



Volume 16, no. 1

Spring 2021

Hello everyone,

Hope this finds you well and enjoying some of the sunshine and warmer days we've had lately. Since our last bulletin in December, CPBH activities have been going full tilt, so we have a lot of news to share.

Radon Gas and Building Code Enforcement are National Issues: The case for attention and action on these two issues is clear for the well-being of citizens across Canada. We've been working hard to bring both issues to the fore. You may wish to use this linked document to approach your councillors, mayors and provincial representatives about radon and building code enforcement: <http://canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Feb.-6-2021-Ottawa-City-Council-Open-Letter.pdf>. Remember that the next best window for getting your home tested is November.

CPBH wrote to every minister responsible for consumer protection across the country in 2019 about **undisclosed used furnaces in newly built homes**, but we've seen no meaningful action to protect consumers take place. As a recent step, CPBH obtained a legal opinion on whether Ontario's Consumer Protection Act (CPA) would allow this practice. The short answer is no. The opinion states that, "the CPA requires builders to disclose material facts about the furnaces that consumers are buying. The failure to do so would constitute "false, misleading or deceptive" representations and omissions. This, in turn, constitutes "unfair practice", which is prohibited by the CPA." More: <http://canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Feb.-28-2021-Moher-Legal-Letter-of-Opinion-re-Consumer-Protection-Act.pdf>. CPBH will continue to press for meaningful action to protection consumers in Ontario and across the country. Ask your provincial representative if it's legal to sell undisclosed used furnaces with new homes in your province.

Our spring fundraising drive is underway. We must once again ask you to help us stay afloat. We all work for free; helping thousands of people and working to bring change is its own reward. But there are unavoidable expenses in running a not for profit. We've accomplished a lot this year but there is always more to be done. **Please chip in**—any amount will be gratefully accepted—so we can be there for new home owners in trouble and keep working for a fair system for new home construction and warranty. [DONATE NOW](#)

These are such trying times. Please take every precaution to stay safe and well.

Karen Somerville and Alan Greenberg

Canadians for Properly Built Homes Co-founders

#NoUSEDfurnaces #RadonAction #NeverGiveUp #ConsumerProtection #EnforceTheCode #TarionIsBeyondRepair #Don'tStopBelievin' #EndTarionMonopolyNOW #DumpTheLAT

What do you think of a **Consumers' Bill of Rights** for purchasers of newly built homes, including condos? We'd love to get your ideas about this! Share your thoughts with us at info@canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com . Here is an example of another Bill of Rights: <https://oag.ca.gov/.../attorney-general-kamala-d-harris...>



Look at what we found on the House of Commons web site: "We, the undersigned, **Citizens of Canada**, call upon the **Government of Canada** to establish an independent Canadian Consumer Advocate answerable to Parliament to advance consumer interests and work with civil society to represent the consumer voice."

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3150>

Yes, we couldn't agree more. Parliamentarians are steeped in interactions with lobbyists of every sort. Who is standing up for consumers in that arena? An Officer of Parliament standing up for consumers is a welcome presence that we support. This petition could be an important step in improved consumer protection in Canada. They have about 300 signatures already from across Canada and need 500 to move forward. Help us push it over the top! **Please sign it and share with your contacts!**



We began this year with the heartbreaking news that **Daniel Browne-Emery** lost his battle with cancer: <http://canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Jan.-1-2021-updated-Daniel-Browne-Emery-situation.pdf> . Daniel's long battle with Tarion to try to get compensation for his mould infested new home continues to inspire us to keep working. His story has implications for new home owners in every province.

We've developed and posted two presentations on our new YouTube channel about his story, as well as a related piece about Tarion's assessment by their Ombuds: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcbxAGFFg5fDEKBFgtuoCw> . Let us know what you think of them. We're pleased to see that our presentations are getting large numbers of views on Twitter, although this is not reflected on the YouTube page. Feel free to share them.



We encourage you to have a look at our recently developed and posted **Policy Issues Paper**. It describes CPBH areas of concern and the broad implications for families: <http://canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Mar.-3-2021-Ontario-Housing-Policy-Issues-Final.pdf> .



The legacy of an example to all of Canada: Early this year, we learned that **Tom Rakocevic**, Humber River-Black Creek MPP, became the NDP critic for Transit, leaving behind the work he did on our files as critic for the Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services. Tom brought new vigour to championing the need for a fair regime for home construction and warranty in Ontario, for consumer protection and enforcing the building code. He threw himself into the task and brought about draft legislation that follows and goes beyond the path Justice Cunningham set out in his Tarion Review. We will not forget his impassioned speeches in the legislature or any of his work on this issue. While the Ford Conservatives nevertheless rammed through their woefully inadequate Bill 159, the oxymoron-dubbed Restoring Consumer Confidence Act that claims to overhaul Tarion, Tom's draft piece of legislation remains, ready for another day and an example to all other provinces. Thank you, Tom.



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:



Questions | Comments | Sponsorship Opportunities:

info@canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com

Your privacy is important to us. We do not share our lists with anyone. You have received this newsletter as a friend or a person interested in new home construction in Canada, or because you have subscribed via email or telephone.

You may unsubscribe at any time at info@canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com

Properly Built Times is published by Canadians for Properly Built Homes, a Canadian not for profit, national association: www.canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com

© **Canadians for Properly Built Homes, 2021**

Copyright permissions may be requested in writing: info@canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com

ISSN: 1718-0996

