



# Properly Built Times

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## MPP Randy Hillier Blasts Government in the Ontario Legislature on Bill 166, the so-called Strengthening Protection for Ontario Consumers Act, 2017



There are some things you just have to [read](#) or [see](#) for yourself, and this is one of them.

For some background on Bill 166, please see below. Briefly put, Bill 166 is an Omnibus Bill that addresses things like the online concert ticket resale market, real estate and travel services – oh, and in the words of Mr. Vic Dhillon, “...**even people buying brand new homes.**” (Hansard, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Oct. 30, 2017, p. 6032). Even.

Debate resumed on this bill on October 30 and MPP Hillier took the opportunity to lambaste the government on its mishandling of Justice Cunningham’s 37 recommendations,

the special advisory group formed this summer stacked with builders and barred from discussing the justice’s recommendations and now, this piece of legislation.

“If I was Justice Cunningham, I would be disturbed and I would say I would never, ever take on another commission from this government, when they are going to take somebody’s hard work...and analysis of a problem, and then have it torqued and skewed and twisted to achieve some other end.” (MPP Randy Hillier, Hansard, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Oct. 30, 2017, p. 6038).

“I do want to point out the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development’s comments. She stated in her comments that this bill was predicated and based on Justice Cunningham’s recommendations.

That is untrue, Speaker. This bill is based upon a rejection of Justice Cunningham’s recommendations. That is the fact. That is the fact that I presented during my debate, that the competitive, multi-service provider was rejected, that the Minister of Government and Consumer Services prohibited the working group from even discussing it, along with the independent adjudication recommendation. This government rejected the complete premise of Justice Cunningham’s recommendation.” (MPP Randy Hillier, Hansard, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Oct. 30, 2017, pp. 6039-40).

**Read the debate in Hansard**, pp. 6029-40, with MPP Hillier’s remarks beginning on p. 6036:  
[http://www.ontla.on.ca/house-proceedings/transcripts/files\\_pdf/30-OCT-2017\\_L112.pdf](http://www.ontla.on.ca/house-proceedings/transcripts/files_pdf/30-OCT-2017_L112.pdf)

**Video of MPP Hillier’s remarks:** <https://www.facebook.com/randy.hillier/videos/1779542712056057/>

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### Bill 166, Strengthening Protection for Ontario Consumers Act, 2017: Minister MacCharles tables major disappointment for consumers

In 2016, Justice Cunningham’s Tarion Review report made 37 recommendations that, if implemented, would basically dismantle Tarion. The Wynne Government only recently tabled Bill 166, incorporating only a few of Justice Cunningham’s recommendations. Despite repeated requests, the Wynne government refuses to explain why they have not accepted most of Justice Cunningham’s recommendations. Earlier this summer, the Ministry held secret meetings heavily dominated by Tarion and industry representatives related to the future of Tarion. Further, the Wynne government said that even with the limited changes in Bill 166, it is not expected to be implemented until 2020. This leaves Ontarians to continue to suffer. It appears the Wynne government is not serious about consumer protection, nor is this in keeping with the talk about fairness that permeates her communications.



Parliamentary critics are highly critical of Bill 166:



PC Critic McDonnell - "...*Competition in a market with set and enforced minimum standards is a good thing. Competing for the same customer base encourages providers to enhance their produce, reduce their price or improve their service or all of the above. This happens on a daily basis in other businesses and there is no reason to assume consumers would not be well served by a well-regulated, competitive new home warranty marketplace....*"

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/house-proceedings/transcripts/files\\_pdf/19-OCT-2017\\_L107.pdf](http://www.ontla.on.ca/house-proceedings/transcripts/files_pdf/19-OCT-2017_L107.pdf)



NDP Critic Gates: "...*People are putting their entire life into buying a home. When their home is falling apart and they look for the people at Tarion that are supposed to take care of them, and they don't, that's a crisis in that family - a crisis in how they're going to live. Does anyone think that it's right that if my house falls apart I've got to live in my backyard until Tarion gets it fixed? This is serious, and you have an opportunity to fix it once and for all. You should do it. We should all do it. And we should demand that you do it...*"

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/house-proceedings/transcripts/files\\_pdf/23-OCT-2017\\_L108.pdf](http://www.ontla.on.ca/house-proceedings/transcripts/files_pdf/23-OCT-2017_L108.pdf)

The media has been critical too -- **Delayed action on consumer protection for homeowners a sad reflection on provincial government:**

<https://www.thestar.com/amp/life/homes/2017/10/14/delayed-action-on-consumer-protection-for-homeowners-a-sad-reflection-on-provincial-government.html>

**Have your say! Sign our petition now:**

<https://www.change.org/p/kathleen-wynne-end-tarion-s-new-home-warranty-monopoly-now-give-home-buyers-a-choice>



## Can you help?



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## About CPBH

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).

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