



DATES TO NOTE

- April 18: OHBA's Presidents' and Executive Officers' Day and Industry Leaders' Dinner
- May 9: OHBA Awards of Distinction Website Opens (Closes June 22, 2016)
- May 9: OHBA Conference Registration Opens (Conference: Sept. 18-20, 2016)
- May 17/18: OHBA International Tour - Iceland

EXCESS SOIL MANAGEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), along with a number of supporting Ministries, has developed a proposed Excess Soil Management Policy Framework which was posted for a 60-day period on the Environmental Registry ([Registry # 012-6065](#)). The province is consulting on the proposed framework and intends to develop priority policies in accordance with that framework. OHBA supports Ontario's objective to protect human health and the environment from the inappropriate relocation of excess soils while enhancing opportunities for the beneficial reuse of excess soil. However, OHBA is concerned that the overall package potentially brings in a range of new regulations and responsibilities onto source sites without addressing the transfer of liability as excess soils move through the chain of custody. OHBA has been consistent in outlining concerns that increased costs and complexity of soil management would be a barrier and constraint to opportunities for remediation, reuse and intensification. OHBA has attended consultations and has [submitted industry comments](#), concerns and recommendations to the Ministry.

WSIB AUDITS TARGETING EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The WSIB Office of the Employer Adviser (OEA) is seeing a number of inquiries from construction employers who have been assessed retroactively for unpaid executive officer premiums. This is a reminder that since 2013 the Workers' Compensation Act requires all executive officers or partners to pay premiums on their insurable earnings. This is regardless of whether the executive / partner is working in construction, stays in the office, or is enjoying her retirement in a warmer climate. If an executive / partner is issued a T4 or a T5 or paid in some other manner, the company must pay premiums on their earnings.

If the WSIB audits the company and realizes that premiums have not been paid, the company will be retroactively assessed for the current year plus two prior years. This could be a lot of money. The OEA recently had a company notify them that they had a \$90,000 bill from the WSIB for non-payment of executive officer premiums. But there is a simple and quick solution. If your company has executive officers who are not doing construction work, then one of them can opt out of paying premiums altogether, and any other executives who don't do construction work can take advantage of paying in Rate Group 755 which charges a premium rate of twenty-one cents per \$100 of insurable earnings. You can [download the relevant forms](#) (1208A and 1209A). If you require any free assistance in the process please contact the Office of the Employer Advisor at (800) 387-0774.

SHORT-TERM WATER TAKINGS (PTTW)

Over the past few years OHBA and a number of other construction associations including the OSWCA and the ORBA have been engaged with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change advocating for a modernization of Permits To Take Water (PTTWs) including clarifications on when permits are and are not required as well as advocating for exemptions for certain low-risk activities. The Ministry has listened to the concerns raised by the construction industry and has identified select water taking activities to be included in the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) framework that came into force on March 29, 2016. These changes do not, in anyway, undermine the environmental protection integrity of the PTTW system but, rather, streamlines and modernizes the process. The new water taking EASR regulation can be found [here](#).

OHBA previously made supportive [recommendations with a submission](#) in April 2015 and updated comments in a [new submission supporting the Draft Regulation](#) in January 2016. The EASR is an on-line system that allows our members to register eligible activities online, rather than applying for a traditional Permit to Take Water (PTTW) or Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA). Through this system, eligible activities can receive approval to operate within minutes. To support this transition, the ministry has hosted a number of consultation sessions in March with the public and impacted stakeholders throughout Ontario. There are a couple remaining sessions in April that will review the new regulatory requirements for water takings related to road construction, and construction dewatering. Members are asked to RSVP with Scott Sterling (scott.sterling@ontario.ca) who is the Program advisor for the Modernization of Approvals Branch at the Ministry. [Click here](#) for information on locations and dates.

Location	Conference room	Date and Time
Ottawa: Radisson Hotel Ottawa Parliament Hill 402 Queen Street	Macdonald Room	Tuesday, April 5 th Session: 6:00-8:00pm
Toronto: Government Building 40 St Clair Ave West	10 th Floor Boardroom	Wednesday, April 6 th Session: 2:00-4:00pm
London: Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre 551 Windermere Road	Juniper Room	Thursday, April 7 th Session: 6:00-8:00pm

MTCU: CARPENTRY RENOVATION PROGRAM STANDARDS CONSULTATION

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) is currently undergoing the development of vocational standards for the Carpentry Renovation cluster of programs offered by the Ontario colleges of applied arts and technology (CAAT). MTCU is currently looking for association's participation in the electronic Broad-based Consultation (BBC) surveys seeking feedback on the draft program standards.

[Renovation Techniques \(Certificate\) and Carpentry Renovation \(Diploma\)](#)

[Building Renovation Technology \(Advanced Diploma\)](#)

The surveys will close on **Monday April 11, 2016 at 5 p.m.** The program standards are intended to describe the performance expectations of new graduates in entry-level positions in the carpentry renovation field. For your information, a summary table outlining the draft revised vocational learning outcomes for the three programs (i.e., Renovation Techniques, Carpentry Renovation and Building Renovation Technology) is [available here](#). Please link to and complete the program surveys that are related to your area of expertise and interest.

ADDRESSING ONTARIO'S UNDERGROUND ECONOMY

MPP Laura Albanese, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance released her interim report on addressing Ontario's Underground Economy in the Residential Construction Sector. Earlier this year OHBA hosted a roundtable with MPP Albanese with renovation members where we discussed the significant problems associated with underground economic activity in the sector and some proposed solutions the government should examine. We are pleased that the interim report adopts two of our recommendations: to "introduce incentives for homeowners to hire qualified and reputable contractors for home improvements" and for the province to "launch a public awareness campaign that will inform Ontario homeowners, businesses, and consumers of the risks and potential liabilities associated with participation in the underground economy". [Click Here](#) to view the interim report.

