



NEWS RELEASE

OTTAWA, ONTARIO – Nov. 13, 2013 – CPBH is very pleased to support MPP Rosario Marchese's new Bill concerning Ontario's new home warranty. Based on reports to CPBH directly from Ontario's purchasers of newly built homes, media reports, and our own analyses, it is clear that the current system is "broken". MPP Marchese's Bill addresses many of the serious issues and modernizes this important legislation.

Ontarians deserve and need meaningful consumer protection on the largest purchase most of them ever make: a new home. CPBH supports this goal for Ontarians and all Canadians.

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Canadians for Properly Built Homes (CPBH) is a national, not for profit corporation dedicated to healthy, safe, durable, energy efficient residential housing for Canadians, and is the only organization of its kind in Canada. Working for consumer awareness and protection, CPBH is run by a volunteer Board of Directors and is supported by a volunteer Advisory Council of industry experts and other key stakeholders. CPBH has supporters in different parts of Canada, undertakes projects at the municipal, provincial and federal level and offers a variety of ways for Canadians to get involved. CPBH earned "partner" status with the Canadian Consumer Information Gateway (Industry Canada). Visit www.canadiansforproperlybuiltinhomes.com .

For further information, media may e-mail: media@canadiansforproperlybuiltinhomes.com .

Canadians for Properly Built Homes: Backgrounder, November, 2013

Canadians for Properly Built Homes (CPBH) was founded in 2004 by Karen Somerville and Alan Greenberg, a couple who faced serious problems with their newly built home in Ottawa, Ontario. In trying to solve their own home problems, they talked to many homeowners, as well as builders, home inspectors, engineers and others involved in the home construction process. They learned that there are serious problems in Canada from coast to coast. Undoubtedly, the worst housing disaster in Canadian history relates to the "BC leaky condo crisis", which continues to this day. While there are good builders, there are, unfortunately, also poor builders, and consumers currently have no objective, reliable means of knowing who the good builders are.

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parts of Canada and earned "partner" status with the Canadian Consumer Information Gateway (Industry Canada).

Consumers from many regions of Canada communicate with CPBH regularly, raising their issues and concerns and asking for assistance. Unfortunately, home construction defects present considerable problems for homeowners at all stages of life: from young adults barely able to scrape together their down payment for their first home through to senior citizens who are often on fixed incomes. While there are builders who will quickly and appropriately address these construction defects, there are also builders who will not. In some of these cases, warranty programs and government officials are unwilling or unable to assist the homeowners, which, unfortunately leaves the homeowners to fend for themselves. Once faced with this situation, homeowners quickly learn that there is insufficient consumer protection for the largest purchase most consumers ever make: a home.

CPBH has had a number of notable successes. For example, CPBH hears regularly from Canadian consumers that CPBH has helped them, and that its work is important and necessary. CPBH representatives have appeared on television, for instance, CTV's W-Five on multiple occasions, as well as a variety of appearances on local news broadcasts on CBC and CTV, and radio talk show programs such as Peter Warren's program from Victoria, BC, and Peter Silverman's program in Toronto, ON. Articles written by CPBH representatives have been published in national magazines such as The Canadian Home Inspector and Real Estate Marketing. Numerous newspaper articles have referenced the work of CPBH, including the Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star and the Ottawa Citizen. A number of different organizations seek the input from CPBH as government programs are developed. Also, the Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario began to monitor complaints relating to new home ownership after CPBH presented a detailed submission to the Ombudsman in March 2007. This led to the Ombudsman Ontario's report: *"Building Clarity: Investigation into how the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services represents its relationship with the Tarion Warranty Corporation to the public"*. In 2013 the Canadian heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) Industry began working with CPBH to try to make necessary improvements in HVAC across the country.

CPBH enjoys considerable grass roots support from across Canada from many homeowners, and potential homeowners. As well, many professionals working in the home inspection industry, the home construction industry, and government officials have expressed their support for CPBH and its work. CPBH receives no government funding, and relies on donations from consumers to cover its operating costs.