



BUILDING A GREATER GTA
Building Industry and Land
Development Association



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association



We Got Wood!

January 1, 2015 Ontario will Permit Six-Storey Wood Buildings

Ottawa, September 23, 2014 - The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA), the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) and the Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON) welcome the provincial government's commitment to permit six-storey wood-frame buildings in Ontario for January 1, 2015.

All three associations recognize the leadership of Premier Kathleen Wynne, Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Ted McMeekin and Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Bill Mauro on this important decision to allow this new innovative building option for the land development and building industry in Ontario.

"Communities across Ontario, from London to Thunder Bay, will all benefit from the housing, rental and office opportunities that this building code decision provides," said Joe Vaccaro, CEO of OHBA, "and we look forward to seeing Ontario's first six-storey wood projects completed in 2015."

The building industry has long advocated for Ontario to adopt an Ontario Building Code six-storey wood standard, with the current wood-frame construction restriction at four storeys. British Columbia is the first province to permit six-storey wood buildings and since 2009 has benefited from over 100 building projects, creating over 5,000 new housing and rental options for B.C. residents.

"The amendment will result in the construction of safe, affordable mid-rise buildings that will bring new housing and rental options to our communities and vibrancy to our streets," said BILD President and CEO Bryan Tuckey. "More importantly, we believe this proposal will help the cities and towns in the GTA region achieve their Growth Plan goals of planning for the up to 100,000 people and 50,000 jobs that come to the GTA every year."

In May 2013, the associations' strong planning and economic rationales were outlined in the report, *Unlocking the Potential for Mid-Rise Buildings: Six Storey Wood Structures*, commissioned by BILD and authored by former City of Toronto Chief Planner Paul Bedford.

The report showed that potential development opportunities that are well-served by existing infrastructure and transit could be unlocked with the approval of six-storey mid-rise wood buildings, helping to meet the demand of the increasing population of the region, and offering a variety of sizes and design features for people of all ages.

"Allowing six-storey wood structures in Ontario will generate new innovated design options from the building community, and we should recognize that this is an important and necessary amendment to support Ontario's growing communities." said Richard Lyall, President of RESCON.

Industry Quotes:

“Allowing six-storey wood buildings means that Ontario home builders and municipalities have a new tool to support intensification and create new housing, rental and office options across Ontario.” Vince Molinaro, President of OHBA, President of Molinaro Group

“Six-storey wood buildings are exactly the construction option builders need to make mixed-use mid-rise buildings happen in the GTA.” Steve Upton, Chair of BILD, VP Development at Tridel

“We welcome this amendment by the Ontario government, and we believe that six-storey wood buildings will be an important part of the housing and mixed-use options we provide new home buyers and municipalities in the years to come.” Tad Putyra, Chair of RESCON, President and COO Low-Rise at Great Gulf

“The Ontario government’s decision to allow innovative and safe mixed-use six-storey wood buildings will create new infill communities across the GTA.” Leith Moore, Senior VP of Urban Infill at Fieldgate Homes, OHBA President 2012/2013

“We are very excited to hear that six-storey wood is coming to Ontario and the design opportunities that this creates. We have been working on our next master planned community for the City of St. Thomas that has a central “Village” designed with a live, work, play concept where six-storey wood buildings will play a critical role in creating. I am personally grateful to Premier Wynne for taking a leadership role on this issue to help ensure that Ontario home buyers have a variety of housing options.” Doug Tarry, Director of Marketing at Doug Tarry Homes, OHBA President 2011/2012

“We are always searching for new innovative and safe building systems and six-storey wood structures will be an opportunity we will put to work in our communities.” Al Libfeld, President and CEO at Tribute Communities, OHBA President 1990-1991

“We build in communities across southwestern Ontario and the GTA and six-storey wood buildings will be a welcomed new addition to all those housing and mixed-use communities.” Paul Golini, Executive VP at Empire Communities

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

About BILD

With more than 1,400 members, BILD, formed through the merger of the Greater Toronto Home Builders’ Association and Urban Development Institute/Ontario, is the voice of the land development, home building and professional renovation industry in the Greater Toronto Area. BILD is proudly affiliated with the Ontario and Canadian Home Builders’ Associations.

About RESCON

RESCON is a builders’ organization dedicated to removing barriers to new construction and eliminating unnecessary costs. It coordinates a council of trade contractor associations to address issues of common concern. RESCON represents a melding of the old with the new. It is a streamlining of the ongoing efforts of three groups active in promoting builder interests for over thirty years: the Metropolitan Toronto Apartment Builders Association (MTABA), the Toronto Residential Construction Labour Bureau (TRCLB) and the Durham Residential Construction Labour Bureau (DRCLB). Along with new builder members, RESCON brings a more powerful and concerted builder voice to the many pressing issues which affect the bottom line.

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact Kathryn Segal at 416-949-2706 or by email at ksegal@ohba.ca