



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

Ontario 2016 Budget Release

Infrastructure Investments Support Climate Change Objectives

Transit and Transportation Investments Support Complete Communities

Toronto, February 25, 2016 – Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) appreciates the climate change initiatives to shift towards a low-carbon economy that the provincial government is undertaking as part of the provincial budget. The infrastructure investments and future transit funding commitments made in the 2016 provincial budget will support the development of complete communities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from both the building and the transportation sector.

“People need better transportation options in communities across Ontario and the province’s massive transit investment should support the creation of location efficient and complete communities. Building complete communities along transit lines makes sense and these investments in transit are a golden opportunity for municipalities to do the pro-active planning work and pre-zone appropriate intensification along transit corridors,” said OHBA CEO Joe Vaccaro, adding, “The quid pro quo for provincial investment in transit should be a requirement for municipalities to modernize decades out-of-date zoning to properly align land-use planning with transportation planning.”

In addition to strategic infrastructure investments, there are other additional actions that the provincial government should take to address climate change:

- **Mandatory Home Energy Rating and Disclosure:** The greatest opportunity to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in Ontario is within the 4.8 million existing homes across Ontario;
- **Pre-Zoning on Transit Corridors:** Municipal zoning needs to be modernized to better align with provincial transit investments to support the development of medium-to-high density transit-oriented development;
- **Smart Greenbelt:** There are opportunities to develop programs to enhance the ecological assets within the greenbelt to better support biodiversity, species at risk and create carbon sinks to combat climate change.

“The residential construction sector has a critical role to play as a partner with the government to address climate change through improving the energy performance of Ontario’s nearly five million existing homes. This is why mandatory energy labelling on the re-sale of an existing home is so important is providing consumer disclosure, so that buyers can make informed choices based on the energy performance of housing, while sellers would be incented to invest in energy efficient upgrades,” noted Vaccaro.

Vaccaro continued, “OHBA is very disappointed that the provincial government intends to cancel the *Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit* next year. This program should have been better promoted and could have been integrated into the province’s strategy to combat the underground economy.”

The Ontario Home Builders' Association is the voice of the building, land development and professional renovation industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 30 local associations across the province. Our members have built over 700,000 homes in the last ten years in over 500 Ontario communities. The industry contributes over \$44 billion to Ontario’s economy, employing over 313,000 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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