

THE WEEKLY VOICE

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# New Steps Soon To Protect Condo Buyers

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questioning its objectivity. The government is taking action by:

- Establishing a separate regulator from Tarion for new home builders and vendors to address conflicts of interest.
  - Planning to introduce legislative amendments that, if passed, will enable the government to require Tarion to make executive and board compensation publicly available and move to a more balanced skills-based board composition.
  - Exploring the feasibility of a multi-provider insurance model for new home warranties and protections in Ontario.
  - Introducing new initiatives to better inform and protect purchasers of cancelled condominium projects.
- Tarion is expected to continue to provide services to new home owners, builders and vendors during the transformation with greater government oversight.
- The Honourable Justice Douglas Cunningham released a 2016 independent report with several recommendations on transforming Tarion. Noted in the report is an inherent conflict of interest



**Pulwama: The site on on the Srinagar-Jammu highway where the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troopers were killed and several others injured in a suicide attack (Photo: IANS)**

in the current structure of Tarion that leaves new home owners vulnerable. "Establishing a separate regulator for new home builders and vendors addresses the current conflict of interest with Tarion," said Walker. "Today's announcement will help make Tarion more accountable and transparent and provide quality service for the people of Ontario."

The initiatives announced on Wednesday support the govern-

ment's broader housing supply action plan by helping to remove barriers to home ownership.

"I have heard countless stories from families in my riding who have experienced difficulties with Tarion Warranty Corporation," said David Piccini, MPP for Northumberland - Peterborough South. Ontario has further asked Tarion to work with the Condominium Authority of Ontario to better inform people of

the potential risks associated with pre-construction condominiums.

- New homes built for resale or under contract with an owner must be enrolled in the statutory home warranty program.
- In 2017, 68,945 new homes were enrolled in the warranty program — 46 per cent of which were condominium units.
- In 2017, 5,549 builders and vendors were registered with Tarion.

# 'Immigrants Need Help To Contribute To Canada'

Continued from page 1

and Resettlement Assistance are two separate programs, they will be administered through one intake process under CFP 2019. Proposals will be assessed based on their individual merits and other considerations, such as ensuring the proposed services are widely available, avoiding duplication of services, and ensuring good value for taxpayer's money.

This CFP, in conjunction with several key enhancements to the Settlement Program such as the streamlining of pre-arrival services and the launch of a pilot to support visible minority newcomer women in accessing the Canadian labour market, represents the achievement of the



**Minister of Immigration Ahmed Hussen chats with GTA YMCA President and CEO Medhat Mahdy (right) about pre-arrival services. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Frank Gunn**

Minister's mandate commitment to ensure high quality settlement services. Ahmed Hussen, Minis-

ter of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, said: "The Government of Canada is committed to

ensuring that newcomers have the support and services they need to make the most of their talents and experience in order to fully integrate and contribute to the Canadian economy and to their communities. The supports and services delivered to newcomers through IRCC's programs are world class and help to make Canada a recognized international leader in settlement and integration."

- In 2019-20, IRCC will invest nearly \$778 million to support the settlement needs of newcomers across the provinces and territories (except Quebec).
- In spring 2019, IRCC will be seeking applications through a second process that will focus on indirect settlement services that are not included in the first CFP 2019 (e.g., sector capacity building).
- Applications for the first CFP 2019 are due before 5:00 p.m. PST on April 12, 2019.
- Funding for recommended projects is expected to begin on April 1, 2020 and will end no later than March 31, 2025.

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## Health Canada Warning On Cough And Cold Products

TORONTO: Health Canada says children and adolescents under age 18 should not use cough and cold products that contain opioids.

A safety review by the federal department found there is limited evidence to support the effectiveness of the potent narcotics in cough and cold products in children and teens.

The review found no strong evidence linking such products with opioid-use disorders in young Canadians, but it did determine their early use may be a factor in problematic substance use later in life.

Three prescription opioids are authorized to treat cough symptoms in Canada: codeine, hydrocodone and normethadone. Codeine is also available without a prescription in low-dose formulations to treat coughs and colds over the counter. Health Canada advises parents to ask their health-care practitioner about alternatives to cough and cold products containing opioids for children and adolescents.

The use of these opioid-containing products has been declining among patients under age 18 in the last five years, with prescriptions for that age group now making up just four per cent of the total dispensed to Canadians.