



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

Kirstin Jensen Appointed Vice President of Policy, Advocacy & Relationships for the Ontario Home Builders' Association

AUGUST 15, 2024 - The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) is thrilled to announce the appointment of Kirstin Jensen as the organization's Vice President of Policy, Advocacy & Relationships, starting September 3, 2024. Kirstin will lead a team of dedicated policy, technical, and government relations professionals, advocating for our industry's objectives and engaging with government decision makers and industry stakeholders.

Kirstin's appointment is a pivotal element of OHBA's strategic initiative to enhance service delivery through more cohesive collaboration with our 27 local chapter associations across Ontario. This new Vice President position was created to align with the elevated role housing has in our economic and government policy environment and integrates with OHBA's renewed approach to enhancing our member service delivery capacity.

Earlier this year, Kirstin served as an external advisor to OHBA, contributing significantly to our leadership and policy strategy during a transitional period. Her insights and political savvy were instrumental in guiding us through complex policy challenges, confirming her as the ideal leader for our next phase of growth and our commitment to expanding support to our local associations.

"Since Kirstin first started advising OHBA on policy and strategy back in February of this year, she has been a critical part of our efforts in OHBA being the one voice of the industry with government and stakeholders," says Dave Depencier, Chair of the OHBA Board of Directors. "Kirstin has brought a laser-sharp focus to our engagement across government in the advice and perspective we bring as representatives of the home construction industry."

Her extensive background includes roles such as political Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Director of Policy to the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Her focus was primarily on planning, zoning, and development, areas critical to our industry. Kirstin's deep understanding of the sector is also enriched by her tenure as Manager of Planning and Government Relations at the West End Home Builders' Association. Her early career experiences in the municipal planning departments of Niagara Falls and St. Catharines have given her a practical grasp of the local approval processes.

"We have been building up the bench strength of our policy & advocacy team of professionals to deliver the service and outcomes our members need. Kirstin brings the right balance of leadership and acuity to lead this dynamic team, and we are fortunate to have someone with her background and experience joining OHBA's leadership team." Said Scott Andison, CEO of OHBA.

Kirstin's academic credentials include a Master of Planning in Urban Development from Ryerson University, a Master of Arts in Political Science from McMaster University, specializing in Canadian Politics and Public Policy, and an Honours Bachelor of Arts from Brock University in Political Science with a minor in Criminology.

Please extend a warm welcome to Kirstin as she steps into this crucial role. We will share her contact details with the membership as she assumes her responsibilities.

Scott Andison

Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Home Builders' Association

ceo@ohba.ca