



It's Time to Build Affordable Smart Growth Communities

Municipalities must enhance accountability, transparency and fairness for taxes collected from new neighbours and businesses

Toronto, March 5, 2015 – The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced proposed changes to the Development Charges Act and the Planning Act that expand the ability of municipalities to use new revenue tools to pay for transit and enhance community engagement in the planning process. The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) is concerned that new transit taxes on development will disproportionately increase housing costs for residents and the cost of setting up new businesses.

“This cannot be a piling on of higher taxes to pay for municipalities’ infrastructure programs,” said OHBA CEO Joe Vaccaro. “New neighbours ultimately pay every new tax generated by government. If municipalities believe that transit is the priority project, they have a responsibility to be accountable, transparent and fair in how they determine the entire tax bill that falls on the back of new home buyers and businesses.”

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing reported that municipalities collected over 1.8 billion dollars in development charges from new neighbours in 2013 alone. OHBA welcomes the additional reporting requirements being proposed as they respond to the industry’s recommendation for greater accountability and transparency from the municipality directly to Ontario’s new neighbours.

OHBA supports greater certainty in the land-use planning process. The government’s proposal to ensure residents are better consulted at the beginning of the planning process can serve to better engage, educate and inform residents of the evolving nature of their communities as a result of intensification, smart growth and provincial planning policy.

“Enhanced community engagement cannot be used as a veto against good land-use planning decisions that are consistent with provincial policy. Many times it is the industry left explaining and defending the changes in a community and if this new process helps to inform the discussion and bring people together, it can have a positive impact on the process.”

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 31 local associations across the province. The industry contributes over \$42 billion to Ontario’s economy, employing more than 325,000 people across the province.

About OHBA:

OHBA is comprised of a network 31 local associations across Ontario, including: BILD, Bluewater, Brantford, Chatham-Kent, Cornwall, Greater Dufferin, Durham Region, Grey-Bruce, Guelph & District, Haldimand-Norfolk, Haliburton County, Hamilton- Halton, Kingston-Frontenac, Lanark-Leeds, London, Niagara, North Bay & District, Greater Ottawa, Oxford County, Peterborough & the Kawarthas, Quinte, Renfrew County, Sarnia-Lambton, Saugeen County, Simcoe County, St. Thomas-Elgin, Stratford & Area, Sudbury & District, Thunder Bay, Waterloo Region and Windsor Essex.

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To arrange an interview with OHBA CEO Joe Vaccaro, please contact
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