



**Ontario**  
Home Builders'  
Association

## *Ontario 2014 Budget Release*

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### **Ontario Builders Support Infrastructure Investment Province Must Focus to Improve Business Environment**

**Toronto, May 1, 2014** – The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) President Eric DenOuden applauded the significant transit and transportation infrastructure investments announced today in the provincial budget.

“The cost of the infrastructure investments outlined in the budget is being equitably allocated from the general tax base and through a targeted repurposing of the existing gas tax as was recommended by the Ontario Home Builders' Association,” said DenOuden. “I’m pleased the province recognized that all Ontarians benefit from a functional transportation system, rather than unfairly targeting new neighbours and new employers to disproportionately carry the cost burden through new taxes, fees and charges.”

OHBA was opposed to the proposed *Metrolinx Investment Strategy* which would have made transit-oriented communities less affordable by adding an additional one per cent to the HST, adding parking taxes on new businesses and increasing development charges by 15 per cent.

“New home buyers and new businesses are already doing their fair share,” said OHBA CEO Joe Vaccaro. “The province has reported that new home buyers and new businesses paid more than \$1.8 billion in development charges to municipalities in 2013 alone for the construction of growth-related infrastructure.”

It is essential that the provincial government support job creation through improvements to the business environment in Ontario and OHBA supports efforts to streamline regulatory and approvals processes while eliminating red tape where it is redundant or unnecessary.

Vaccaro added, “OHBA looks forward to working with the provincial government to improve housing affordability and support job creation. We continue to work on ensuring the effective implementation of the growth plan, improving the apprenticeship system, and tackling the underground economy by supporting the government’s commitment to combat illegal building. The provincial government needs to create a more business-friendly environment to support economic growth.”

The Ontario Home Builders' Association is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 31 local associations across the province. The industry contributes over \$43 billion to Ontario’s economy, employing over 325,000 people across the province.

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*For further information or to arrange an interview with OHBA CEO Joe Vaccaro  
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