



Volume 17, no. 1, Spring 2022

Ontario Edition

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Greetings,

CPBH's 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary is in May. What an incredible journey. Remarkable people all over Canada, and in the United States too, have helped us learn and grow and develop an informed voice to speak out for thousands of Canadians fighting for the homes they paid for. In turn, Canadians have reached out to us in their thousands as they search for ways out of the horror that can be a newly built home riddled with building code violations. We have tried our best to help each one.

We sought out and found industry experts, professionals and people with a range of expertise willing to share their time and knowledge. The search for people willing to help us never ends, just like our advocacy. To all these people and organizations, our sincere thanks for your generosity. To those struggling to find solutions, you are not alone. You inspire us and keep us working to do our best.

To those who have donated to CPBH, our doors remain open to help consumers because of you.

Each year, we ask you once again to help us. The task is large, our expenses are increasing, even while we continue to be frugal. As always, no one at CPBH gets paid a cent. We are all volunteers. So please take a moment and **make a donation to our Spring Fundraising Campaign** today (<http://canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com/what-you-can-do/donate/>). Thank you for your support.

Have you checked out the [Media Archives](#) section of our web site (<http://canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com/archives/media-archives/>)? You'll find media coverage of our issues dating back to 2007, some of which may be helpful to consumers as they fight their battles for their homes. We painstakingly saved the articles as documents on our site to ensure links are not lost with age. You are welcome to suggest new articles related to our [Mission and Vision](#) as you find them (<http://canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com/what-were-doing/mission-vision-values/>). We pick up the national and major media stories, but regional and local stories are more difficult for us to track. Please send your suggestions to [info@canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com](mailto:info@canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com). Thanks for your help!

We have updates from the Ontario provincial election for you today, so please read on.

Stay well and enjoy the good weather,

*Karen Somerville and Alan Greenberg*  
Canadians for Properly Built Homes Co-founders

#VoteFordOut2022 #NoUSEDfurnaces #RadonAction #NeverGiveUp #ConsumerProtection #EnforceTheCode  
#TarionIsBeyondRepair #Don'tStopBelievin' #EndTarionMonopolyNOW #DumpTheLAT



## Ontario Election Party Platforms on CPBH Issues (in alphabetical order)

The **Green Party** confirmed in writing their position that a Green Party government would shut down Tarion's monopoly. As well, their commitments include:

- "Enhance consumer protection for new homebuyers by following Justice Cunningham's recommendations. This includes an end to the Tarion monopoly and reforming the home warranty system to create a multi-provider model.
- Ensure greater government oversight of warranty coverage and duration.
- Require an independent provider to adjudicate warranty disputes. The process must require using an organization independent of the warranty provider.
- Standardize pre-construction purchase agreements.
- Put in place adequate consumer protection legislation for private home inspections."

Source: email from Green Party staff to CPBH, April 23, 2022

The **Liberal** platform contains a reference to "...reducing the amount of time it takes to resolve building defects...", thus making repairs to newly built homes easier. The Liberal platform also commits to establishing home inspections as a legal right and regulating home inspectors. While appreciated, these commitments fall short of addressing the serious problems Ontarians face with the new home construction regime.

The **New Blue Party** web site does not refer to CPBH issues of interest.

The **NDP** has been categorical in their written commitment to protect consumers of newly built homes. They will eliminate the Tarion monopoly in keeping with the recommendations of Justice Cunningham.

They have committed to implementing "an Independent Consumer Watchdog that would handle consumer complaints and investigate businesses that violate consumer protection laws." This includes newly built home issues as well as the full range of consumer protection matters, a desperately needed support in a province where it's open season on consumers. You will recall that when the PC government voted this bill down, every other MPP in the legislature voted in favour of it.

The NDP says they will fix Ontario's broken tribunal system – and that includes a review of the Licence Appeal Tribunal, or LAT, which has so mistreated newly built homeowners that almost no one with new home issues goes there anymore. CPBH's [statistical reports](#) have tracked LAT decisions for 15 years now, and show that homeowners rarely win – about an 85% consumer loss rate. The NDP commits to ensuring access to justice in these matters in a timely and fair manner.

The NDP has also committed to proper inspections during construction. Indeed, there is so much support for new home buyers and owners, the fully costed platform needs to be read. See [Homes You Can Afford](#), (in particular, pages 10 and 11) released in early May.

Over the 18 years of CPBH's existence, we have to say that we have not before seen a plan from any party that is as encompassing in addressing the problems of Ontario's new home construction regime. This is not partisan on the part of CPBH, it is evaluative and analytical. Let us know what you think.

The **Ontario Party** web site does not refer issues of interest to CPBH.

The **PCs** have nothing to say about our issues of interest, however, with past performance being the best indicator of future performance, we already know what to expect from this government: more builder protection and more anti-consumer measures.

The cards are on the table and Ontario's new home buyers/owners can take this into consideration as they cast their vote. Buying a newly built home is probably the largest purchase anyone makes.

Every vote matters. Much can happen during the last two weeks of an election. We hope to see as many MPPs elected as possible who support consumer protection for buyers of newly built homes. We'll see where the chips fall.



## **CPBH Deputation on Bill 109: Build More Homes for Everyone Act 2022**

CPBH's President, Dr. Karen Somerville, made a deputation on April 11 that raised questions about the quality of all these proposed homes to be built. Shortly thereafter, the Ontario government started tweeting about housing quality!

You can find about 15 videos of Karen's presentation and questions from three MPPs about housing quality on CPBH's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Here's the presentation: <http://canadiansforproperlybuilthomes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/April-11-2022-final-CPBH-Deputation-re-Bill-109-More-Homes-for-Everyone-Act-2022.pdf> .



### **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@canadiansforproperlybuilthomes.com](mailto:info@canadiansforproperlybuilthomes.com)

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