



Oct. 25, 2023

**CPBH Statement regarding Ontario's Better for Consumers, Better for Businesses Act, 2023**

The Better for Consumers, Better for Businesses Act, 2023 is a step in the right direction for some Ontario consumers, such as a monthly free credit report and clarifying rules for gift cards. Unfortunately, it does not address key areas of concern for CPBH, and many purchasers of newly built homes, or those considering purchasing a newly built home, such as:

1. Ensuring that the largest purchase that most make, a home, is good quality – or even meets the minimal Code;
2. Addressing the ongoing serious shortcomings of key Administrative Authorities, that are supposed to be focused on consumer protection, such as:
  - the Home Construction Regulatory Authority (HCRA) in relation to the misleading Ontario Builder Directory, and preventing builders from secretly selling newly built homes with used and/or damaged furnaces, and
  - ending Tarion's monopoly and introducing a competitive, multi-provider model for warranty protection as was recommended by Justice Cunningham in 2016, is offered by much of the rest of Canada, was promised by the PCs before the June 2018 election AND was recommended by the Ford Government's own consultation (which they swept under the rug).

**When is the Ford Government going to address the biggest consumer protection problem In Ontario: Protecting consumers who buy newly built homes? When will the building code be enforced during construction in Ontario? When will inspections during construction be enforced on every home built? When will the Ford Government reverse its decision to allow remote municipal inspections during construction? When will consumers be able to have confidence that their newly built home will not injure them or make them sick?**

**Once again, we see the Ford Government tinkering at the margins instead of getting the big problems fixed. It's what we have come to expect. And it's far from what Ontarians need and deserve. #BuyerBeware.**

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**Founded in 2004, Canadians for Properly Built Homes (CPBH) is a 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).**