NDP blamed for new homes modest increase

"The threat of tax increases in the Provincial budget and the uncertainty surrounding the Social Contract negotiations combined to overpower the positive forces of housing affordability and choice in May," said the president of the Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association in his monthly report on sales activity."

Murray Koebel said sales of new homes in the Greater Toronto Area totaled 850 in May, down 3% from the 875 sold during the same period last year. Year-to-date sales stand at 4,675, up 3% from the 4,535 homes sold to the end of May, 1992.

Koebel said the 850 sales repreent 2,125 jobs*, bringing the number of jobs created by the industry so far this year to more than 11,500.

"Although we welcome the modest year-to-date sales increase, we expected a stronger result during the first five months. Significant growth in the second half of the year is dependent upon many issues, including a speedy resolution of the confidence-eroding Social Contract process," he said.

Koebel also called on the Minister of Housing, Evelyn Gigantes, to delay implementation of a package of Building Code amendments which will increase the cost of residential construction. "The timing of her costly proposals couldn't be worse," he said.

Housing Data Report (HDR), prepared by Brethour Research Associates for the GTHBA, stated that May new home sales consisted of 600 freehold units (70.5%) and 250 condominiums (29.5%)

In addition to reporting Greater Toronto Area sales, HDR compiled sales by GTHBA member builders active in regions outside the regular tracking area. The 56 sales were distributed as follows: Barrie, 14; Orangeville, 6; Georgetown, Innisfil and Wasaga Beach, 5 each; Peterboro, Tillsonberg and Waterloo, 4 each; Stoney Creek, 3; Grimsby, 2 and Lindsay, Bolton, Kleinberg and Niagara-on-the-Lake, 1 each.

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