



# OHBA ACTIVITY Summary

Keeping Members Informed

## DATES TO NOTE

- May 9: OHBA Board of Directors Meeting
- May 30: EnerQuality Innovation Forum
- May 31- June 1: CHBA Spring Meetings
- June 28: OHBA/ Urbanation Condo Tour

## MAY 2012

### SAFETY BLITZ TO FOCUS ON YOUNG WORKERS

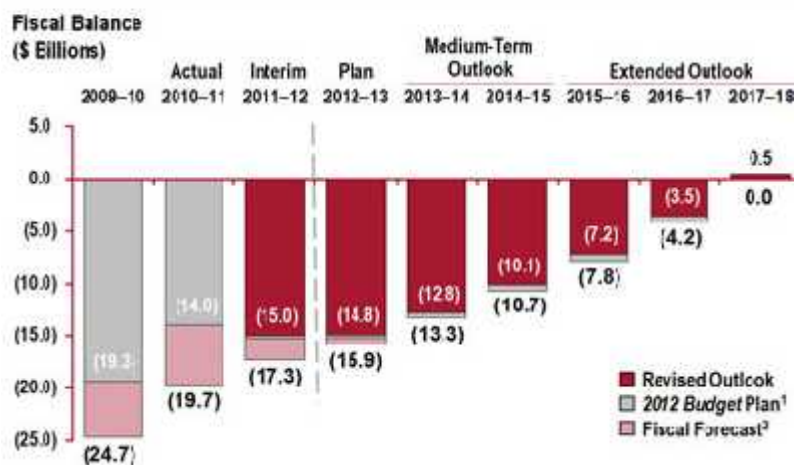
Ontario is launching a four-month blitz to ensure students are safe and don't get injured while working on summer jobs. Beginning May 1, an enforcement blitz will target workplaces where new and young workers are employed. Health and safety inspectors from the Ministry of Labour will check that employers comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

### PROVINCIAL BUDGET

The Ontario Liberals made amendments to Ontario's budget first tabled on March 27. The amendments were in response to NDP Leader Andrea Horwath's proposals. The Liberals required support of at least one opposition member in order to pass the budget. Ontario's 2011-12 budget deficit is now projected to be \$15 billion, an improvement of \$0.3 billion compared to the projection initially outlined in the budget. The most notable amendment to the budget is the addition of a temporary high-income tax bracket for individuals earning more than \$500,000 annually. The top statutory income tax rate on taxable incomes over \$500,000 will increase two percentage points, from 11.16 per cent to 13.16 per cent. This change would generate an additional \$290 million in 2012-13, \$470 million in 2013-14 and \$495 million in 2014-15.

The government has also increased the Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works rates by one per cent in the fall of 2012, which is an increase of \$55 million annually.

### Accelerating Ontario's Plan to Balance the Budget



## **ELIZABETH WITMER TO BE APPOINTED NEW CHAIR OF WSIB**

In a **press release April 27**, Premier Dalton McGuinty announced he has nominated Progressive Conservative Kitchener – Waterloo MPP Elizabeth Witmer as the Chair of the Ontario's *Workplace Safety and Insurance Board*. The nomination is subject to review by the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. Witmer would take over from Chair Steve Mahoney, who announced his retirement in March. This change is less than seven months after the October 6 election means the combined seat count for PC and NDP is 53 MPPs, while the minority Liberals have 52, excluding Speaker Dave Levac. Premier McGuinty has yet to announce a by-election date to fill the vacant seat. If the Liberals were to win in Kitchener-Waterloo, they would have a de facto majority since the speaker traditionally votes to keep parliament going.

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT – BOBOLINK & EASTERN MEADOWLARK**

An OHBA subcommittee with BILD & Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association members is engaged with MNR regarding two threatened species with habitat ranges significantly impacting the new housing and development industry with two objectives:

- Working towards appropriate, fair and balanced transition provisions;
- The permitting process is still unclear and seems to be inconsistently applied across MNR district offices. The new housing and development industry requires a simplified and streamlined process that establishes a rational approach to the *Overall Benefit Permitting* process for both Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark.

The Ministry of Natural Resources held a consultation with the Greater Ottawa HBA regarding Overall Benefit Permitting requirements for the alteration of Bobolink habitat and a second consultation with the OHBA Land Development Committee in March. OHBA continues to work with MNR and provide constructive policy advice towards fair and balanced transition provisions.

## **GROWTH PLAN – POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT FORECASTING (SCHEDULE 3)**

The *Ontario Growth Secretariat* is undertaking the first review of the population and employment forecasts contained in the ***Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006***. The Growth Plan contains population and employment forecasts for all upper- and single-tier municipalities and requires that they use these forecasts for planning and managing growth. The use of a consistent and coordinated set of growth forecasts helps to ensure that municipalities plan for future growth in a sustainable and responsible manner, including designating the right amount of land for growth. OHBA will be engaged in the consultation process.

Local Associations in the Greater Golden Horseshoe include: BILD, Brantford, Greater Dufferin, Durham Region, Guelph & District, Haldimand Norfolk, Hamilton-Halton, Niagara, Peterborough & the Kawarthas, Simcoe County and Waterloo Region.

## **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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