



**Ontario**  
Home Builders'  
Association  
*Media Release*

---

## **UNDER RENOVATION: Ontario College of Trades OHBA expects review will engage all regions across Ontario**

**October 23, 2014 - Toronto** – The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) welcomed the announcement by the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Honourable Reza Moridi, to review the Ontario College of Trades (OCOT) as promised in the 2014 election campaign.

The Review will be led by Tony Dean, a former Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Ontario Public Service. The terms of reference for the Review will consider several aspects of OCOT's decision-making processes, including: the process and criteria for the classification or reclassification of trades as compulsory or voluntary and the manner in which OCOT makes decisions on issues related to scopes of practice of trades, including enforcement.

"Tony Dean is well qualified for this review as he is familiar with the construction industry through his work examining Ontario's health and safety system. Based on that review I know Mr. Dean will want to hear from rural and northern Ontario and will engage areas outside the GTA," said OHBA Chief Executive Officer, Joe Vaccaro. "OHBA expects the review will take him to visit cities and towns across Ontario like Stratford, Ottawa, Windsor, London, Kingston and Sudbury. We look forward to engaging our 31 local home builder associations to make recommendations that will support OCOT's role in modernizing Ontario's skilled trades and apprenticeship system."

"OHBA members are eager to play a more active role in modernizing Ontario's training and apprenticeship system. But unfortunately, OCOT has been unwilling to seriously engage residential construction contractors and professional renovators in a meaningful way," said OHBA Manager of Government Relations, Stephen Hamilton. "Ontario still has the highest ratios for entering trades making it difficult for young people to find jobs in residential construction. There are tremendous apprenticeship opportunities across rural, urban, and northern Ontario that are not being utilized because OCOT is too Toronto-centric and the regulations are outdated. With this review, we have a fresh opportunity for a fact-based discussion about how OCOT can better represent and engage our diverse sector in all areas of the province."

*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 \$44 billion to Ontario's economy, employing over 325,000 people across the province.*