



## **DATES TO NOTE**

- January 27: OHBA Presidents and EOs Seminar Day
- January 27: Industry Leaders Dinner with Steve Paikin from *The Agenda with Steve Paikin* (2014 Order of Canada recipient)
- February 26 - 28: OHBA/EnerQuality Builder and Renovator Forum

## **JANUARY 2014**

## **DEVELOPMENT CHARGES AND LAND-USE PLANNING CONSULTATIONS UPDATE**

Thank you to all the members who have participated and contributed comments, examples and recommendations to OHBA regarding the current Development Charges and Land-Use Planning Appeals System consultations.

OHBA has engaged members of its 31 local home building associations through a series of sessions with OHBA Committee Chairs Lyn Townsend, Leith Moore and Neil Rodgers. Thank you to BILD, Waterloo Region, Hamilton-Halton, London and Greater Ottawa for hosting these important meetings. The Chairs have also reached out to engage members across Ontario to solicit comments and recommendations.

The draft [Development Charges](#) and [Land-Use Planning Appeals System](#) documents represent only a summary of the comments and recommendations that OHBA has received from the membership in relation to the questions presented by the province in their consultation documents. Staff continues to review member responses and feedback regarding the draft documents. The final submission due date to the Provincial Government is January 10, 2014.

For more information on the consultations, please contact the OHBA offices.

## **PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY RELEASES WHITE PAPER ON BUILDING GREAT CITIES**

In December the Ontario PC Party released a white paper outlining potential policies regarding cities and urban development should the PC Party form government following the next provincial election. The white paper featured a range of potential policies including:

- A revamped provincial transit agency should be put in charge of planning and operation of what will become a truly regional system that moves people faster and more efficiently. This requires transferring operations of TTC subways and LRTs to GO Transit, and uploading major highways in the GTA and Ottawa region.
- Prioritize the Downtown Relief Line, as the most important new subway route in Toronto.
- No new taxes. Create an Ontario Transportation Trust and fund new projects with up to \$2 billion a year.
- Funds collected by cities through development charges should be transparent. Cities should be required to demonstrate that these funds have been used for their intended purpose.
- Cities should decide for themselves where their future growth will go. The intensification demands of provincial planning policy should not override local decision-making.
- The PCs would retain the Ontario Municipal Board to balance the concerns of individual citizens, developers and cities.
- The province should use public-private partnerships for the provision of future affordable housing as well as use housing allowances for those in need so they can live where they choose.
- Make our suburbs complete communities. That means earlier development of public infrastructure like schools, parks, libraries and sports fields so that people don't have to wait years for services they have already paid for through development charges.

The white paper also noted that "we believe in doing what government can do to help people with their dream of owning a home. Our children should have the same opportunity to own a home that the previous generation had". To download a copy of the PC *Paths to Prosperity* white paper on *Building Great Cities* please [click here](#).

## **NEW ONTARIO BUILDING CODE**

On January 1, 2014, the new 2012 Building Code (O. Reg. 332/12) came into force. A recent amendment to the new OBC was released in December 2013, including updated references and barrier-free design (accessibility) requirements effective January 1, 2015:

- Updated 2012 CSA standard (F280) for heating and cooling load calculations
- Requirements for visual fire alarms to be installed in all public corridors of multi-unit residential buildings and in all multi-unit residential suites
- Requirements for all smoke alarms in all buildings, including houses, to include a visual component
- Basic accessibility features that must be included in all extensive renovations, regardless of the size or height of the suite

Click on the link to access the full [MMAH CodeNews](#). The 2012 Building Code can also be viewed free online at [E-Laws](#).

OHBA supports the adoption of the 2012 CSA standard in the OBC, and continues to participate in working group meetings with the MMAH.

## PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs will meet to conduct Pre-Budget Consultations for the upcoming 2014 Ontario Budget. The Committee intends to hold public hearings in:

- Kitchener – January 13th
- Oakville - January 14<sup>th</sup>
- Peterborough – January 15th
- Toronto – January 16th
- Sarnia – January 20th
- Thunder Bay - January 21st
- North Bay - January 22nd
- Kingston – January 23rd

OHBA strongly encourages local associations to participate. OHBA will assist to provide local associations with speaking notes should they intend to make a deputation to the Standing Committee of provincial MPPs as this provides an excellent opportunity to bring a local perspective to important provincial housing and economic issues.

Interested people who wish to be considered to make an oral presentation to the Committee should contact the Clerk of the Committee by 12 noon on Thursday, January 9, 2014. The Committee Clerk, Katch Koch can be contacted at (416) 325-3526 or [katch\\_koch@ontla.ola.org](mailto:katch_koch@ontla.ola.org).

## OHBA/ENERQUALITY 2014 BUILDER AND RENOVATOR FORUM IN NIAGARA FALLS

Join us February 26 – 28th at the spectacular Hilton Hotel and Suites Niagara Falls for the 2014 Builder and Renovator Forum – your premiere conference on building innovation and technical excellence. OHBA is partnering with EnerQuality to provide a relevant program designed to help your business grow and evolve with the new regulatory changes.

The program will include round table discussions, engaging industry speakers, a trade exhibit and EnerQuality's Awards of Excellence gala. Topics include:

- January 1, 2014 Ontario Building Code Update
- CMHC Economic Housing Forecast
- Discovery Homes from the Optimum Home Program and Savings by Design
- Institute of Building Excellence
- Tax-related Issues for Builders and Renovators



But it is not all work and no play - lace up your skates at our charity 'fun on the ice' event celebrating OHBA's 50 Good Deeds initiative, featuring hockey legends Steve Ludzig, Marcel Dionne, and Rick Vaive. This is your opportunity to rub elbows with some of the hockey legends while raising money for the Steve Ludzik Centre for Parkinson's Rehab.

Registration is now open. Visit [www.builderrenovatorforum.com](http://www.builderrenovatorforum.com) and sign-up before space fills up!

## OHBA INSTITUTE OF BUILDING EXCELLENCE

Looking for current information on ever-evolving building practices, code changes or legal issues? Or do you want to improve your expertise around financial management or sales and marketing? OHBA's [Institute of Building Excellence](#) (IBE) can help. The Institute provides web-based, online learning that focuses on best practices in business management, building and renovation technologies, building codes, legal issues and many other topics. You can sign-up for courses that:

- Are available 24/7/365 - anywhere you are;
- Are supported by subject-matter expert instructors who provide online guidance, mark assignments, deliver a half day, in-class review and a supervised written exam; and
- Allow students to learn at their own pace. Register online and choose the date and place for the one day class within a twelve month window allowed.

Member engagement province-wide is paramount, so OHBA, through the Institute, has ensured the courses are readily available, achievable and affordable. For more information and to view the spring course calendar, visit the Institute of Building Excellence section on the OHBA website or call or email MJ Whitemarsh, the IBE Registrar toll-free at 1-855-818-0449.



Ontario Home Builders' Association

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