



Weekly Government Relations Report **January 2 – January 4, 2024**

1. Modular Housing Survey

The Ontario Housing Ministry has posted a survey to help inform the development of a modular housing strategy. It's important to note as of Minister Calandra's last announcement, that the attainable housing program the government is developing specifically will use a definition of attainable homes that will apply only to modular home demonstration sites, including surplus provincial lands and surplus lands made available by municipalities, in order to incentivize early development of modular, attainable homes. The Announcement and link to the survey can be found below:

[Survey: Help advance Ontario's modular housing sector | ontario.ca](#)

2. Status of Bills

Bill 153, Building Infrastructure Safely Act, 2023

- November 22nd, Introduced.
- November 27th, second reading debate, referred to Standing Committee on Justice Policy

Bill 151, Improving Real Estate Management Act, 2023

- November 16th, Introduced.
- November 21st, Second Reading Debate
- November 22nd, Referred to Standing Committee on Social Policy

Summary of Legislative Debates and Question Period

The legislature is recessed and will next meet on February 20th, 2024.

Regulatory Registry items pertaining to the Housing Sector

[O. Reg. 1/24: EXCEPTION TO TIME LIMIT FOR STANDARD LOCATE REQUESTS](#)

ONTARIO UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM ACT, 2012

- Regulation filed January 2, 2024
- Sets out the time limits to respond to a locate request for a large excavation or dig site
- Changes the time limit for standard locate requests made with regard to a large excavation or dig site to 10 business days (previously, this was 5)

O. Reg. 2/24: ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

ONTARIO UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM ACT, 2012

- Regulation filed January 2, 2024
- O. Reg 87/23 comes into force in May 2024 instead of April
- New Administrative penalties for the Ontario One Call System will be coming into force May 1st, 2024 instead of April 1st, 2024.

O. Reg. 332/12: BUILDING CODE

Building Code Act, 1992

- current regulation January 1, 2024 – ([e-Laws currency date](#))
- Updates to fees for registration, renewals, etc

3. Ministerial Activity & Event Tracking

(a sampling and summary of events and activities of key Ministers in relation to events they conducted to support housing, construction, or related topics).

Date	Minister	Event	Subject
Jan 4 th	Minister Calandra	Modular Housing Survey Posting	<p>Do you have expertise or opinions about modular housing? The Government of Ontario has begun a 30-day consultation to learn how we can encourage broader adoption of modular homes and other innovative housing technologies that increase housing supply</p> <p>Ontario Housing on X: "Do you have expertise or opinions about modular housing? The Government of Ontario has begun a 30-day consultation to learn how we can encourage broader adoption of modular homes and other innovative housing technologies that increase housing supply. [1/2] https://t.co/iyUpEveThJ" / X (twitter.com) centres like @communitelch! https://t.co/qDoChvrVJJ" / X (twitter.com)</p>

4. Media Scan

(A sampling of notable media stories involving the housing and land development industry. This is not a comprehensive list of media articles but curated to reflect the highlights.)

[Doug Ford's PCs to scrap fundraiser after Greenbelt scandal \(thestar.com\)](#)

The "leader's dinner" set a record for Canadian political parties last March, bringing in \$6 million to the Progressive Conservatives' campaign coffers.

[Toronto just saw the worst year for home sales in 23 years \(thestar.com\)](#)

Roughly 66,000 homes were sold in 2023, the lowest sales recorded since 2000. By comparison, home sales reached a record 121,000 during the 2021 real estate frenzy.

[Appeal dismissed, paving way for North York modular housing project | CTV News](#)

A modular housing development in North York for people exiting homelessness can go ahead as planned, the province's land planning tribunal has ruled.

[Markham, Ont., developer fined, ordered to pay restitution for illegally selling homes - Toronto | Globalnews.ca](#)

A Markham, Ont.,-based developer has been ordered to pay almost \$185,000 in fines and restitution after pleading guilty at an Ontario court to illegally selling new homes.

[Ford's chief said he'd 'check with officials' in late 2021 about Greenbelt change: email - Barrie News \(barrietoday.com\)](#)

Key witnesses the integrity commissioner spoke to said changes weren't considered until 2022

[Ontario plans 'massive amounts of density' along transit lines | Globalnews.ca](#)

Ontario's housing minister is telling people who live near transit stations to get used to and embrace an influx of new buildings as the province plans for "massive amounts of density" along transit lines.

[Kingston, Ont., smashes 2023 provincial housing starts goal - Kingston | Globalnews.ca](#)

After the province passed the "More Homes Built Faster" act in 2023, Kingston has more than passed its expected goal for 2023 housing starts.

[Almost 4,000 Toronto buildings could soon lose protection from demolition \(blogto.com\)](#)

Thousands of historic buildings in Toronto are potentially on the brink of losing their heritage status by the end of 2024, and the process of fully protecting all of the properties on the chopping block is proving to be a burdensome task.

5. GR Activities summary for the week of January 2 - 4

- Counsel is continuing to monitor and engage in conversation for any developments on the changes to Peel Region mentioned by the government now that the dissolution of Peel Region is no longer going forward.
- Counsel is beginning to draft a written budget submission for the 2024 Ontario budget consultations.
- Counsel continues to provide strategic advice on the deposit trust and illegal buildings issue, including writing a draft of a position paper on illegal building.
- Counsel began working with OHBA on the Job Fund application project for eventual submission to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration Training and Skills Development.
- Ongoing strategic counsel and advice to the Board and staff of OHBA.