarding new regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) to implement amendments to the CAA made in 2019-20. The *Environmental Registry of Ontario* decision notice is available at [notice number 019-2986](#). The purpose of the regulations is to ensure that Conservation Authorities (CA's) focus and deliver on their core mandates of protecting people and property from flooding and other natural hazards, and conserving natural resources. The new regulations deal with mandatory programs and services of the CA's, transition plans and agreements (MOU's) for programs and services with participating municipalities to fund non-mandatory programs and services through a municipal levy, and the consolidation of current CA regulations related to the public use of authority-owned land.

Also, the implementation timeline has been extended for CA's to complete the transition to the new funding framework with their municipalities by January 1, 2024. OHBA comments were submitted to the original *ERO* posting in June 2021 which generally support the intent of the regulations. OHBA, however, raised concern regarding the ability of municipalities to deliver the non-mandatory services of the CA's and the related cost implications. OHBA is hopeful that the transition plans and MOU's will deal with these matters satisfactorily. The OHBA submission related to the June 2021 *ERO* posting is available [here](#). Please email Larry Kotseff at lkotseff@ohba.ca if you have any related questions.

WSIB Changes to Support Employers

In October, the Minister of Labour [announced changes to the WSIB](#) to provide COVID-19 relief to safe employers. The WSIB is cutting premium rates in 2022 by \$168 million and the government is intending to introduce legislation that, if passed, would allow for a portion of the WSIB's current reserve, currently valued at \$6.1 billion, to be distributed to safe employers. This will help employers invest in new jobs, technology, and health and safety equipment while ensuring injured workers continue to receive the benefits and services they deserve.

Excess Soils

As part of [O.Reg 406/19](#), members will be responsible for the proper tracking and registration of excess soils that are not reused on job sites. The provincial agency overseeing the new excess soils registry is the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPR). Online registrations will begin January 1st, 2022, and will require members to track their reuse or disposal of excess soil from projects. RPR currently has a consultation open on the fees associated with the registry and members are encouraged to submit their feedback [here](#), the deadline to comment is November 12, 2021. To assist members in understanding new obligations under the regulation OHBA is hosting an information session on Thursday, December 2nd from 10-11 am. Members are encouraged to register for the session [here](#).

Decision on the Proposed Land Use Compatibility Guideline

Notification was received from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) at <http://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-2785> that it will not be proceeding with the proposed Land Use Compatibility Guideline posted on the *Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO)* earlier this year. MECP's decision was due to the extensive interest and nature of the comments received through that posting. As such, the current D-Series guidelines for lands use compatibility (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/environmental-land-use-planning-guides>) will remain in effect. Any future update to these guidelines will be posted on the ERO. The OHBA submission related to the ERO posting is available [here](#). Please email Larry Kotseff at lkotseff@ohba.ca if you have any related questions.

OBC Changes for January 2022

On January 1, 2021, there are new Ontario Building Code requirements related to stairs that come into force which members should be aware of. To assist members with these new requirements, OHBA is hosting buildABILITY President, Michael Lio on Wednesday, December 8th from 11-Noon to help members navigate this change and the impacts it will have on projects. Members are encouraged to register for the session [here](#).

Red Tape Reduction

On October 7, the Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, Nina Tangri brought forward the government's [seasonal red tape reduction legislation](#). Bill 13 would, if passed, include a new sec 39.2 to Planning Act that provides municipal councils the ability to delegate authority to pass by-laws under sec 34 that are minor to a committee of council or heads of local planning departments.

"OHBA is pleased to see process enhancements by the Provincial Government that will provide municipal councils with the ability to delegate minor *Planning Act* approvals to heads of local planning departments," said OHBA President Bob Schickedanz. "This is a meaningful change that will help local planning processes run more efficiently while removing some of the politics around planning to more smoothly allow councils to focus on the big decisions ahead of them."

Thank you for Attending OHBA's 2021 Virtual Conference!



A BIG thank you to those who took the time to attend and participate in the Ontario Home Builders' Association's first-ever virtual conference, presented by Moen and Training Ontario!

By participating in this exciting day of learning and collaboration, the Ontario home building industry is one step closer to improving communities across the province by providing more housing choice and supply to #homebelievers in order to achieve the great Canadian dream of home ownership. We as an association, are "Building Growth Together"!

While the conference may be complete, the learning never ends! The conference portal will remain open for 30 days with access to on-demand viewing of all sessions. Make sure to visit our [conference website](#) where you can log in and [access the portal](#).

Our first virtual event would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors; co-presenting sponsors Moen and Training Ontario; Conference Lunch presented by Enbridge; and Event Partner Blueprint Insurance Services Inc. Your continued dedication and support of our industry and its members is much appreciated!

Thank you again for attending, and we look forward to celebrating with you in person in 2022 in Niagara Falls!

OHBA New Skills Development Program



The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) and EnerQuality are working together to deliver job-ready, unskilled labourers to qualified OHBA members building in the GTA, Niagara, Hamilton, Kitchener/ Waterloo, Guelph, Simcoe, Durham and Ottawa.

Through this program, OHBA and EnerQuality will manage all aspects of employee recruitment, screening, interviewing and onboarding. We will also provide ongoing weekly program support to participating employers and to employees to ensure success for all parties involved. Please click [HERE](#) for more information and learn how we can deliver job-ready workers!

EnerQuality Upcoming Workshops



EQ Awards

Join us in celebrating the lasting and positive impact that our family of builders are making. Our Awards take place November 30, 2021, from 1:00-3:30 pm EST, registration is free! For more information, please visit our website [here](#).

Education

We have free upcoming webinars for you to check out as well as CHBA Net Zero Builder and CHBA Net Zero Renovator training [here](#)!

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



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