



BUILDING A GREATER GTA
Building Industry and Land
Development Association



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Industry applauds Province for proposing new building options

Wood is Good: Six-Storey Wood Buildings coming to Ontario

Toronto, March 20, 2014 - The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA), the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) and the Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON) applaud the provincial government's proposal to allow for the construction of six storey wood-frame buildings.

All three Associations recognize the leadership of Premier Kathleen Wynne and Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Linda Jeffrey on this important proposal that provides new building options for the land development and building industry.

"Communities across Ontario, from London to North Bay, will all benefit from the housing, rental and office opportunities that this provincial proposal provides," said Joe Vaccaro, CEO of OHBA, "and we look forward to seeing Ontario projects this year."

Currently, the Ontario Building Code limits wood-frame construction to four storeys. The building industry has long advocated for Ontario to adopt an OBC six storey wood standard similar to what currently exists in British Columbia. B.C. has benefited from over 100 building projects as a result, giving B.C. consumers new housing and rental choices.

"The proposed change would result in the construction of safe, affordable mid-rise buildings that will bring new housing and rental options to our communities and vibrancy to our streets," said BILD President and CEO Bryan Tuckey. "More importantly, we believe this proposal will help cities and towns achieve their goals of planning for the up to 100,000 people and 50,000 jobs that come to the GTA every year."

In May 2013, the Associations' strong planning and economic rationales were outlined in the report, *Unlocking the Potential for Mid-Rise Buildings: Six Storey Wood Structures*, commissioned by BILD and authored by former City of Toronto Chief Planner Paul Bedford.

The report showed that these lands are often well-served by existing infrastructure and transit, and mid-rise buildings can help to meet the demand of the increasing population of the region, offering a variety of sizes and design features for people of all ages.

“Permitting six storey wood structures in Ontario will generate new innovated design options from the building community,” said Richard Lyall, President of RESCON.

OHBA, BILD and RESCON look forward to working with all stakeholders, including the Canadian Wood Council and the Ontario Forestry Industries Association, on this safe and affordable building option.

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About OHBA

The Ontario Home Builders' Association is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 31 local associations across the province. The industry contributes over \$42 billion dollars to Ontario's economy, employing more than 325,000 people across the province.

About BILD

With more than 1,400 members, BILD, formed through the merger of the Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association and Urban Development Institute/Ontario, is the voice of the land development, home building and professional renovation industry in the Greater Toronto Area. BILD is proudly affiliated with the Ontario and Canadian Home Builders' Associations.

About RESCON

RESCON is a builders' organization dedicated to removing barriers to new construction and eliminating unnecessary costs. It coordinates a council of trade contractor associations to address issues of common concern. RESCON represents a melding of the old with the new. It is a streamlining of the ongoing efforts of three groups active in promoting builder interests for over thirty years: the Metropolitan Toronto Apartment Builders Association (MTABA), the Toronto Residential Construction Labour Bureau (TRCLB) and the Durham Residential Construction Labour Bureau (DRCLB). Along with new builder members, RESCON brings a more powerful and concerted builder voice to the many pressing issues which affect the bottom line.

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact Kathryn Segal at the OHBA office at 416-443-1545.