



**Supplemental Information for the Standing Committee on General Government  
regarding Bill 159 and the Tarion Warranty Corporation**

This supplemental package is 16 pages long. To try to ensure smooth electronic transmission, it has been divided into two pdfs.

The first half is contained here. Please look for a second pdfs with the remaining pages.

I will welcome any questions and/or comments you may have.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this information.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Somerville". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Karen Somerville, PhD  
President, Canadians for Properly Built Homes



## **Supplemental Information for the Standing Committee on General Government regarding Bill 159 and the Tarion Warranty Corporation**

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you yesterday. I appreciated the questions and opportunity for dialogue. There were two concerning incidents, however, involving MPP Harris. I have not yet been able to obtain copies of Hansard but have reviewed video of these two incidents.

1. In my session, MPP Harris asked if I had been offered a meeting with the Minister a few months ago. I responded yes. MPP Harris summed up his understanding of the Minister offering a meeting and my response to that offer and asked if what he said was correct. I said, "...no that is not correct..." I started to explain but I was not allowed to finish my explanation.
2. In the next session, when I was not present, MPP Harris said to Mr. Myatt: "line of questioning with Dr. Somerville...she had stated that .....never been offered a meeting....she did decline it so I just wanted to clear the air on that...want to make sure we are speaking truths here when we are in committee..."

My concerns are:

- In my own testimony, I stated to MPP Harris that I had been offered a 30 min. meeting, but that his summary was not correct. I was not allowed to finish my explanation.
- In the next session, in which I was not present:
  - o MPP Harris said that I stated previously that I had never been offered a meeting. That is not accurate - I said in my testimony that I had been offered a 30 min. meeting.
  - o MPP Harris said that I declined the meeting, but I did not decline that meeting.
  - o MPP Harris then went on to suggest that someone was not speaking truths to the committee.

In the interest of correct and truthful information, it is important to note that MPP Harris' statement that I declined a meeting with Minister Thompson is in fact, untrue. MPP Harris would do well to take his own counsel "about speaking truths here when we are in committee...", particularly when the information he provides is about someone who is not even present.

For the record, here is the correct and truthful information about the meeting with Minister Thompson. It is fully supported by the documents that follow.

- I was delighted to receive and accept Minister Thompson's invitation to meet after waiting for the opportunity for such a long time.
- In response, I asked her for more than 30 minutes so we could have a meaningful discussion.
- To date, I have not received a response from Minister Thompson to this request.
- Over the past 16 years, I have made 34 trips to Queen's Park to meet with MPPs, make deputations, attend the Legislature and other reasons. All these trips were at my own expense.
- I would readily do it again if the meeting contributed to resolving the many serious issues faced by Ontario's owners of newly built homes.

CPBH does not deal in untruths or in maligning people. The facts, when brought to light, speak for themselves. Facts and documented evidence have been the basis of CPBH's activities for over 16 years.

I am writing to have my concerns recorded with the Committee and in Hansard, to provide related documentation, and to offer to discuss this again with MPP Harris and/or any member of the Committee if there is interest in this.

Attached you will find a series of emails and a letter that relate to this discussion in Committee yesterday:

- March 12, 2020 email – from Mr. Mathew Varsava from Minister Thompson's office – advising that Minister Thompson "was looking to set up a time for a half hour meeting"
- March 13, 2020 email – my response indicated that we were very pleased that the Minister was willing to meet with us. I did not decline the meeting. But I did say that

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June 23, 2020 Supplemental information provided by Dr. Karen Somerville, PhD, Chartered Director, CPA/CGA, President of Canadians for Properly Built Homes

E-mail: [info@canadiansforproperlybuilthomes.com](mailto:info@canadiansforproperlybuilthomes.com)



that not much can be accomplished in half an hour, the issues are substantive, etc. and asked if the Minister would free up 1.5 to 2 hours in her schedule, etc. My response was an attempt to try to negotiate a longer meeting to discuss a number of very substantive matters, which we have done before many times with other Ministers' schedulers. I fully expected that there would be a response from Mr. Varsava, as other Ministers' schedulers have always provided, and that we would make arrangements for a meeting for a duration of between 30 minutes and two hours.

- I did not receive a response to my March 13, 2020 email.
- April 1, 2020 email – I followed up with Mr. Varsava again.
  - I did not receive a response to that April 1, 2020 email.
- May 5, 2020 – I sent an email to Minister Thompson with the subject line “Urgent – unresolved disputes with Tarion – more talk of suicide – continuing to request a meeting with you regarding Bill 159.
- June 12, 2020 – I sent an email to Minister Thompson with the subject line “another follow up – homeowners considering suicide – alleged illegal activity – Re: long-standing outstanding questions/requests for information + request to meet re Bill 159 – sent by CPBH to Minister Thompson”
  - June 15, 2020 – I received a letter from Minister Thompson responding to the May 5, 2020 email, but there was no response to my request for a meeting.

