



OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

DATES TO NOTE

- April 17: OHBA Renovators' Council
- April 19: Tarion Annual Public Meeting
- April 23: OHBA Health and Safety Committee
- April 25: OHBA/EnerQuality Green Housing Tour
- April 26: OHBA Technical Committee Meeting

APRIL 2012

PROVINCIAL BUDGET

OHBA outlined support for the provincial budget that protected core infrastructure investments over the next three years. OHBA President Doug Tarry, noted "OHBA welcomes the enhancements to core infrastructure investment with the announcement of a new three-year \$35 billion commitment in the 2012 Ontario Budget. These strategic infrastructure investments will strengthen Ontario's economic growth, job creation and complement the sustainable development of complete communities."

Ontario's Fiscal Recovery Plan (\$ Billions)	Ontario's Fiscal Recovery Plan		Medium Term Outlook			Extended Outlook	
	Interim 2011-12	Plan 2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Revenue	109.3	112.2	116.1	121.0	126.2	131.2	135.9
Expense							
Programs	114.5	115.8	117.0	117.9	118.5	118.7	118.9
Interest of Debt	10.1	10.6	11.2	12.3	14.1	15.1	15.4
Total Expense	124.6	126.4	128.2	130.3	132.6	133.8	134.4
Reserve	-	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Surplus/(Deficit)	(15.3)	(15.2)	(13.3)	(10.7)	(7.8)	(4.2)	(0.0)

Infrastructure

- The short-term infrastructure plan was initially to invest \$35 billion in infrastructure over 3 years (2011-12 to 2013-14); including the \$12.9 billion spent during the current fiscal year in 2011-12;
- This province now plans to roll over the commitment for \$35 billion through the next three years on top of the \$12.9 billion spent last year (2012-13 to 2014-15). This including another \$12.9 billion in 2012-13;

Taxes

- Freeze on further reductions of the general *Corporate Income Tax Rate* (currently 11.5%) and education taxes for business until the budget is balanced;
- Cap *Ontario Clean Energy Benefit* for large users (over 3,000 kWh per month);

Housing

- *The Ontario HST New Home Buyer Rebate* saved Ontario new home buyers \$1.005 billion in 2011;
- The enhanced tax structure was advocated for by OHBA working in conjunction with local HBAs;
- \$60 million in 2011-12 projected to be directed to the *Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit*;
- The provincial government forecasts 64,000 housing starts in 2012 and 63,000 housing starts in 2013;

HEALTHY HOMES RENOVATION TAX CREDIT

OHBA Renovators' Council Chair Sandra Baldwin and OHBA Past President Victor Fiume will be making a deputation at the *Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs* on April 5 in support of the proposed *Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit*. The Credit will be a permanent, refundable personal income tax credit to assist with the cost of permanent home modifications that improve accessibility or help a senior be more functional or mobile at home. The Credit would be worth up to \$1,500 each year, calculated as 15 per cent of up to \$10,000 in eligible home renovation expenses that would help seniors stay safely in their homes. It could be claimed by senior homeowners and tenants, and people who share a home with a senior relative.

OHBA supports the Tax Credit as a method of allowing seniors to age-in-place. The Credit will encourage home owners to collect receipts and hire legitimate business rather than cash deals. OHBA supports tax credits for renovation, according to *Canada Revenue Agency*, it is estimated that 3 million Canadians participated in the stimulus focused federal *Home Renovation Tax Credit*, which generated an additional \$4.3 billion in renovation investment into the economy, as well as reduced underground economic activity.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT – BOBOLINK & EASTERN MEADOWLARK

An OHBA subcommittee with BILD & GOHBA members continues to be engaged with MNR to work towards appropriate, fair and balanced transition provisions and to improve the *Overall Benefit Permitting* process to establish a simplified, rational and streamlined approach.

The Ministry of Natural Resources held consultations with the Greater Ottawa HBA and with the OHBA Land Development Committee regarding *Overall Benefit Permitting* requirements for the alteration of Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark habitat. OHBA is also represented on the *Bobolink/Eastern Meadowlark Roundtable* advisory group to provide advice and recommendations on how to best develop a long-term plan and recovery strategy.

The Provincial Budget tabled on March 27 outlined broad plans for MNR to transform the stewardship and conservation of Ontario's natural resources in the most fiscally responsible way, the Ministry is proposing to:

- Transform key parts of its legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines with a view to streamlining and automating permitting processes and requirements;
- Conduct resource management with a stronger regional focus and fewer field offices;
- Redesign its science and delivery activities to shift away from a species-by-species approach to a risk-based ecosystem/regional approach.

REMINDERS / AVAILABLE FROM OHBA

- ✓ Engine That Drives Ontario's Economy
- ✓ Ontario Housing Issues Status Report: Fall 2011
- ✓ OHBA Magazine Spring Issue
- ✓ OHBA 2011 Membership Directory
- ✓ YOUR VOICE – How OHBA Works For You
- ✓ OHBA Endangered Species Act Submission



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