



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

FEBRUARY 2015

DATES TO NOTE

- February 11: [CWC Mid-Rise Symposium](#)
- February 19: [EnerQuality Innovation Forum and EQ Awards](#)
- April 20: OHBA PEO Day and Industry Leaders' Dinner
- May 3-5: [The Resources for Ontario Mid-Rise](#) (Workshop)

PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2015

The upcoming Ontario Budget will outline the province's fiscal priorities for the coming year. The budget will be tabled amid a backdrop of economic uncertainty with lower oil prices, a weaker loonie and the Bank of Canada interest rate cut. The Liberal Government continues to state that they plan on eliminating the province's \$12.5 billion deficit by 2017-18 by focusing on controlling spending, better targeting the province's investments and tackling the underground economy.

OHBA thanks the Sudbury and District, the London, the Niagara and the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Associations for appearing before the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs during pre-budget hearings held across Ontario. OHBA CEO Joe Vaccaro and Director of Policy Mike Collins-Williams also appeared before the Standing Committee on January 29th to provide OHBA's recommendations for the upcoming budget.

The OHBA pre-budget submission is available on the [OHBA website](#) and delivered a number of key messages and priorities to the provincial government including:

- An effective tax administration system requires consumers and businesses to pay their fair share of taxes. Pressure from the underground economy continues to plague the renovation sector where a high percentage of work is done for cash. Therefore, OHBA continues to advocate for a home renovation tax credit at both the provincial and federal levels to encourage the use of legitimate contractors and to fight the underground economy. OHBA also recommends an underground economy task force with a focus on the construction sector.
- OHBA is encouraged by the significant infrastructure commitments made during the election campaign to invest \$130 billion over the next ten years in infrastructure. OHBA is also supportive of the two proposed dedicated transportation funds of \$15 billion in the GTA and \$14 billion for the rest of Ontario. OHBA recommends that the province focus strategic investments in 'core' infrastructure in combination with pre-zoning to enhance productivity and support investment-ready communities.

COLLEGE OF TRADES REVIEW UPDATE

The Dean Review of the Ontario College of Trades (OCOT) [released the consultation paper](#) which focuses on potential reforms to the compulsory certification process, changes to the scopes of practice for trades as well as OCOT enforcement's mandate and jurisdiction. Following a regulatory change in the summer, there is currently a pause on all compulsory certification reviews at OCOT while the review is taking place.

OHBA has engaged independent labour market researchers to table a response which will advocate for the modernization of skilled trades in Ontario by providing solutions that will make it easier for workers to find apprenticeships and employers to find quality skilled workers. OHBA is coordinating the response with other prominent construction associations, including: BILD, the Heavy Construction Association of Toronto, the Ontario General Contractors' Association, the Ontario Road Builders' Association, the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association and RESCON.

OHBA looks forward to engaging local associations through local events to highlight the need for positive reforms to our skilled trades system in the coming months.

TD ECONOMICS: GTA HOUSING BOOM MASKS GROWING STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

On January 19th, TD Economics released a report based, in part, on some of the work that OHBA provided through the [GTA Housing Action Lab](#). The report entitled "[GTA Housing Boom Masks Growing Structural Challenges: Deteriorating Affordability, Lack of Housing Choice and a Strained Transportation System Require a Regional Policy Approach](#)" notes that the strength of the housing market has concealed some growing challenges that have been percolating under the surface, of which include deteriorating affordability, an increasingly weak diversity of housing choice and a transportation system that is struggling to keep up. TD Economics states that addressing these challenges through a more collaborative regional approach will be critical to securing economic, social and environmental prosperity in the future. TD Economics provides a number of public policy recommendations to improve housing affordability that reflect OHBA advocacy and public policy positions - we therefore strongly encourage members and local associations to read and share the report broadly. Furthermore, OHBA co-signed a short statement from the [GTA Housing Action Lab](#) with a number of diverse stakeholders responding to the release of the TD Economics report.

OBOA WORKAROUND FOR COMPLIANCE WITH CSA F280

Following the January 1, 2015 requirement to use the updated 2012 CSA standard (F280) for heating and cooling load calculations, OBOA has posted a notice on their website for a "[Workaround for Compliance with CSA F280](#)":

Due to the limited availability of designers trained on the new CSA Standard F280-12 "Determining the required capacity of residential space heating and cooling appliances", the SB-12 Joint Working Group suggests that Building Officials may want to consider an alternative approach to determining heating and cooling equipment capacities.

Under Sentence 6.2.1.1.(1), the Building Code references a few good design practices such as the ASHRAE fundamentals, the HRAI Digest and CSA F280.

HOT2000 software, which essentially meets the intent of good design practice, has the ability to provide room-by-room heat loss/heat gain calculations.

Understanding that the HOT2000 heat loss/heat gain outputs are based on calculations and algorithms used and applied by the CSA F280-12 standard, it is suggested that Building Officials consider accepting HOT2000 outputs generated by qualified practitioners for determining heat loss/heat gain loads until sufficient industry capacity on CSA F-280-12 is available.

OHBA SPONSORS TORONTO MID-RISE SYMPOSIUM

Don't miss this intensive, one-day educational event that will discuss wood-frame mid-rise construction in Ontario. We'll be taking a look at fire protection, acoustic, structural, building envelope, and insurance considerations for these buildings. You will learn about best practices from mid-rise experienced practitioners from BC, where mid-rise wood frame buildings have been permitted since 2009. Ontario building professionals will also be on hand to discuss additional topics including sprinklers, costing, course of construction considerations and what building departments will be looking for at the permit stage.

Event Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 (8am – 6pm)

Location: Paramount Conference and Event Venue, 222 Rowntree Dairy Road, Woodbridge, ON

Registration Fee: \$250 + HST = \$282.50

To register for the event, please [click here](#).

ENERQUALITY INNOVATION FORUM AND AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Get the edge by attending Ontario's 'can't miss' conference and awards celebrating the 10th anniversary of Canada's most successful residential green building program, ENERGY STAR® For New Homes. The EQ Housing Innovation Forum on **February 19, 2015** will be a full day of insightful seminars, networking, and ground-breaking products and services. The EQ Housing Innovation Forum is followed by the EQ Awards Evening Gala - a night where the residential building and construction industry's leading innovators receive recognition for their accomplishments! To register for this event and to nominate a builder for the EQ Awards, [click here](#).



ENERQUALITY WINTER TRAINING – ENERGY STAR

With years of experience, an all-star faculty of instructors and support from our partners, EnerQuality offers a comprehensive green building curriculum with workshops in all areas you'll need to confidently adopt a green building strategy for your business - offering the most relevant and practical training in the industry.

Below is a list of upcoming training events:

- February 11th 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM – [ENERGY STAR® for New Homes Part 1; Advanced Building Science](#)
- February 25th 9:00AM – 4:00 PM – [ENERGY STAR® for New Homes Part 2: Technical Specification](#)
- March 5th 9:00AM – 4:00 PM – [ENERGY STAR® for New Homes Part 3: Marketing & Selling](#)

For more information on upcoming courses, please contact EnerQuality at 416-447-0077 or by [clicking here](#).

NAHB – NATIONAL AWARDS

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) held their annual conference January 20-23rd in Las Vegas, Nevada. The well-attended event featured a large tradeshow, daily informational sessions as well as the much anticipated National Awards. This year Ontario did exceptionally well and brought home eleven gold awards and thirty-five silver awards. Congratulations to all the winners of the NAHB awards!

To see a full list of Ontario winners, please [click here](#). To learn more about the National Awards please visit: <http://www.thenationals.com/>.



Ontario Home Builders' Association

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