**Attachments:**

- April 1, 2020 email from CPBH that attached the Mar. 13 email from CPBH as well as Mr. Varsava's Mar. 12 email. – 3 pages
- May 5, 2020 email to Minister Thompson – 2 pages
- June 12, 2020 email to Minister Thompson that attached an April 30, 2020 email to Minister Thompson's Chief of Staff, Mr. DiPaul – 4 pages
- June 15, 2020 letter from Minister Thompson to me. – 3 pages

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).

www.canadiansforproperlybuilt homes.com      Twitter: @cpbh01      Instagram: cpbh01  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Canadians-for-Properly-Built-Homes/1613240682226191>

**Subject:** follow-up - Re: Meeting with Minister Thompson - homeowners trapped in homes with mould/radon issues - COVID-19  
**From:** CPBH <info@canadiansforproperlybuilt homes.com>  
**Date:** 2020-04-01, 2:42 p.m.  
**To:** "Varsava, Mathew (MGCS)" <Mathew.Varsava@ontario.ca>  
**CC:** "Seixas, Lillian (MGCS)" <Lillian.Seixas@ontario.ca>, "Staples, Thomas (MGCS)" <Thomas.Staples@ontario.ca>, "DiPaul, David (MGCS)" <David.DiPaul@ontario.ca>, "Im.thompson@ontario.ca" <Im.thompson@ontario.ca>, "Singh-QP, Sara" <SSingh-QP@ndp.on.ca>, "Rakocevic-QP, Tom" <TRakocevic-QP@ndp.on.ca>

Hello Mathew:

We have not received a response from you to my Mar. 13 email (attached).

We obviously understand about the crisis with COVID-19, but we are aware that Minister Thompson is sending out her form letter during this pandemic to consumers who have written to express concern re Tarion, Bill 159, etc.

It is important to emphasize that for some Ontario homeowners, this COVID-19 has heightened the suffering for those who have to continue to fight with Tarion, e.g., due to mould and radon. Tragically, they are now trapped in homes with serious health and safety concerns. Many simply do not understand why Minister Thompson has been unwilling to take meaningful/appropriate action, particularly given these health and safety concerns.

This remains an outstanding key question:  
Will the Minister free up 1.5 to 2 hours in her schedule to have a meaningful discussion with us related to Bill 159 - in time for her to be able to consider changes to Bill 159?

We look forward to the response.

Best regards,  
Karen Somerville

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Dr. Karen Somerville, PhD in Management, C.Dir  
President  
Canadians for Properly Built Homes (CPBH)

On 2020-03-13 7:52 a.m., CPBH wrote:

Thank you for your email, Mathew. We are very pleased that Minister Thompson is willing to meet with us.

Unfortunately, not much can be accomplished in a 30 min. meeting. Further, a telephone

conversation is considerably less effective than an in-person meeting.

As you are aware, I reside in Ottawa. It is not reasonable for me to spend 9 - 10 hours in travel time for a 30 min. meeting.

As I said in my Nov. 5 e-mail to the Mr. DiPaul, "I am willing to travel from Ottawa for an in-person meeting, if it will be a couple of hours long. There is obviously lots to discuss."

The other key consideration is the stage of Bill 159. Obviously, it is imperative to meet soon if we are to have any hope of impacting this Bill. Obviously there is a lot of opposition to Bill 159, e.g., from consumers/consumer advocates, from the NDP, from the Green Party.

We are optimistic that we can be helpful to Minister Thompson in achieving more support for her bill if she is willing to have a meaningful discussion with us, and consider making changes to her bill.

So, my questions to you are:

- will the Minister free up 1.5 to 2 hours in her schedule to have a meaningful discussion related to Bill 159 at Queen's Park or Ottawa - in time for her to be able to consider changes to Bill 159?
- if yes, what options (time slots) are available?

We look forward to your response.

Thanks,  
Karen

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Dr. Karen Somerville, PhD in Management, C.Dir  
President  
Canadians for Properly Built Homes (CPBH)

On 2020-03-12 7:29 p.m., Varsava, Mathew (MGCS) wrote:

Hi Karen,

Minister Thompson is looking to set up a time for a half hour meeting with you.

We are currently looking at March 30<sup>th</sup> (pending how the Covid-19 virus affects things) from 3-3:30 or 3:30 – 4pm or April 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 1:30-2:00pm or 2:30 to 3pm.

If you could please advise which of these dates/times would work for you, we will look forward to completing the coordination of the meeting with Minister Thompson.

All the Best,  
Mat

**Mathew Varsava** | Manager, Stakeholder Relations, Operations & Appointments  
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