



Newsletter

Canadians for Properly Built Homes

## Properly Built Times

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It has been a busy summer and fall. We have been connecting with new officials as a result of elections as we continue to push for consumer protection, building code enforcement, better warranties and dispute resolution systems that are fair and affordable.

We are steadfast in our commitment to regimes across Canada that work for consumers, builders, municipalities, trades, inspectors, architects, indeed everyone involved in the building process. Consumers able to buy newly built homes with confidence is fundamental to our economy. Appropriate consumer protection is essential.

The alarm was rung on a number of fronts by Professor Jacob Ziegel, a University of Toronto law professor who wrote in the Globe and Mail in 1976: "Imagine the furor if it was proposed that a *consumer-dominated* corporation should regulate the construction industry." Indeed.

Now in our 15<sup>th</sup> year, CPBH continues to fight for a regime that works for everyone.

Will you help us keep the doors open so we can continue our work? When consumers call, desperate for help, we want to be there. We want to keep working with all levels of government to make building code enforcement a reality in Canada. We want to see the end of consumers dealing with being house wrecked, facing bankruptcy, suffering health issues or family breakdowns because of homes riddled with building code violations.

Please help with a donation today: <http://www.canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com/html/donate/index.html> .

We can do this together.

***Karen Somerville and Alan Greenberg***

#EnforceTheCode



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### National: Ottawa Bans Asbestos

CPBH is pleased about Ottawa's initiative to ban asbestos. In the past, asbestos has been used in various building products including drywall. Many say the ban doesn't go far enough. Check out the Government of Canada's recently posted regulations and one of the many media stories on this issue. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/canadian-environmental-protection-act-registry/prohibition-asbestos-products-regulations-questions.html>

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/canada-ban-on-asbestos-takes-effect-but-mining-residues-are-exempt-1.4137926>



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## **Federal Government plans to focus on consumer protection**

The 2018 federal budget identifies consumer protection as a priority. CPBH is pleased with this concrete acknowledgement of the need for better protection for Canadians, in this case in the area of banking. With this door opened, we have contacted multiple federal officials asking that newly built homes be included in their initiatives, given the weak consumer protection provided at the provincial/territorial levels. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2018/docs/plan/anx-03-en.html#Enhancing-Consumer-Protection-in-Banking>



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## **CPBH President Dr. Karen Somerville on CBC television**

CPBH President Dr. Karen Somerville recently appeared on CBC television to encourage Canadian home purchasers to take responsibility to protect themselves until consumer protection legislation in Canada is strengthened. She provided a series of tips to new home purchasers: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/home-buyers-safe-building-codes-1.4795759>



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## **Manitoba: Shoddy Construction and Inadequate Consumer Protection Continues**

Sadly, CPBH continues to hear from Manitobans about shoddy construction and inadequate consumer protection for their newly built homes. When in Opposition, Cliff Cullen, MLA, rose in the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in 2013 to express concerns about the proposed new home warranty legislation.

CPBH participated in the consultation process concerning this proposed legislation and identified numerous shortcomings with it. Unfortunately, it passed, but its implementation has been delayed until 2020. Now Mr. Cullen is the minister responsible for consumer protection in Manitoba. CPBH recently wrote to Minister Cullen about these ongoing serious issues and asked for his response. This link provides background:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/home-warranty-act-manitoba-delays-1.4424009>



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## **Ontario: CPBH Meetings with Ford Government Officials about Tarion, Building Code Enforcement and Better Dispute Resolution**

In a recent meeting with the Ford Government officials, CPBH representatives were advised that the new Ontario Government regards changes concerning Tarion as urgent, but no details were provided. We were also advised that we would be invited to a meeting in the near future for further discussions related to Tarion.

CPBH representatives then met with the Minister responsible for consumer protection and Tarion, MPP Todd Smith, Ontario's new Minister of Government and Consumer Services. He confirmed that changes would be made and that he is taking this issue very seriously. He has asked his Parliamentary Assistant, MPP Bob Baily, to make this a priority. We look forward to learning the details of these changes and to working with officials.

