



**Ontario**  
Home Builders'  
Association

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Secondary Suites Improve Affordable Housing Home Builders' Support Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy**

**November 29, 2010 - Toronto, ON** – Following an extensive province wide consultation with a broad range of stakeholders across Ontario, the provincial government has released the much anticipated *Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy*. During those consultations Ontario home builders expressed strong support for measures to reduce the barriers for secondary suites in communities across Ontario (a secondary suite is an affordable rental option such as a basement apartment). OHBA strongly endorses the inclusion of secondary suites in the strategy and we applaud the province in their efforts to enhance affordable options for Ontarians.

“Secondary suites offer a valuable opportunity to create a new supply of affordable housing in both new and existing communities for seniors, students and families,” stated Ontario Home Builders' Association President, Bob Finnigan.

“Home builders believe this is a broad based solution that will create more equity and choice for renter households by providing access to communities in which they were previously excluded,” noted Finnigan, adding, “secondary suites provide an important source of income for younger families and first time home buyers struggling to make mortgage payments. This really is a win-win situation in terms of affordability both for renters and for home owners.”

“Secondary suites also present an opportunity to reduce the strain on the health care system when aging parents can move in with their children to provide them with security, care and privacy,” stated OHBA President Bob Finnigan. OHBA has been a long-time supporter of secondary suites as an affordable option that also meets a number of other public policy objectives including increased levels of intensification as well as allowing seniors to age-in place with care from their families and loved-ones rather than relying on public facilities.

OHBA and our 29 local associations across Ontario share the government's interest in ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing. OHBA supports allowing greater flexibility for home owners as well as new home builders to include a secondary rental apartment in homes across Ontario. This measure will increase the supply of low-cost affordable rental opportunities for Ontarians.

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. The industry contributes over \$34 billion dollars to Ontario's economy, employing over 334,000 people across the province.

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For further information or to arrange an interview with OHBA President Bob Finnigan,  
please contact Stephen Hamilton at 1-800-387-0109

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20 Upjohn Road #101, North York, ON M3B 2V9 (416) 443-1545 Toll Free:800-387-0109 Fax:(416) 443-9982 [info@ohba.ca](mailto:info@ohba.ca)