



Current Issues...Ontario

Legislation required to extend the Ombudsman of Ontario's jurisdiction to Tarion

The Issue:

CPBH continues to receive complaints from Ontario consumers about the Tarion Warranty Corporation. Many, including key officials in Ontario's New Democratic Party, have called for the Government of Ontario to extend the Ombudsman of Ontario's jurisdiction to include Tarion. Yet, the Government of Ontario has so far refused to take this step. Last year, André Marin, the current Ombudsman of Ontario, expressed interest in having his office's mandate extended to include Tarion. (Please refer to the Ontario Ombudsman's 2008 report called "Building Clarity" concerning the Government of Ontario and Tarion at this link:

http://www.ombudsman.on.ca/media/18037/calls_for_clarity_finalreport.pdf).

Tarion has recently set up an Ombudsperson's office. The Tarion Ombudsperson will report to the President of Tarion.

Canadians for Properly Built Homes' Position:

CPBH's position is that the Government of Ontario should immediately extend the Ombudsman of Ontario's mandate to include Tarion. It is unacceptable for the Ombudsperson to reside within the Tarion corporate structure. The purchase of a home is the largest purchase most consumers make, and consumers deserve a fully independent Ombudsperson to review their complaints about Tarion.

What can concerned citizens do?

Write or telephone Premier Dalton McGuinty and request that his government extends the Ombudsman of Ontario's mandate to include the Tarion Warranty Corporation. Premier McGuinty's address is: Rm 281, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park Toronto ON M7A 1A4. His e-mail address is: dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org . His telephone number is: 416-325-1941.