



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

MEDIA RELEASE

OHBA SUPPORTS OPPOSITION DAY MOTION ON SKILLED TRADES

April 10, 2013 - Toronto, ON – OHBA supports MPP Garfield Dunlop and his Opposition Day motion to abolish the College of Trades. Since its creation, OHBA has consistently been opposed to the College of Trades as the College does not reflect and cannot realize the potential of the residential construction industry to modernize Ontario's apprenticeship system.

"The College of Trades will not solve the growing skills trade gap in Ontario," says Eric DenOuden, 1st Vice President of Ontario Home Builders' Association. "The current structure does not take advantage of the potential and opportunities the residential construction sector can provide in growing Ontario's economy and building a skilled trades' workforce."

OHBA has recommended a legislative change to create an across-the-board 1:1 journeyperson to apprentice ratio for all trades. This recommendation was captured in MPP Garfield Dunlop's private members bill, *Helping Ontarians Enter the Skilled Trades Act*. A 1:1 ratio would put Ontario in line with the majority of provinces across Canada.

"The reality is that competing provincial jurisdictions like Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have already modernized their apprenticeship system to tap into the potential of all construction employers and provide more apprenticeship opportunities than Ontario," says Joe Vaccaro, COO of Ontario Home Builder's Association. "Homebuilders, professional renovators, trade contractors and installers welcome the opportunity to provide apprenticeships and help build Ontario's skilled trades' workforce. It is time for this government to refocus on the best outcome for Ontario and that is to ensuring that every capable employer can fully participate in providing apprenticeship opportunities."

The Ontario Home Builders' Association is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 30 local associations across the province. The industry contributes over \$42 billion dollars to Ontario's economy, employing more than 325,000 people across the province.

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To arrange an interview with OHBA 1st Vice President, Eric DenOuden or COO, Joe Vaccaro, please contact Kathryn Segal at OHBA, (416) 443-1545 ext. 223



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