

DONATE TODAY!

**CPBH operates strictly with volunteers: No one is paid a cent.
But we do have operating expenses.**



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Seasons Greetings!

Like many non-profit organizations are finding, the Canadian postal strike has hurt our fall fundraising campaigns. Please donate via PayPal before December 31 if you can. As you know, CPBH operates strictly with volunteers. No one gets paid a cent. But we do have operating expenses.

In honour of our 20th Anniversary, your fall fundraiser donations will be matched up to a total of \$1500 by benevolent supporters, so you can double your donation: **Here's the link:** [Donate](#)

In the last newsletter, we promised some good news would be coming your way. Read on to find out what it is!

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you for helping us help others,

Karen Somerville and Alan Greenberg

Canadians for Properly Built Homes Co-founders

**#EnforceTheCode #ConsumerProtection #HealthAndSafety
#NeverGiveUp #NoUSEDfurnaces #RadonAction #Don'tStopBelievin'
#YouAreNotAlone #MentalHealth #EndTarionMonopolyNOW**



2. CPBH's 20th Anniversary Celebration

What a year 2024 has been! Our 20th Anniversary has given us a chance to look back on our accomplishments, look forward to the future and appreciate the size and breadth of the audience that has gathered around properly built homes since we began our work. We are humbled by the great quantity of congratulatory messages we received from Canadians from across this country and in all walks of life, including homeowners, industry, governments of all levels, politicians, academe, lawyers, architects, doctors, the non-profit sector, consumer advocates, associations and more. We are also encouraged by the depth and breadth of understanding of the problem of improperly built homes reflected in the messages from all these groups, a goal we have had since the beginning, since the issue is complex and cannot be addressed without increased understanding.

You will find some of the congratulatory messages below. It was very difficult to choose! We have posted many more of the messages received throughout the year on our social media feeds and a large sample in our spring newsletter. Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you. You have made all of this possible.

Our experiences during this Anniversary have redoubled our resolve to carry out our original objective: Working for Healthy, Safe, Durable, Energy Efficient Housing for Canadians since 2004!

Thank you for your support and trust in us!

"..It is my honour and privilege to congratulate Canadians for Properly Built Homes on their 20th anniversary. CPBH is a truly wonderful non-profit organization that provides a much-needed service to Canadians....CPBH is a truly independent organization run by volunteers

and funded by consumers, not by industry... In addition to directly helping Canadians, I am inspired by the commitment CPBH has for advocating for better consumer protections and building code improvement and enforcement...."

Senator Pierrette Ringuette

"To advocate and support a person who has been wronged in their new home purchases is one thing – a difficult thing at that. To do the same at a systemic level, to lobby and push an adversarial industry and too-often indifferent legislative or administrative bodies – this is an extraordinarily difficult thing. CPBH has grown, learned, connected and supported untold thousands of Canadians across two decades. For that, they should be rightly proud of a hard job done well. For that we – the members of the public – should be immensely grateful. Still so much to do – so here's to the next years of fighting the good fight!"

Christopher Arnold, Barrister & Solicitor

"For many Canadians, a home may be one of their most significant lifetime investments. Yet, precious little protection is available to consumers purchasing such high-value assets. Enforcing one's rights against powerful builders often poses a challenge. Since 2004, CPBH's team of volunteers has been tirelessly advocating for the rights of vulnerable home buyers. May your next twenty years of advocacy be so successful that there will no longer be a need for CPPH."

Gábor Lukács, PhD

Air Passenger Rights is an independent nonprofit organization of volunteers, spearheaded and coordinated by Gábor Lukács

"If not for CPBH there would be no voice representing the average homeowner in pivotal stages such as the development of federal and provincial regulations, building codes and their enforcement. Consumer voices would not be heard only those of the paid advocates for builders and developers. CPBH representation counters forces that would undercut the value of what amounts to single most important purchase in our lifetimes....Congratulations on 20 years of service to Canadians!"

Sean Tracey, Deputy Chief, Ottawa Fire Service, (Retired)



3. Follow CPBH on Bluesky Social Media!

You may have heard that Twitter/X users have been moving over to Bluesky social in droves, recently by one million a day. For anyone familiar with Twitter/X, the transition couldn't be easier. Even if you're not, it's very easy. Click the link below and you're on your way. It's very similar to Twitter/X but has additional features that are welcome. The former CEO of Twitter, Jack Dorsey, initiated Bluesky in 2019 and it became open to the public in February 2024. We hope it enjoys continued success.



We hope to see you there. You can follow us at @CPBH01.bsky.social

<https://bsky.app/>



4. Pyrrhotite: Have you heard of the crumbling foundations catastrophe in Quebec?

Have you heard of this catastrophe? Most people say no. The story of homes with crumbling foundations built between 1996 and 2008 in Quebec has been billed as a major home construction disaster in Canada.

Canadians for Properly Built Homes (CPBH) representatives met with those of the Coalition d'aide aux victimes de la pyrrhotite (CAVP). Despite the long and devastating crisis faced by homeowners primarily in Trois Rivières, and evidence that pyrrhotite in concrete has caused crumbling foundations in a number of other locations both in Canada and abroad, there is not much knowledge among the public of the problem, the locations where it has devastated the lives of homeowners and what it takes to fix the problem. And the required fix is massive.

We will bring you more information and are grateful to the team at CAVP for their experience and expertise. In the meantime, CAVP's website is at www.CAVP.info where you might wish to use Google translate. There is also a video in French and English on their page at: <https://www.cavp.info/la-cavp-en-videos/>.



5. Great News: CPBH President, Dr. Karen Somerville, receives King Charles III Coronation Medal



We are delighted to share with you that, further to a submission nominating CPBH's President for her work, Karen Somerville received the medal at a ceremony at Parliament Hill on December 12, 2024. The medal was presented by Anita Vandenberg, Member of Parliament for Ottawa West - Nepean.

Awarded in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, the Canadian medals have been presented to select members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Public Service and individuals who made significant contributions to the country or achieved accomplishments that brought credit to Canada. This is the first time Canada has issued a commemorative medal to mark a coronation.

"I am so honoured to receive this recognition for the work CPBH has done, particularly during our 20th Anniversary year," Karen said. "We are grateful to have been able to help thousands during this time, exclusively with the financial support of consumers. I am accepting this medal on behalf of all the CPBH volunteers who give their time and expertise generously to make our [accomplishments](#) possible every day."

Check out our social media feeds for photos of the event!



About CPBH

Canadians for Properly Built Homes (CPBH) is an independent, national not for profit consumer advocacy 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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