



# OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

*Keeping Members Informed*

## **DATES TO NOTE**

- January 28: OHBA Presidents and EOs Seminar
- January 28: OHBA Board of Directors
- January 28: Industry Leaders Dinner
- February 20-22: Builder and Renovator Forum

## **JANUARY 2013**

### **WSIB MANDATORY COVERAGE IN EFFECT**

Starting 2013, mandatory WSIB coverage for employers and workers in construction takes effect. Failure to comply with the new legislation is an offence. However, for the first year WSIB won't be prosecuting offences related to registration and clearances obligations under Bill 119. In 2013, WSIB is focusing on education and awareness. If WSIB becomes aware that someone isn't in compliance, they will make sure they understand their responsibility to register. Premiums are calculated starting on January 1, 2013 and companies are required to pay premiums for the entire 2013 year. In 2014 WSIB can still prosecute employers for outstanding 2013 premiums.

Please refer to the following categories to ensure you are in compliance.

#### **IF YOU ARE AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER "NOT ON THE TOOLS"**

Executive Officers are commonly known as the President, Vice-President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, or Secretary. WSIB has exempted one executive officer per firm that does **not** engage in any construction work. i.e. "not on the tools"

WSIB considers construction work as any manual work of a skilled or unskilled nature, the operation of equipment or machinery, or the direct on-site supervision of workers. Periodic site visits are permitted provided the partner or executive is not performing construction work on the site. i.e. "not on the tools"

Details about the exemption for one executive officer or partner:

1. Exemptions are not automatic. To receive the exemption, the partner or executive officer will have to complete a WSIB request form.
2. Independent operators and sole proprietors (with workers) do not qualify for this exemption.

#### **OTHER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS "NOT ON THE TOOLS"**

Other executive officers that are "not on the tools" in the same firm that do not receive the exemption are classified under a lower rate group (755), which is substantially lower compared to construction workers.

#### **IF YOU ARE A HOME RENOVATOR - RENOVATOR EXEMPTION:**

Home renovators must work exclusively in home renovation and work directly for the homeowner, meaning occupant or a member of their family and are paid directly by the homeowner, meaning occupant or a member of their family are not required to have coverage for themselves.

**You still must have WSIB coverage for your workers**, but as an owner, you are not required to have coverage for yourself. You can apply for optional insurance coverage with WSIB.

#### **IF YOU ARE AN INDEPENDENT OPERATOR:**

An independent operator is someone that does not employ any workers, reports as self-employed to Canada Revenue Agency and is retained as a contractor by more than one person during an 18 month period.

Then you **will** need to be registered starting January 1, 2013.

For more details visit [www.beregisteredbeready.ca](http://www.beregisteredbeready.ca)



## **THE 2013 BUILDER & RENOVATOR FORUM AT BLUE MOUNTAIN**

OHBA and EnerQuality are proud to present the [Builder & Renovator Forum](#) at Blue Mountain in Collingwood February 20-22, 2013. The Builder & Renovator Forum will provide cutting-edge information designed to improve your company's bottom line, plus provide exceptional networking opportunities for sharing ideas and solutions - all in an atmosphere of collective fun and learning.

The answer to a changing market isn't just working harder, but working smarter – and the Forum's bevy of expert technical speakers and presenters will help you do just that!

Don't wait - space is limited! Register today to ensure your participation at this year's conference. For more information and to register please visit: <http://www.builderrenovatorforum.com/>

## **OHBA PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION**

As the Provincial Government begins consultations for the upcoming 2013 Provincial Budget, OHBA continues to highlight the jobs and positive economic contribution home builders and renovators continue to make across Ontario. CMHC is forecasting 77,600 housing starts in 2012, exceeding the Provincial Budget forecast of 64,000 last year, reinforcing our industry's resilience and role as a job creator. OHBA will deliver key messages to the government during the 2013 budget consultations:

1. The government continues to face massive taxation revenue leakages due to the underground economy. OHBA is very supportive of the *Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit*. However, OHBA continues to advocate for a broader based renovation tax credit at both the provincial and federal levels to encourage consumers to use legitimate contractors.
2. OHBA is encouraged by the significant infrastructure investments the province has made over the past few years. OHBA recognizes that the province is shifting towards austerity and recommends that the province continue to make strategic "core" infrastructure investments that support provincial growth plans, economic development and job creation.

## **GROWING THE GREENBELT CONSULTATION**

While OHBA is not opposed to growing the greenbelt through the addition of existing publicly-owned lands, OHBA has a number of broad implementation concerns with respect to the proposed new Urban River Valley (URV) designation. These issues should be examined through an urban lens and clarified prior to the provincial government proceeding with the newly proposed designation. An [OHBA submission](#) to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing noted that a URV designation must not impact the planned long-term urban structure and necessary infrastructure for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Areas. OHBA noted that a new URV designation through the existing urban area should only include publicly-owned lands and not result in any additional buffer or set-back requirements on private property abutting the URV systems. Lastly, OHBA recommended that a new URV designation not contain any additional planning, permit, environmental assessment or construction related constraints for new or existing infrastructure.

## **MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES "TRANSFORMATION"**

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has embarked on a three-year transformation plan, which was initially announced in the provincial budget last spring. OHBA was supportive of the transformation plan and appeared before the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs supporting Budget Schedule 19, which was ultimately removed to ensure passage of the budget in the minority legislature. MNR is now proposing changes that would reduce duplication and streamline a number of government approvals with other processes already in place, thereby making services more efficient and cost-effective while still ensuring protection of species at risk and their habitats.

OHBA continues to be involved and engaged with MNR on the Transformation agenda and *Endangered Species Act* related issues. OHBA will be providing recommendations to the government this month on two Environmental Registry postings (EBR posting [011-7696](#) and [011-7540](#)). Furthermore, additional MNR consultation and outreach on proposed approaches to regulatory amendments will occur through the Ministry's stakeholder working group which has OHBA representation. The OHBA EBR 011-7540 submission on [Taking a Broader Landscape Approach](#) is available on the OHBA website.



**Ontario Home Builders' Association**

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