

May 25, 2018

Tim Hudak
Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Real Estate Association
99 Duncan Mill Road
Don Mills, ON M3B 1Z2

Dear Mr. Hudak,

Thank you very much for providing us with the opportunity to respond to the Ontario Real Estate Association election questions.

Ontario Liberals believe that everyone should have a safe and affordable place to call home. When families have access to affordable housing, they are better able to reach their full potential.

We have enjoyed collaborating with OREA on a number of significant initiatives over the course of the last mandate and look forward to continuing this productive relationship.

We helped more people purchase their first home through our work to double the maximum Land Transfer Tax refund to \$4,000 for eligible first-time homebuyers, as of January 1, 2017. This has meant that no Land Transfer Tax would be payable on the first \$368,000 of the cost of a first home, and more than half of first-time homebuyers have paid no Land Transfer Tax on the purchase of their home.

In Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan, funding is allocated for free energy audits for pre-sale homes. Providing free audits before selling a home will improve consumer awareness by allowing home buyers to compare homes by energy rating. It will also encourage the uptake of home energy retrofit programs, including Green Ontario Fund programs to save money on insulation, windows, heat pumps, and solar panels.

The Ontario Liberal Party will continue to work with homeowners, realtors, the Green Ontario Fund, and all stakeholders to find the most effective way to assist home owners and home buyers to renovate their homes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money.

As part of our Fair Housing Plan, we committed to working to increase housing supply in Ontario. We did this by creating a housing delivery group to work with municipalities, developers, and other interested parties to bring specific new housing developments to market faster and establishing a development approval roundtable to look at ways to improve the approval process and bring more housing to market.

Ontario Liberal Party

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In November, the work of the Development Approval Roundtable culminated in a 14-point action plan that includes recommendations for better aligning infrastructure and land use planning, supporting forward-looking zoning, providing additional guidance for municipalities implementing provincial land use policies, and creating a task force to determine how best to advance electronic permitting (e-approvals) in Ontario. We intend to continue moving forward with these recommendations and will look for other ways to get housing projects to market faster.

If re-elected, we will explore allowing realtors to incorporate in Ontario.

Thank you again for your continued advocacy and the work that you and your members do each and every day in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen Wynne'.

Kathleen Wynne

Leader, Ontario Liberal Party

Ontario Liberal Party

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