



## ONTARIO HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION TO LEAD ONTARIO SKILLED TRADES ALLIANCE

**Toronto (Sept 8, 2015)** - Beginning August 25, 2015 Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) CEO Joe Vaccaro will chair the Ontario Skilled Trades Alliance (OSTA). Joe Vaccaro will take over the Chair position as Karen Renkema, Senior Manager of Public Affairs at the Progressive Contractors Association, takes parental leave. Renkema has been Chair of the OSTA since 2012, and has been responsible for expanding the OSTA's membership base to over 44 organizations while successfully steering the Alliance through a changing political landscape.

"Ontario has a tremendous opportunity to become a leader in skilled training outcomes in North America," said Vaccaro. "OHBA's role at the OSTA will build on the knowledge and expertise of the 44 organizations involved in the OSTA. This is a strategic partnership for OHBA, allowing both organizations to leverage their diverse strengths, while sharing a common advocacy objective aimed at improving skilled training outcomes for Ontario."

"I am excited about what the OSTA has been able to accomplish in such a short period of time," said Renkema. "We continue to work with government and stakeholders to promote skilled trades as a career and to provide transparency and accountability to Ontario's institutions involved in the regulation of the skilled trades. I am especially proud of our work on the submission to Tony Dean in his review of the Ontario College of Trades."

"We have a responsibility as employer associations that represent companies that build transit, hospitals, bridges and homes and provide professional and personal services like haircuts and automotive repair to ensure our institutions and regulations provide the framework for more opportunities to enter trades without barriers," added Vaccaro. "I look forward to building on the work and effort made by Karen and the group."

### **ABOUT OSTA:**

*The Ontario Skilled Trades Alliance membership employs over 100,000 skilled tradespeople across Ontario. The Alliance began in 2011, with the goal of bringing issues faced by Ontario's skilled trades employers to the forefront of government decision makers and regulators.*

### **ABOUT OHBA:**

*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. Our members have built over 700,000 homes in the last ten years in over 500 Ontario communities. The industry contributes over \$43 billion to Ontario's economy, employing over 325,000 people across the province.*