CPBH continues to press the new Ontario Government to ensure that the Ontario Building Code is enforced during construction, and to replace the Licence Appeal Tribunal for new home warranty appeals.



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## **Ontario Home Builders Association CEO Argues Against Hurricane Clips in the Building Code: They cost about a dollar**

Ironically, a few weeks prior to the devastating tornadoes on Sept. 21, 2018 in Ottawa, CPBH was invited to a meeting about the need for hurricane clips. There, we heard that there is strong resistance by some in the building industry to adding them as part of building codes in Canada. In this CBC video we see Joe Vacarro, Chief Executive Officer of the Ontario Home Builders Association appearing to resist adding hurricane clips to the Ontario Building Code: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MhPCCD2ajs>

Here are reports of the damage in Ottawa's Arlington Woods area and nearby Dunrobin after the tornadoes. Damage also occurred in western Quebec. With severe weather events, Building Codes across Canada may need the inclusion of hurricane clips. Right now, it's up to the builder. If you are considering having a house built, think about including hurricane clips. <https://weather.com/storms/tornado/news/2018-09-21-ottawa-canada-tornado-damage>

[https://ca.images.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=arlington+woods+tornado+photos&hspart=rogers&hsimp=yhs-rogers\\_001&imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fi.yimg.com%2Fvi%2FmS66FVin5gA%2Fmaxresdefault.jpg#id=12&iurl=http%3A%2F%2Feasternontarionetwork.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2018%2F09%2Ftornado-tears-through-ottawa-gatineau-1.jpg&action=click](https://ca.images.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=arlington+woods+tornado+photos&hspart=rogers&hsimp=yhs-rogers_001&imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fi.yimg.com%2Fvi%2FmS66FVin5gA%2Fmaxresdefault.jpg#id=12&iurl=http%3A%2F%2Feasternontarionetwork.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2018%2F09%2Ftornado-tears-through-ottawa-gatineau-1.jpg&action=click)

A number of tornadoes have been recorded in different parts of Ontario over the past decade. CPBH has written to Minister Steve Clark, who is responsible for the Ontario Building Code, requesting that hurricane clips be added to the Ontario Building Code.



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## **CPBH President, Dr. Karen Somerville, Appointed to Ontario College of Trades' Board of Governors**

CPBH President, Dr. Karen Somerville, was appointed to the Ontario College of Trades' Board of Governors as a public representative, effective Oct. 23, 2018 for a three-year term. The Ontario College of Trades is responsible for Ontario's apprenticeship and trades' certification system. Karen has served on many boards over the past 25 years and holds a PhD in Management, an MBA, CPA and CGA designations, and a Chartered Director's designation. She looks forward to contributing to the leadership of the Ontario College of Trades. <https://www.collegeoftrades.ca/>

[https://news.ontario.ca/maesd/en/2018/10/open-for-business-modernizing-ontarios-apprenticeship-system.html?utm\\_source=Changes+to+Apprenticeship+Ratios+and+Wind+Down+OCOT&utm\\_campaign=economic+review+oct+2018&utm\\_medium=email&fbclid=IwAR3fXu87Vs6OF--txiP\\_XUzb2q1IMD6YoxuxkiCrZK0z3Z5aGHzafvDT3uo](https://news.ontario.ca/maesd/en/2018/10/open-for-business-modernizing-ontarios-apprenticeship-system.html?utm_source=Changes+to+Apprenticeship+Ratios+and+Wind+Down+OCOT&utm_campaign=economic+review+oct+2018&utm_medium=email&fbclid=IwAR3fXu87Vs6OF--txiP_XUzb2q1IMD6YoxuxkiCrZK0z3Z5aGHzafvDT3uo)

At the same time, the Government of Ontario is looking at steps to modernize the province's trades and apprenticeship system. Skilled trades are obviously critical to properly built homes, and CPBH will be interested to see what the Ontario government decides to do.



## 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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