

Making it Work for Residential Construction

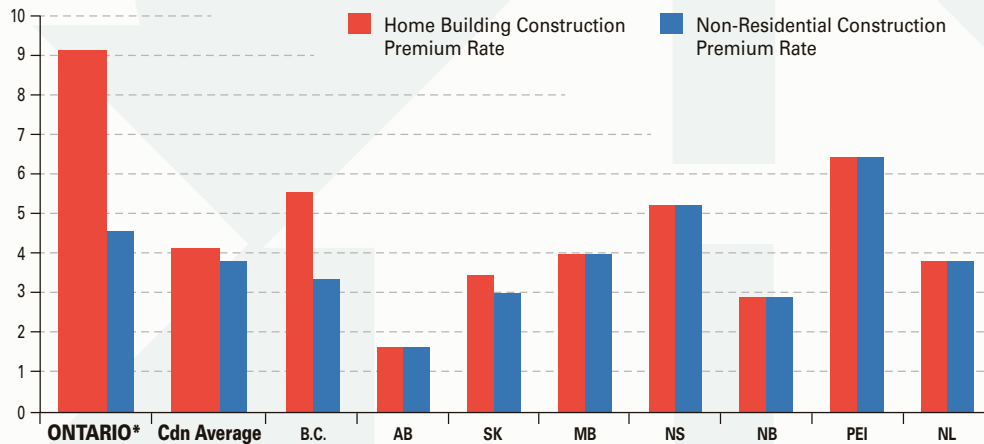
The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board is Ontario's no-fault insurance system for employers and their workers. The WSIB provides disability benefits and assists in safe return to work for workers injured on the job. WSIB is entirely funded by employer premiums. WSIB Premiums are generated from companies' payrolls and are a direct cost to hiring.

Mandatory WSIB Coverage for Independent Operators and Executive Officers

Under the "Workplace Safety & Insurance Act, 2008" (Bill 119), independent operators, sole proprietors, some partners in partnership and some executive officers in construction are required to have WSIB coverage.

- Mandatory WSIB coverage for entrepreneurs and business owners will not make construction sites safer but will result in the duplication of their insurance coverage and will increase the cost for consumers, putting our members at a competitive disadvantage against cash operators.
- The Auditor General estimates that \$72 million of additional employer premiums will be collected annually as a result of the legislation.

Provincial Comparison of Workplace Compensation Premium Rates



Since 2008, the **lost-time injury rate for home building has decreased 36%**. In this same period **WSIB Premiums have increased 3.5%**.

Home Builders pay twice the premium rate compared to commercial and industrial construction in Ontario and pay 2.2X the Premium rate compared to home builders in other provinces!

*Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada
Quebec does not have a separate home building rate group.

Source: Infrastructure Health and Safety Association

OHBA Recommendations for Reforming WSIB

- **Repeal Bill 119, Mandatory WSIB Coverage:** This legislation is unfairly punitive to the construction sector and penalizes entrepreneurs and small business owners. This will not create safer workplaces and the new premiums will stimulate underground economic activity.
- **Consolidate Similar Premium Rate Groups:** Residential construction faces the same workplace safety challenges and issues that the institutional, commercial and industrial construction sectors. As such our premium rate should be grouped with these sectors, similar to how other provinces classify industry groups, as identified in the 2014 Pricing Fairness Report.

OHBA represents 4,000 member companies organized into a network of 31 local associations across the province.

Together we build 80% of the new housing in Ontario.

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