

Expert calls for Inquiry into failure to enforce Ontario Building Code for HVAC systems

BRANTFORD, ONTARIO (June 1st, 2015) – Thousands of new home buyers in Ontario have been living with substandard heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

Dara Bowser, of Bowser Technical Inc., a technical consultant specializing in residential HVAC systems, has investigated many cases where he found that certain systems installed in newly built homes failed to meet the minimum standard of the Ontario Building Code. These systems continue to be sold in Ontario. Numerous cases have been brought to the attention of the government and non-government agencies but no action has been taken.

According to CTV's W5 in 2012, more than 50,000 of these systems had been installed in the GTA alone.

Former MPP for Halton, Ted Chudleigh, called for a full investigation into this problem in 2011.

Consumers who purchase new homes expect that the building code regulatory system and warranty agencies will prevent sub-standard systems such as these from being installed. Consumers also expect that when a certain system is found to be sub-standard that something will be done.

In this instance although it has been well established that these systems are sub-standard, none of the agencies who could take action have done so.

This situation is important because it shows how Ontario's system of new home regulation, quality assurance and mandatory warranty does not in fact protect new home purchasers even when significant breaches of the Ontario Building Code occur.

An Inquiry to investigate a failure to enforce the Ontario Building Code is a provision in the Building Code Act of Ontario that may be initiated by the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing.

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