



Fall 2014 – Manitoba’s New Home Warranty “Weak” – Now Related Regulations are Shaping Up to be “Weak” too

A CBC article dated Mar. 13, 2013 reported that some were of the view that Manitoba’s proposed New Home Warranty legislation was “weak”. (Refer to the “In the News” section of the CPBH web-site for the CBC article.) CPBH agreed with the assessment that the Bill was “weak”, and encouraged Manitoba to make key changes in the Bill before it was finalized. Unfortunately, Manitoba did not make any changes to the proposed legislation before it was passed – it pushed it through. CPBH was told by a Manitoba official at that time that CPBH’s numerous concerns could be addressed through the Regulations.

CPBH has been monitoring the development of the related Regulations, and providing input. Unfortunately, at this point, it appears that CPBH’s concerns will not be addressed through these Regulations. Therefore, CPBH has recently written to Assistant Deputy Minister Morton (copied to Minister Rondeau) and Premier Selinger about these questions and issues. Examples of issues raised to ADM Morton included:

- The lack of an independent Ombudsperson - with adequate authority - to address consumer concerns, rather than relying on the Courts.
- The lack of information about how the regulations will address dispute resolution.
- Many questions about the consumer consultation that was undertaken.
- Lack of information about the public registry that is under development.
- Lack of an effective communications campaign.
- \$100,000 minimum warranty coverage allowed.
- Lack of information about how the Province will regulate and licence home builders.
- Continued secrecy by the Manitoba government – rather than transparency.

Examples of questions and issues raised to the attention of Premier Selinger include:

- Consumer protection needs to have a higher priority in Manitoba. The current name of the Ministry is ***Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection***.
 - Why is consumer protection lumped in at the end of such unrelated areas?
 - Why is the Fire Commissioner responsible for the Manitoba Building Code?

Manitobans need – and deserve – better consumer protection for the largest purchase most make – a new home. CPBH supports this for Manitobans, and all Canadians.