



**Ontario**  
Home Builders'  
Association

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **New Housing Starts Remain Strong** **Single Detached Starts Continue to Rise**

**March 8, 2010 - Toronto, ON** - "Home builders across Ontario got off to a strong start in the new year," stated Ontario Home Builders' Association President James Bazely. "This jump demonstrates the health of residential construction and is setting a positive trend for 2010." Bazely adds, "Although the numbers are strong, they do not demonstrate a 'housing bubble' as builders are responding to a demand that was similar to past years."

Bazely notes, "although new housing is recovering nicely, the Federal Government's decision not to renew the Home Renovation Tax Credit is troubling with the July 1 HST transition looming." Bazely continues, "the renovation industry is very concerned with the potential effects the HST will have on the underground economy as consumers may choose the 'cash deal' in an attempt to avoid additional taxes."

February Housing starts across the province increased by 42 per cent from last year with the largest increases in the single detached sector, while the multi-family housing sector experienced a more modest 13 per cent increase.

<b>Ontario Preliminary Housing Start Data in Centres 10,000 Population and Over</b>			
	Single-Detached	Multiple	Total
Jan – Feb 2007	3,358	4,418	8,458
Jan – Feb 2008	3,471	5,182	7,042
Jan – Feb 2009	1,679	3,445	5,124
Jan – Feb 2010	3,368	3,900	7,268

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

The Ontario Home Builders' Association is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 29 local associations across the province. The industry contributes over \$37 billion dollars to Ontario's economy, employing over 365,000 people across the province.

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Stephen Hamilton at 1-800-387-0109