



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

Ontario 2012 Budget Release

Province Protects Core Infrastructure Investments

Toronto, March 27, 2012 – Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) President Doug Tarry applauded the Provincial Government's decision to protect and enhance core infrastructure investments.

"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," Tarry stated. "An austerity focused budget typically means significant reductions and delays to key infrastructure projects; this budget is a stark contrast with its commitment to core infrastructure investment," Tarry said, adding, "OHBA members recognize that tough decisions need to be made, which is why we advised the province to target infrastructure investment in a more strategic way with a focus on generating long-term economic growth."

Although supportive of the infrastructure investments, President Tarry noted, "ministry staffing resources are under pressure, but government simply can't cut the workforce without reviewing the regulatory and policy framework that our industry operates under. A comprehensive and strategic review of provincial policy priorities and regulations is required to streamline process, cut red-tape, and support economic development opportunities."

OHBA continues to commend the government on its commitment to the *Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit* which will allow seniors to age-in-place, improve the quality of Ontario's aging housing stock and reduce underground economic activity. OHBA will be supporting the HHRTC at legislative committee next week, and calls on all MPPs to support the adoption of the legislation.

"The Renovation Tax Credit is a positive step for the renovation sector, but we continue to advocate for a broad based renovation tax credit that will more aggressively target the illegal underground operators in the construction sector," Tarry said, adding, "we know there are huge opportunities for the government to recoup lost tax revenues and reduce the deficit by targeting underground activity."

The Ontario Home Builders' Association is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 29 local associations across the province.

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*For further information or to arrange an interview with OHBA President Doug Tarry
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