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Greetings,

Here we are, looking at the end of 2020 (finally). Our hearts go out to all those affected by the virus and the families who have lost loved ones. We feel indebted to the heroes who stepped forward this year – from front line workers and scientists, to the kindnesses of neighbours, and everyone in between. Meanwhile, we found new ways to do things. Now we're looking forward to a new year with vaccinations coming in and renewed hope for keeping everyone safe.

Covid has compounded the problems of those suffering in homes riddled with building code violations. You are not alone. We receive calls for help from many parts of Canada and we are doing our best to help everyone. Despite the extraordinary circumstances of 2020, CPBH continued its operations throughout the year.

In fact, it's been a very busy year and we've made progress, despite the disappointing outcome on Bill 159. Draft legislation now exists that would give full force to Judge Cunningham's Tarion Review recommendations. As such, it is the most important piece of legislation for consumer protection since the Ontario New Home Warranty Plan Act was rammed through in 1976. It can be reintroduced when the time comes and serve as an example to other provinces <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-169>. Sincere thanks to NDP MPP Tom Rakocevic and his colleagues for bringing this draft legislation to life.

We have made many deputations, input into regulations and are working on better outcomes for new home buyers concerning furnaces in new homes. We have been communicating with numerous organizations about radon including Health Canada and the Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (CARST) in Vancouver. Our work on radon awareness includes a national call for data for an investigative journalism team <http://canadiansforproperlybuilthomes.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Dec.-2020-Radon-study-opportunity.pdf>.

In Ontario, our work is showing that municipalities have clear obligations in this regard, and we will continue to push for action. Maybe that is also the case in other provinces – stay tuned. Meanwhile, we are urging homeowners to get their homes tested for radon, no matter when they were built. Winter is the best time. With more than 3,000 Canadians losing their lives to lung cancer each year due to radon gas, we need to step up and deal with this issue.

Our sincere thanks to our stellar team of volunteers and everyone who has worked with us. We are driving change together and your dedication makes it all possible.

If you can include CPBH in your year end giving by [donating today](#), we will gratefully accept any amount. We want to keep the doors open and push forward on consumer protection and advocacy with federal, provincial and municipal governments. Governments need to protect consumers, not developers.

We wish you a quiet and safe holiday season.

Karen Somerville and Alan Greenberg
Canadians for Properly Built Homes Co-founders

*#NeverGiveUp #ConsumerProtection #EnforceTheCode #TarionIsBeyondRepair #Don'tStopBelievin'
#EndTarionMonopolyNOW #DumpTheLAT #RadonActionMonth*



Here are some highlights from 2020:

CPBH's President, **Dr. Karen Somerville is nominated in May for a national Woman of Inspiration Award** from the Universal Women's Network, for her work with CPBH. The awards take place in November.



CPBH begins a **fall campaign to raise awareness about radon gas**, distributing information broadly from Health Canada and encouraging homeowners to get their homes tested. The winter is the best time to test for radon gas build up in homes because that is when windows and doors are kept closed. With an investigative journalist team interested in doing a story about radon, we are making a national call to homeowners with radon test results above 200 Bq/m³, to join the investigation by providing contact information by the new deadline of March 5, 2021. More: <http://canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Dec.-2020-Radon-study-opportunity.pdf>



Builders using a home's new furnace for heat during construction is a national problem. Ideally, CPBH would like to see this practice prohibited for two reasons: First, it damages furnaces leading to reduced performance and longevity for new home buyers and second, builders have other options for providing heat during construction process that has no impact on new furnaces. If the practice can't be stopped, CPBH wants to see builders compelled to disclose this practice and warranties on furnaces extended.

CPBH has been communicating with the CSA Group, a global organization dedicated to safety, social good and sustainability, about these issues. The CSA is expected to release a new standard in 2021 that includes furnaces used for construction heat.

CPBH has written to consumer protection ministers in every province about this and is hoping to get some answers. In Ontario, we have also been pushing Tarion for protection. Stay tuned for developments. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/furnace-construction-1.5188006> <http://plumbingandhvac.ca/damaged-during-construction/>



Karen Somerville wins a Woman of Inspiration Award for Integrity from among 150 finalists in November. The submission for this award focusses on her volunteer work with CPBH and, in her acceptance speech, Karen says she considers this to be a CPBH team award. A very proud moment! <http://canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Nov.-14-2020-CPBH-President-Wins-a-Women-of-Inspiration-Integrity-Award.pdf>



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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