OHBA INTERNATIONAL HOUSING & ENERGY STUDY TOUR – ICELAND

Over the past two years, OHBA has conducted an annual housing tour outside of Ontario with specific educational objectives. An NYC tour in 2014 focused on new housing and the public realm while a Vancouver tour in 2015 focused on six-storey wood following a building code amendment allowing this type of construction in Ontario. This year OHBA is excited to travel further afield with a small group of members to “The Land of Fire and Ice” with our sponsors the EnerQuality Corporation.



OHBA is offering a once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in an educational housing & energy study tour to Iceland’s capital city of Reykjavik. The educational excursion will focus on housing and architecture as well as energy in this Nordic state that runs almost completely on renewables. The tour will feature local guides, a planning/architectural city walking tour, a development tour, a site visit to either the Nesjavellir or Hellisheiði geothermal plant as well as a half-day sightseeing trip outside of Reykjavik to enjoy the stunning natural scenery of the Golden Circle. There are **only three spots remaining** to join the tour – please contact [Mike Collins-Williams](#) for more information.

ONTARIO NEW HOME WARRANTIES PLAN ACT TARIION REVIEW

Ontario's Ministry of Government and Consumer Services has [initiated an independent review](#) of the *Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act* and the Tarion Warranty Corporation. The Honourable J. Douglas Cunningham has been appointed as a special advisor to review protections for owners of new homes and identify opportunities to improve consumer protection. His final report will provide recommendations on how to improve consumer protection, accountability, transparency and board governance to help protect consumers buying new homes in Ontario. Separate consultations for the public and industry groups are taking place in April and May to review Ontario’s new home warranty protection program. These consultations will help identify opportunities to improve consumer protection, accountability and transparency and board governance, among other measures. If you would like to participate in the industry consultations, please RSVP before the session of your choice by emailing TarionReview@ontario.ca. For a full list of session dates and locations, [please click here](#).

PLANNING ACT - PROPOSED REGULATORY CHANGES

A number of the changes that Bill 73 made to the *Planning Act* require changes to existing regulations. The provincial government has posted five proposal notices to the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) which are linked below for a 45-day public comment period. OHBA intends to provide the province with our recommendations and is requesting input and feedback from members as we prepare a submission.

Four Regulation Proposal Notices for proposed amendments to existing Planning Act regulations:

- Enhanced complete application requirements – [EBR Registry Number 012-6823](#)
- Enhanced and updated notice requirements – [EBR Registry Number 012-6824](#)
- Enhanced Ontario Municipal Board record for minor variances – [EBR Registry Number 012-6825](#)
- Rename the development permit system the “community planning permit system”, and provide for a five-year timeout for privately-initiated amendments to a community planning permit system – [EBR Registry Number 012-6826](#)

One Regulation Proposal Notice for a proposed new regulation to address transition of specified Bill 73 amendments to the *Planning Act* (Minister’s regulation) – [EBR Registry Number 012-6827](#).

OHBA notes that comments on the above can be submitted until April 14, 2016 and we encourage members to consider making their own submissions. OHBA is seeking input from members – please send any comments to OHBA Director of Policy – [Mike Collins-Williams](#).

TARION’S 2016 HOMEOWNERS’ CHOICE AWARDS

Formerly known as the Awards of Excellence, the Homeowners’ Choice Awards recognize a builder’s excellence in customer service each year in four categories: Small, Medium, Large Volume and High-Rise. Finalists were determined based on the results of a comprehensive survey sent to more than 56,000 homeowners who took possession of a new home between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015. Almost 12,000 completed survey responses were received, representing a high response rate of more than 21 per cent. Award recipients will be announced at a luncheon in Toronto on **Thursday, April 28, 2016**.

The OHBA members in the four award categories (Small, Medium, Large Volume and High-Rise):

High-Rise Category (More than 100 high-rise possessions)	Large Volume Category (More than 100 possessions)	Medium Volume Category (21-100 possessions)	Small Volume Category (5-20 possessions)
The Daniels Corporation – Toronto Domicile – Ottawa Plaza – Toronto The Tricar Group -- London Tridel – Toronto	Arista Homes Ltd. – Vaughan The Daniels Corporation – Toronto Granite Homes – Guelph Mountainview Homes – Thorold Tamarack Development Corp. – Ottawa Tribute Communities – Pickering	J.F. Markell Homes Ltd. – Cornwall Klemencic Homes – Trenton LEMAC Homes – Gloucester Mikmada Homes Inc. – Burlington Wrightshaven Homes Limited – Elora	Bouma Builders Inc. – Chatham Marlo Homes Inc. – London Menard Bros. & Associates Ltd. – Cornwall

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW (CANECT)

The organizers of the Canadian Environmental Conference & Tradeshow (CANECT 2016) are pleased to extend a special VIP 10 per cent discount to members of OHBA - their colleagues/ associates/ and clients who would like to attend any of the CANECT 2016 courses on environmental rules, regulations and compliance. OHBA members will be particularly interested in session 2c on April 26, which provides a special update on the latest developments in Brownfields regulation in Ontario, including an update on the impact of the latest Ministry excess soil guidelines. More details on this course can be found at:

- Details of the brownfields course can be found at: www.canect.net/course-2c
- To qualify for this discount OHBA members and their clients should register online at: <https://www.microspec.com/reg/CANECT2016/>
- Enter into the PROMO CODE box: CANECTVIP2016. The 10% discount will automatically be applied.



Ontario Home Builders’ Association

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