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Hello everyone,

We hope the summer months were enjoyable for you and your families, despite the ongoing battle through this second year of the pandemic.

At this time, our thoughts are with those suffering through the **British Columbia floods**. We hope that the assistance coming from the federal government, the armed forces and others will help those affected to get through this devastating crisis.

Our thoughts are also with the family of the **late Peter Silverman**, a long-time member of the CPBH team, who passed away in October. Peter's [accomplishments](#), as he worked in service to others throughout his life, are simply astonishing. We were blessed for many years with his skilled and steadfast support for our consumer advocacy and protection activities as a member of our Advisory Council, making important contributions to the Tarion Review and with the Ontario Ombudsman. We miss him very much.

**Please help us with our fall fundraising.** The cost of our directors' insurance and operations keeps going up, so we really need your help. At the same time, we have had desperate homeowners contact us, some single parents, some in tears, some who say they are being bullied by their warranty provider, all of them stressed out. We are working to help them, but we also have to keep the doors open. Any amount will be gratefully accepted. Please [DONATE NOW](#).

*Karen Somerville and Alan Greenberg*

**Canadians for Properly Built Homes Co-founders**

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



## **New Landscape, New Opportunities**

It has been a busy time at CPBH since the federal election. While the headlines said that the election led to virtually the same government we already had, from our perspective, the event led to important changes in the landscape.

For the first time since CPBH was formed, we have **four federal cabinet ministers** engaged in issues that concern us. While we do not yet have their mandate letters, which should provide some insight into their priorities, we have sketched out the opportunities they have to work together on three initiatives: affordable housing, enhanced consumer protection and the homebuyers' Bill of Rights. You will find the table [here](#).

Canada now has a **Minister of Housing**. While **Ahmed Hussen** was responsible for CMHC before the election, the specific creation of a Minister of Housing is significant. In part, it signals that despite provincial jurisdiction, the federal government sees an important role for itself, has objectives and wants results. A recent Toronto Star article about this is [here](#).

The article states that Minister Hussen's "...first order of business is to bring in the promised homebuyers' bill of rights," which will "...ban so-called blind bidding where bidders can know the asking price of a home but not what other prospective buyers are offering, establish a legal right to home inspection, require "total transparency on the history of recent house sales and on title searches," and the government will move to restrict foreign non-resident home ownership...".

CPBH has written to the Minister and hopes to ascertain whether the right to inspection will apply to new homes as well as to resale homes. We also raised a number of related issues including affordability, the lack of qualified inspectors nation-wide, and the crucial role of code enforcement particularly during this period of intense construction starts.

Indeed, CPBH has written to all four concerned Ministers.

**Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change**, should no doubt be interested in properly built homes given the huge impact of housing on CO<sup>2</sup> emissions. We have brought his attention to the need for code enforcement across the country and asked him to work with the housing minister to streamline national Code development, so it is timely and responsive to today's needs in terms of climate change and energy.

**Johnathan Wilkinson, Minister of Natural Resources**, is responsible for the Energy Star Certified Program. We brought to his attention that while the objectives of the program are laudable, a lack of adequate controls to ensure standards are met has left some homeowners who have contacted us with homes that do not in fact meet the requirements. As well, his department's Greener Home Grants is paying out grants on new homes still under warranty. Brand new homes should not require insulation upgrades, new windows or doors, for example.

As **Minister of Innovation, Science and Innovation, François-Philippe Champagne** has spoken out on the importance of consumer protection as it falls within his mandate. We couldn't agree more. The 2019 Liberal platform called for the creation of an officer of Parliament for Consumer Protection. A successful petition referred the initiative forward for action, however, the election call ended that business. We are calling upon Minister Champagne to renew this effort to give consumers a dedicated voice in our Parliament.



## 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:



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