



DATES TO NOTE

March 7-9: CHBA Conference
April 18: OHBA PEO Day and Industry Leaders' Dinner

MARCH 2016

ONTARIO RETIREMENT PENSION PLAN UPDATE

The governments of Canada and Ontario have announced they have reached an agreement on the implementation and administration of the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP).

The province has also announced that the first wave of employers will not begin paying into the ORPP until January 2018, which is one year later than the initial implementation date. However, the implementation times for small and medium-sized businesses remain unchanged. Medium-sized companies (with 50 to 499 employees) are still scheduled to start contributing in 2018 and small businesses (with fewer than 50 employees) in 2019.

In response to the changes the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) was supportive of the implementation delay but has produced [additional analysis that calls](#) on the government to mitigate the impact of the ORPP through targeted tax relief, electricity rate reductions, local economic development funding and transition supports for small businesses.

OHBA continues to work with the OCC as they take the lead on the ORPP file.

- [Click here](#) for the provincial government's media release
- [Click here](#) for the OHBA Pre-Budget Submission
- [Click here](#) for additional information about the ORPP
- [Click here](#) for the OCC response to the changes

2016 ONTARIO BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Last week, Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa introduced the Ontario Budget, which included a continued focus on investments in infrastructure across the province as well as a focus on "a low carbon economy driven by innovative, high-growth, export-oriented businesses". OHBA provided members with a detailed breakdown of the budget in our "[Builder Advocate Newsletter](#)" including: finance, infrastructure investments, the discontinuation of the Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit, Ontario Retirement Pension Plan, Climate Change Initiatives and the College of Trades. OHBA also provided our commentary and perspectives in a [media release](#).

ENERQUALITY FORUM AND AWARDS

Last week, the EnerQuality Corporation hosted their annual Innovation Forum as well as their awards which are handed out to builders who are committed to building energy-efficient and sustainable homes.

The Minto Group was awarded Ontario Green Builder of the Year for a second year in a row. The award is presented annually to a builder that raises the bar for the rest of the industry through its leadership in improving the environmental, energy efficiency, and overall image of the industry. In addition, Reid's Heritage Homes took home the inaugural Net Zero Builder of the Year award, the ENERGY STAR® for New Homes Builder of the Year - Large Volume award was given to Mattamy Homes and Tridel was awarded the inaugural award for Building Innovation - Mid and High-Rise.



Special honours went to Andy Goyda, Canadian Builder Lead and Market Development Manager for Owens Corning Canada, who was inducted into the EnerQuality Hall of Fame. The award is presented to an individual who, over the course of their career, has made a lasting impact on energy efficiency and green building in the housing industry.

For a full list of award winners, please [click here](#).

WASTE FREE ONTARIO ACT

In November, Ontario introduced the *Waste-Free Ontario Act, Bill 151* and a draft [Waste Free Ontario Strategy](#) for public and stakeholder feedback. The draft strategy provides a roadmap for Ontario to transition to a province that produces zero waste and zero GHG pollution from waste. OHBA provided the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change [a submission](#) with our recommendations regarding both the strategy and the legislation. While OHBA is generally supportive of the direction the provincial government is moving towards and extended producer responsibility framework, OHBA has been very clear that built structures should not be captured under this framework that that our industry should continue to be managed under the generator requirements defined under the three R's regulations (102/94 and 103/94). OHBA does however also recognize that these regulations are two decades old and require modernization.

CHANGES TO TARION'S ONTARIO BUILDER DIRECTORY

Beginning May 1st, the [Ontario Builder Directory](#) will register information related to possessions, chargeable conciliations, and claims for the past 10 years on both builder and vendor profiles where they are separate entities. Previously, this information was only noted on the vendor's profile. This change will result in greater accuracy and transparency. Builders whose profiles will begin to show chargeable conciliations and claims will receive letters at the beginning of April informing them of the change.

LONG-TERM AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is anticipated to release an updated [Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy](#) (LTAHS) in the coming weeks. OHBA previously participated in consultations for the original LTAHS in 2009 and OHBA submitted new/updated recommendations in our [July 2015 submission](#). OHBA was supportive of the announcement in the Provincial Budget on February 25th that the province intended to develop a framework for a Portable Housing Benefit. Through numerous submissions, resolutions passed at the OHBA AMM and partnerships with other organizations including the Housing Lab, OHBA has consistently supported a Portable Housing Benefit that would promote fairness, equity and more autonomy for low income households by providing them with greater choice for the community that they want to live in.

OHBA notes that during the *Bill 73, Smart Growth for Our Communities Act* consultations that numerous municipalities, associations and stakeholder groups explicitly requested the province to amend the *Planning Act* to allow for Inclusionary Zoning policies. Furthermore, the NDP has a Private Member's Bill (Bill 3) supporting Inclusionary Zoning and Liberal MPP Peter Milczyn also has a Private Member's Bill (Bill 39) supporting Inclusionary Zoning. OHBA has produced an information piece – [Inclusionary Zoning Not The Answer](#).

