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## **Time to Celebrate!**

We are delighted to share with you today that CPBH's Dr. Karen Somerville received the Woman of Inspiration Award for Integrity from the Universal Women's Network at the virtual Gala Awards on November 14.

We would like to share with you some snippets from supporters who contributed to the submission package for this award. Then we'll share Karen's own words. We at CPBH would like to take this opportunity to invite you to celebrate and share this good news and thank you for your support of and commitment to our work. Because of you, much has been accomplished. While more work lies ahead, we are in lockstep to keep moving the agenda forward.

Best regards,

The Team at CPBH



### **What they said:**

"She has stared down and called out powerful players on behalf of those who could get no resolution. In the process, Karen has helped thousands of people across Canada, always for free. She is recognized by industry, government and the media for her expertise in this area. Karen is set apart by her tireless work to assist families caught in a regime few understand or can navigate, and her indefatigable advocacy with governments, industry and stakeholders to achieve a fair system for consumers in the area of new home construction, warranty and regulation."

"Among the thousands of people supported over the years, Karen encountered some in truly dire circumstances. There were people facing bankruptcy, others with small children sick and wheezing from mould exposure, family breakdowns, people considering suicide, terminal illness from black mould, and more."

"She has been a tireless champion in creating and directing CPBH all as a part-time activity. Her persistence and advocacy have been significantly impactful. ...Karen's dedicated advocacy was instrumental in persuading me that meaningful changes were urgently required."

"Karen Somerville is a true leader who inspires others to action through her own quiet but relentless determination to effect change."

"In forming CPBH, Karen and her team built a vision that says simply that all Canadians should reasonably expect to be able to live comfortably in their homes, with the assurance that the standards for quality and home performance that are written into building codes and regulations are consistently met."

"Karen will be the first to say that the success of CPBH are the product of many hands and many voices, but every single one of those involved would say that *none* of it would have happened without her inspirational leadership."

"Karen is most deserving of this award for her dedication in helping families and homeowners navigate the broken home warranty system. Karen is a strong advocate for change, works tirelessly and simply there when homeowners need her the most."

"...CPBH has been a champion in fighting for legislative change and providing advocacy...Dr. Somerville has received national media coverage bringing the consumer protection perspective on home construction and warranty matters. Her volunteer work has helped countless families..."

"Her in-depth knowledge of government, her ability to bring together diverse consumers, has had a lasting and positive impact on new consumer legislation in Ontario and brought greater transparency in the operation of government agencies like Tarion."

"These are the challenges Karen has been staring down, the injustices she has been calling out, this is her tireless advocacy for women and men and their families who can find no way out of their difficulties, this is her ability to bring people together, to lead and to realize positive change...This is Karen's fight for social justice...She has been the hero of countless women and their families. She has led by example and inspired others to join the fight, mentored people so they can get out of the trap they are in, and sowed confidence that a fair system can be put into place. Her record of success speaks for itself. Karen lifts us all up, shows us the way, gives us hope and makes us proud."



Here's the news in Karen's words:

Raise the Bar!

WOI2020  
AWARD

Integrity Award  
KAREN SOMERVILLE

POSTMEDIA UWoMEN UNIVERSAL WOMENS NETWORK

"I was recently very honoured to win a Woman of Inspiration award for integrity from the Universal Women's Network. All 150 finalists are impressive women. Congratulations to all finalists and award winners!"

Here is what the Universal Women's Network said about this integrity award: "Belief is a powerful engine. This Woman of Inspiration believes so strongly in the

outcomes she seeks that her beliefs mould the path she is taking to get there. Her integrity channels her actions and her voice as she strives for solutions in the service she delivers seeking justice for all."

Much of what was submitted for consideration in my nomination package related to my volunteer work as Co-Founder/President of Canadians for Properly Built Homes (CPBH)\*. In my acceptance speech I thanked [Monica Kretschmer](#), the Universal Women's Network and everyone who supported me in the nomination process. I also recognized and thanked all CPBH volunteers and said that I consider the award a CPBH team award.

On Tues. Nov 17 there will be a Post Media Announcement: 2020 Women of Inspiration™ Award Winners (Calgary Herald, National Post, Vancouver Sun, Montreal Gazette).

\*CPBH has helped thousands of Canadians since it was founded in 2004. [#WOI2020RaiseTheBar #womenofinspiration](#) "

From Karen's LinkedIn account: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6734088548770836480/>



## About CPBH

Canadians for Properly Built Homes (CPBH) is an independent, 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). Follow us:



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