



MEMBER UPDATE

December 11, 2024

OHBA on the Ontario Liberal Party's New Housing Plan

Today, Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, released the *More Homes You Can Afford* plan, designed to make buying or renting a home more affordable.

The plan focuses on key population groups, including first-time home buyers, seniors looking to downsize, and people looking to rent a home they can afford.

The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) supports any initiatives that seek to facilitate the construction of new homes by reducing costs and regulatory barriers to meet the high demand for housing in Ontario.

Our views about the Liberal housing plan, released today, and the current state of housing in Ontario include the following:

- The Liberal proposal recognizes, like OHBA does, that development charges are a driver of higher housing prices, and their plan appears to represent a good step forward in making housing more affordable.
- In general, OHBA continues to be cautious about proposals that necessitate creating new administrative bodies, as the added costs of government oversight programs could take away funds that would have otherwise supported new housing.
- Instead, OHBA prefers straightforward ways to lower building costs, like cutting fees or taxes directly, compared to having to prove a transaction meets certain criteria as part of an administrative program.
- Direct actions, not complicated reviews or assessments are the most efficient way to reduce costs for home builders and homebuyers.

- Currently, all three levels of governments are the greatest benefactors of new home construction through government-imposed fees and taxes that comprise 30% or more of the cost paid by a new homebuyer. The amount of revenue the government generates from new home construction is three times more than the gross profit realized by new home builders.
- It's also crucial that our municipal partners have adequate funding for housing supportive infrastructure, such as water and wastewater treatment, to support the construction of the new homes Ontario needs.

For any questions or comments on the *More Homes You Can Afford* plan, please reach out [Andres Ibarguen](#), Senior Manager, Communications.