PERMITS TO TAKE WATER – ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY AND SECTOR REGISTRY

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change has identified select water taking activities to be included in the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) framework. OHBA previously made supportive [recommendations with a submission](#) in April 2015 and updated comments in [a new submission supporting the Draft Regulation](#) in January 2016. The EASR is an on-line system that allows clients to register eligible activities online, rather than applying for a traditional Permit to Take Water (PTTW) or Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA). Through this system, eligible activities can receive approval to operate within minutes. To support this transition, the ministry will be hosting consultation sessions with the public and impacted stakeholders throughout Ontario. These sessions will provide a cursory review of the new regulatory requirements for water takings related to road construction, and construction dewatering. In addition to outlining eligibility criteria and operational requirements, the ministry will provide an in-depth walkthrough of how to register these eligible activities on the EASR. Consultations will be held in Barrie, Kitchener, London, Markham, Niagara Falls, Ottawa, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Toronto. For detailed information about these consultations, [click here](#).

Location	Conference room	Date and Time	Food and Beverage
Barrie: Liberty North 100 Caplan Avenue, Unit 1 Barrie ON, L4N 9J2 Tel: 705-728-3977	Java West Room Contact: Lori Buch, Event Manager Tel: 705-728-3877 Fax: 705-728-2548	Thursday, March 17 th Session: 6:00- 8:00pm	Coffee/Tea will be provided
Kitchener: Crowne Plaza 105 King Street E, Kitchener ON, N2G 2K8 Tel: 519-744-4141 Fax: 519-578-6889	New Trillium Suite Contact: Sara Leblanc, Sales Manager Tel: 519-569-4576 E-mail: sblanc@cpkw-hotel.com	Thursday, March 31 st Session: 6:00- 8:00pm	Coffee/Tea will be provided
London: Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre 551 Windermere Road London ON, N6K 2T1 Tel: 1-888-678-6926	Juniper Room Contact: Kristen Makey, Conference Planner Tel: 519-375-5538 E-mail: KMmakey@ivey.uwo.ca	Thursday, April 7 th Session: 6:00- 8:00pm	Coffee/Tea will be provided
Markham: Hilton Toronto/Markham Suites Conference Centre & Spa 8500 Warden Avenue Markham ON, L6G 1A5 Niagara Falls: Radisson Hotel & Suites Fallsview 6733 Fallsview Boulevard Niagara Falls ON, L2G 3W7 Tel: 905-356-1944 Fax: 905-374-2555	Elm II Contact: Somai Sen, Conference Planning Manager Tel: 905-415-7634 Fax: 905-415-7624 Champlain Contact: Leigh Roszell-Hoag, Director of Sales & Marketing Tel: 905-371-7107 Fax: 905-374-2555	Tuesday, March 29 th Session: 6:00- 8:00pm Thursday, March 31 st Session: 6:00- 8:00pm	Coffee/Tea will be provided Coffee/Tea will be provided

EXCESS SOIL MANAGEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), along with a number of supporting Ministries, has concluded that a clarified policy framework is necessary to support implementation of the directions set out in the ministry's existing "[Management of Excess Soil – A Guide for Best Management Practices](#)" (BMP). Based on the results of the review, the province has developed a proposed *Excess Soil Management Policy Framework* which is now posted for a 60-day period on the Environmental Registry ([Registry # 012-6065](#)). The province intends to complete consultations on the proposed framework and develop priority policies in accordance with that framework.

OHBA previously [submitted comments to the Ministry](#) in 2013. If you have any questions regarding the review or proposed framework, please contact Atif Durrani, Senior Policy Advisor, Land and Water Policy Branch (416) 314-3888 or Atif.Durrani2@ontario.ca. OHBA is seeking feedback from members – please provide comments or recommendations to OHBA Director of Policy, [Mike Collins-Williams](#).

CUI MID-RISE DATABASE WEBINAR

On Wednesday, March 2, 2016 from 1:00-2:00 P.M., CUI is hosting a webinar to introduce the Mid-Rise Database and hear how it will be useful to municipalities, elected officials, residents' groups and home builders in the GTA. Developed by the Canadian Urban Institute with support from the Government of Ontario, the mid-rise database provides the public and municipal decision-makers with a one-stop source for information about built mid-rise development projects in the GTA.

Featuring presentations from the CUI and representatives of residents' groups, municipalities and the building industry, this webinar will provide:

- an overview and introduction to the mid-rise database
- benefits / challenges / opportunities
- how to participate in building the database
- next steps

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



Ontario Home Builders' Association

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