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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.

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://canadiansforproperlybuilt homes.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's 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 #NoUSEDfurnaces*



Here's a romp through some highlights of 2020:

The year begins with an audit that slammed Tarion by the Auditor General, as well as **two Bills related to Tarion on the table at the Ontario Legislature**. The Tories' Bill 159 purports to renew consumer confidence in new home warranties, while really just tinkering at the margins and preserving the existing broken system. In parallel, we have Bill 169, tabled by NDP MPP Tom Rakocevic, which gives life to the many recommendations of Judge Cunningham's Tarion Review and goes even further, providing a platform for a much-needed multi-warranty provider system, as the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta already have <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-169> .

Ontario's Standing Committee on Justice Policy hears testimony on Bill 159 last January in Brampton, Windsor and Ottawa. Bill 159 is an omnibus bill, but 84 percent of people who testify address the problems with Tarion. It spoke volumes that people travelled far and took time off work to address the Committee and have their views permanently entered into the record. It's all here <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/committees/justice-policy/parliament-42/transcripts> . Here's Karen Somerville's presentation <http://canadiansforproperlybuilt homes.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Jan.-22-2020-Bill-159-CPBH-Package-submitted-to-Standing-Committee-on-Justice-Policy.pdf> .

During the Bill 159 clause-by-clause review of the Bill, **Doug Ford's people refuse every single request for amendments and modifications**. No exceptions. No indication of a shred of concern for consumers.

CPBH President Karen Somerville makes another strong appeal to the **Standing Committee on General Government** about Bill 159. Read it here <http://canadiansforproperlybuilt homes.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/June.-22-2020-Final-Bill-159-Presentation-to-the-Standing-Committee-on-General-Government.pdf> . Committee members receive a 16-page briefing to follow up on the presentation.

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

CPBH releases in May its **13th Report on the Licence Appeal Tribunal and Tarion**, 2006 to 2019. Access to justice continues to worsen for homeowners to want to appeal Tarion's decisions. Consumer outcomes at the LAT in 2019 were the worst yet. Five cases involving 22 issues went to Decision stage and resulted in a 100% failure rate for homeowners. #DumpTheLAT <http://canadiansforproperlybuilt homes.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2019-Licence-Appeal-Tribunal-Analysis-1.pdf>

On July 14, Bill 159 becomes law without a single amendment responding to the opposition or to the testimony of new home owners from across Ontario. Bill 159 does nothing for consumers but everything for builders. When the Bill passed, every MPP outside the conservatives votes against it. Consumers are clearly against it. Only builders support the Bill.

Talk of the next Ontario election is already under way. If you missed the chance to sign this petition, please sign it now. <https://www.change.org/p/doug-ford-end-tarion-s-new-home-warranty-monopoly-now-and-give-ontarians-a-choice/u/27321058>

CPBH organizes **Value Village Fun Drive** fundraisers in Ottawa and Oakville with the precious help of so many volunteers! From delivering flyers door to door, to picking up donations, to delivering donations all the way from Pembroke, to moving eight tons of goods on delivery day (twice: once into the truck and then out of the truck), CPBH

volunteers really put their backs into it. Outstanding! We really can't thank you enough. Even the Value Village people were impressed.

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 Bg/m³ to join the investigation by providing contact information by the new deadline of March 5, 2021. More: <http://canadiansforproperlybuilt homes.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Dec.-2020-Radon-study-opportunity.pdf>

In October, CPBH provides input to the Ontario government's **regulation development** for Tarion and the new Home Construction Regulatory Authority (HCRA). Shrouded in secrecy, the process was flawed, but resulted in a good summary of the issues that need to be addressed. <http://canadiansforproperlybuilt homes.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Oct.-19-2020-CPBH-input-re-HCRA-Tarion-Regulations.pdf>

Karen 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://canadiansforproperlybuilt homes.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Nov.-14-2020-CPBH-President-Wins-a-Women-of-Inspiration-Integrity-Award.pdf>

Also in November, Karen makes a **presentation to the City of Ottawa's Planning Committee** concerning the City's budget, concerning **health and safety issues**: 1. Ensure that all newly built homes are properly inspected and meet the Ontario Building Code (OBC) before the homeowners take possession. 2. Ensure that the City of Ottawa determines if radon is known to be a problem in some or all of the municipality. The presentation is well received and draws encouraging comments from two City Councillors. <http://canadiansforproperlybuilt homes.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Oct.-30-2020-final-Ottawa-City-Council-2020-Budget.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/>



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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