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Make Tarion 'case study' public

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Re: Homeowners look to hold Tarion to account, June 20

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According to Ellen Roseman, Tarion CEO Howard Bogach posed these questions: "What if there was no warranty fund? What if there was no money in our guarantee fund?"

Did the media present at this "charm offensive" ask basic questions of Mr. Bogach in return such as: How did these homes ever get built *there* in the first place? How did this builder qualify to be a Tarion-approved builder in the first place? What does this builder's record now show on the Tarion website? Is this builder still a Tarion-approved builder?

While Tarion referred to this as a "case study," it is imperative to remember that it is not just about the \$5.14 million repair. There were Ontario families involved whose lives were turned upside down for an extended period of time (e.g., while investigations took place to figure what went so wrong with their brand new homes, and while these homes were repaired). The repairs alone took three years.

This full "case study" should be made available to the public, and it should not only include a close critique of the builder and Tarion's role (as the builders' regulator and the warranty provider), but also the other key stakeholders in the so-called "safety-net" that allowed this disaster to happen, e.g., the municipality (that issued the building permit and was supposed to have inspected during construction to ensure that the minimum standards of the Ontario Building Code were met), the professional engineers that signed off before and during construction, etc.

This "case study" should not be construed as Tarion riding up on white horses to save the day.

Karen Somerville, President, Canadians for Properly Built Homes, Ottawa