



Newsletter  
Canadians for Properly Built Homes

## Properly Built Times

Summer 2016 Vol. 11  
No. 2B

Our first issue in this series a few days ago gave us a lot to think about – Professor Ziegel's words of 40 years ago could not have been more apt while Toronto Sun columnist Alan Shanoff's article points clearly to where we must go next: new legislation by the Ontario government. The results of CPBH's confidential consumer survey, as part of the ongoing #EndTarionMonopolyNOW initiative, confirm how true Professor Ziegel's warnings were. Miss the first issue or want to add an address to our mailing list? Just let us know and we'll send it to you: [info@canadiansforproperlybuilthomes.com](mailto:info@canadiansforproperlybuilthomes.com).

Here is the second bulletin in our series. We want to update you on the Tarion Review and how you can continue to be involved and have a look at the new players we will be dealing with further to the recent cabinet shuffle. As you know, a very important part of CPBH's work is establishing and maintaining relationships with key players in all levels of government, industry and associations, so be certain that these individuals will be hearing from us.

**We're keeping very busy and are happy in our work because the cause is just and now is the time. The spotlight is on.** Every action you take to support us counts, whether it's on Facebook, Twitter, by writing to your MPP, and/or finding new supporters to sign our petition.

**But please remember that CPBH can only continue to help homeowners and continue our advocacy for change if we receive your donations.**

Take a minute to show your support today through your donation at: [http://www.canadiansforproperlybuilthomes.com/html/getinvolved/ways\\_to\\_get\\_involved.html#Donations](http://www.canadiansforproperlybuilthomes.com/html/getinvolved/ways_to_get_involved.html#Donations)

***Karen Somerville and Alan Greenberg, Co-Founders***



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### Tarion Review update & how you can still get involved

June 1, 2016: CPBH Ontario consumer study results submitted to Justice Cunningham, eg., 90% of respondents reported they found one or more OBC Violations in their home. 99% of those people reported that neither Tarion nor the builder had resolved the OBC violations to their satisfaction.

When the Tarion Review was first announced last November, Justice Cunningham's final report was expected June 30, 2016. But we learned a few months ago that Justice Cunningham needs more time. The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services' website now says:

"The Reviewer will provide a final report with recommendations to the minister in fall 2016. The Reviewer will provide an interim progress report to the minister in early summer 2016. The interim progress report will be posted for public comment. The final report will include a comparison of Ontario's legislative framework with leading Canadian and international jurisdictions."

**Justice Cunningham's Town Hall meetings are over now, but you can still participate by:**

- Writing to Justice Cunningham and tell him your experience with Tarion and/or your views on what should be done about Tarion. Here is the e-mail address to write to Justice Cunningham: [Tarionreview@ontario.ca](mailto:Tarionreview@ontario.ca)
- Helping to get signatures on the CPBH petition to end Tarion's monopoly. Justice Cunningham is notified when people sign this petition, and he receives any related comments that are posted. (Comments are optional.) Here is the link to the petition: <http://tinyurl.com/z6ysez8>
- Writing to your MPP and ask him/her to sign this petition if he/she has not already done so. At this point, **the following 18 MPPs have signed our petition**, and we are very grateful for their support:

MPP Teresa Armstrong, MPP Steve Clark, MPP Cheri DiNovo, MPP Catherine Fife, MPP Cindy Forster, MPP Jennifer French, MPP Wayne Gates, MPP France Gélinas, MPP Percy Hatfield, MPP Randy Hillier, MPP Andrea Horwath, MPP Jim McDonell, MPP Paul Miller, MPP Randy Pettapiece, MPP Peggy Salter, MPP Jagmeet Singh, MPP Monique Taylor, MPP John Vanthof

Note that MPP Horwath is the NDP Leader, MPP McDonell is the PC Critic for MGCS and MPP Singh is the NDP Critic for MGCS. MGCS is the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services which is responsible for overseeing Tarion.

**Here are a few examples of comments that people have left with our petition.** See more at

<https://www.change.org/p/kathleen-wynne-end-tarion-s-new-home-warranty-monopoly-now-give-home-buyers-a-choice/c>

“Ontarians living in Middle Ages of new home regulation.” Daniel Soong, Toronto

“Tarion hurt our family, severely. It continues today after 5+ years and hundreds of thousands of dollars. They need to be stopped, they are the very definition: conflict of interest. Absolutely pathetic.” John Cormier, Collingwood

“I'm signing this petition because Tarion is nothing more than Builders protecting the Builders! Tarion needs to go!!!!”  
Anastasia Takeda, Goodwood



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## **Ontario Cabinet Shuffle brings new players of interest to properly built homes and consumer protection**

We are addressing these new ministers to ensure they are aware of the need for positive change for Ontario's new home buying consumers. CPBH is well known at Queen's Park and that helps our advocacy work. Every relationship helps, so we put a lot of effort into it.



### **Christopher Ballard: Minister of Housing**

The previous Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has been split. About Ballard: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris\\_Ballard\\_\(politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_Ballard_(politician))

### **Marie-France Lalonde: Minister of Government and Consumer Services**

This is the ministry that has responsibility for consumer protection and Tarion. About Lalonde: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie-France\\_Lalonde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie-France_Lalonde)

## Yasir Naqvi: Attorney General

This ministry is responsible for the Licence Appeal Tribunal and the Professional Engineers Ontario. About Naqvi: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasir\\_Naqvi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasir_Naqvi)

More about the shuffle: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-cabinet-changes-1.3632476>



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## Tribute to the late Dr. Earl Shuman, Consumer Advocate

We are very sorry to report the passing of Dr. Earl Shuman, who was a tireless and fierce advocate for major changes to the Tarion Warranty Corporation. MPP Jim McDonell summed it up well when he recently made the following tribute to Dr. Shuman in the Ontario Legislature:

"Mr. Jim McDonell: I rise today to pay homage to a staunch advocate for transparency and consumer rights who passed away on Friday, May 6. Dr. Earl Shuman, as did many Ontarians, invested in the purchase of a new home. His investment, however, gave rise to claims with Tarion Warranty Corp, the monopoly provider for new home warranties in Ontario.

Throughout the years, Dr. Shuman advocated for things many Ontarians take for granted. He demanded that the laws related to building new homes be respected. He sought to have those laws enforced. He fought to ensure consumers could be confident that their family's largest purchase was secure and would serve them well throughout the years.

Dr. Shuman's efforts also highlight the spirit that makes our province a great place to live and settle. He used his experience with Tarion and the Licence Appeal Tribunal to help other homeowners facing the same struggle.



I am confident this House will agree, Speaker, that the spirit of diligence, perseverance and aiding others is an inspiration to Ontarians from all walks of life. Dr. Shuman's tireless advocacy for transparency, dependability, accountability and consumer protection should inspire us all to do better by consumers in Ontario and to always keep their interest at heart.

Dr. Earl Shuman, thank you, and may you rest in peace."



## About CPBH

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

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