



Ontario
Home Builders'
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OHBA Welcomes Provincial Budget that will Strengthen Housing Supply and Choice for Ontarians

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TORONTO – Today, the provincial government released the 2023 Ontario budget. Entitled *Building a Strong Ontario*, the budget lays out important measures that will support more housing supply and choice across our province. This fiscal plan invests in our future skilled trades workforce and commits to critical infrastructure needed for new housing.

“We warmly welcome the number the important investments within the budget today aimed at filling labour gaps and supporting critical infrastructure, so we can deliver keys to more families, faster,” noted OHBA President, Louie Zagordo. “The residential construction industry is encouraged by today’s budget because it means the provincial government recognizes the need to build a strong foundation to construct the 1.5 million homes we need over the next decade, essential to restoring housing attainability in Ontario.”

Investments of an additional \$75 million for the Skills Development Fund (SDF) will make it easier for our province to build the skilled workforce of tomorrow. OHBA’s highly successful Job Ready program that helps introduce young people to rewarding careers in the skilled trades has been supported by the SDF in the past and we will continue to push for this support in the future. Furthermore, an investment of over \$20 billion dollars towards vital highway, transportation and infrastructure projects such as Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass will also create new links throughout our province, help connect people and underpin more housing options. Finally, we are pleased to hear the provincial government is continuing conversations with the federal government on exempting the GST/HST on new housing and rental.

“Today’s provincial budget takes important steps forward to help accelerate the delivery of housing supply in communities big and small across Ontario,” noted OHBA CEO Luca Bucci. “Making it easier to get into the skilled trades and investing in crucial highway infrastructure will help make it possible for awaiting families to get the keys to their new home sooner and increase the volume and variety of housing options our province needs.”

Whether it is the millennial first time home buyer, working adult, young family or retiree, Ontarians need more attainable housing. Without the right mix of home ownership, including rental options, Ontario risks economic damage as opportunities, investments and businesses will leave in search of jurisdictions that provide greater housing choice and supply. Significantly increasing housing supply and variety is critical to ensuring Ontario can remain the economic engine of Canada. We will continue to champion investments and initiatives that increase housing supply and choice so that more Ontarians can find a place where they can live, work and raise a family.

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