

Speech written and delivered by Catherine, 14 years old, Grade 9 student

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What I am going to discuss is an issue that affects you, me, your children, grandchildren, friends, and other family members.

Welcome to my speech on Bill 60, the Tarion Accountability and Oversight Act. Bill 60 is a private member's bill from MPP Singh. It aims to bring Tarion under the oversight of the Ontario Ombudsman and the Auditor-General. This bill will change Tarion into a publicly-accountable consumer protection agency that is needed by Ontario's new home buyers.

Do you know what Tarion is? Tarion is a private corporation that has a monopoly on the new home warranties. Tarion wants the public to believe that their goal is to protect new homebuyers but in reality, a Tarion warranty is NOT worth the paper it is written on in my opinion. Many new homeowners are disappointed when their builder does not fix their construction problems. They look to Tarion only to find out that Tarion is not a true consumer protection organization. Tarion often delays or avoids to solve the homeowner's problems and thus it protects the builders.

There is not enough consumer protection for buying new homes. You have more protection buying an iPhone than a new house. Canadians do not know who the good and the bad builders are because Tarion does not show updated and complete information on builders.

Since the mid 1980s where many home inspections were discontinued, the quality of home construction has lowered a lot.

The government needs to ensure that a home is properly built with an effective and adequate new home warranty.

Suing is not the solution because most people do not have the money or mental strength to endure an expensive, lengthy, stressful law suit. New home owners are already overwhelmed with moving and setting up household and with fixing poor construction.

So what are some of the main problems with the Tarion Corporation?

There are:

There is a lack of public service

Tarion's board is controlled by the building industry

Licensing poor and marginal builders occurs and it is difficult to remove a builder's license.

Lack of public accountability

Considerable homeowner unhappiness with Tarion's decisions

Let me tell you how this issue has affected me. I recently moved into a new custom home. I thought that we would enjoy our beautiful house. We quickly found out that a leak in one area of the house led to the discovery of more problems. That was just the tip of the iceberg. There were so many huge problems that cropped up. Now I cannot use part of my house and the entire backyard due to the ongoing construction mess. I feel sad that my parents have to deal

with all these things. I know that they worked hard and honestly for their money and wanted to spend it with us enjoying our new home. My siblings and I feel more stressed and anxious. We have less family time. My dad is constantly working. My parents try to keep us in good attitude. They say that we are lucky to have found the problems so quickly before mold really affected our health and we got seriously hurt by loose stones.

So, do YOU want to make a difference in your future? Here is how we can work together to:

Contact your MPP to ask them for support of Bill 60. The Liberals are in power in Ontario. They need to be aware that people want their support of Bill 60. Currently, the builders give a lot of money to the Liberals to keep Tarion the way it is.

You can also sign a petition to support Bill 60. There is also an online petition available.

You can learn more @canadiansforproperlybulthomes.com. The CPBH is a not-for-profit national consumer protection organization which promotes properly built homes.

I want to tell you my story so you know that all is not right in the way construction is done. It is not just a house, it is my family that is affected. I would never want the stress and loss of family time on anyone else. I don't want to be quiet, feel cheated and embarrassed anymore. I want something good to come out of my problem. I am just one person but with you, we are more. Thank you for listening to my story.