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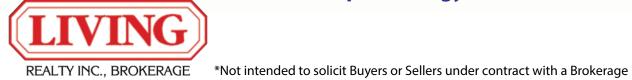
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LIVIII 9 in North York The Real Estate Market Watch

Ontario Announces Measures to Cool Housing Market



TORONTO - The Ontario government announced its wide-ranging plan to cool the housing market on Thursday morning with a series of measures speculative buyers.

buyer tax last year, the proposed Non-Resident Speculation Tax would add a 15% levy to "transfers of land that contain at least one and not more than another person before closing. six single family residences". The tax would apply to purchases in the Greater would be effective as of 21 April, 2017.

Stressing that "Ontario is still open for business", Ontario's Finance Minister Charles Sousa revealed that certain exceptions will be made, with the tax not applying to refugees and people nominated under the Ontario Immigration Nominee Program, for example. Sousa also listed a number of potential rebates for students and people who work in Ontario after purchasing a proptect consumers and "improve the home buying experience".

That wasn't the only measure announced by Sousa, Premier Kathleen Wynn, and Housing Minister Chris Ballard during their press conference in Liberty Village. Following recent stories of huge rent increases in Toronto, notable inclusions for renters were added to the plan.

As anticipated by many, rent controls will be expanded to include all private rental units in Ontario. Previously, the controls did not apply to buildings built after November 1991 and it is hoped this expansion will help address the rapidly increasing rental prices in and around Toronto.

To further improve the supply of rental units, the plan states that the "province will also work with municipalities and other partners to identify provincially owned surplus lands that could be used for affordable and rental housing development". It also introduces a \$125 million rebate program to encourage the development of new rental apartment buildings.

called Ontario's Fair Housing Plan, highlighted by a 15% tax on non-resdient In another widely talked about move, the plan mentions a new effort to "understand and tackle practices that may be contributing to tax avoidance and excessive speculation in the housing market". In particular, it mentions the Following on the heels of British Colombia, which implemented a foreign practice of "paper flipping", which involves people entering into an agreement to buy a new home but then selling that agreement and assigning it to

Golden Horseshoe and would affect foreign corporations and people who Another move came in the form of measures to address vacant homes. The are not citizens or permanent residents. If passed, it is expected that the tax plan introduces legislation that would allow Toronto and other municipalities to tax owners of vacant homes. Estimates vary as to the number of vacant homes in the GTA, but the aim of such a tax is to encourage the owners to either rent the homes or sell them, thus adding to the supply of homes.

> Most notable for real estate professionals was an announcement of a plan to review the rules that real estate agents are required to follow in order to pro-





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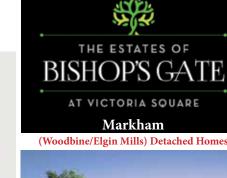




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Strong Growth in New Listings in April

May 3, 2017 -- Toronto Real Estate Board President Larry Cerqua announced that Greater Toronto Area REAI TORS° entered 33.6 per cent more new listings into TREB's MLS° System in April 2017, at 21,630, compared to th ame month in 2016. New listings were up by double-digits for all low-rise home types, including detached an emi-detached houses and townhouses. New listings for condominium apartments were at the same level as la

Total sales for the TREB market area as a whole amounted to 11,630 – down 3.2 per cent year-over-year. One issu underlying this decline was the fact that Easter fell in April in 2017 versus March in 2016, which resulted in fewe orking days this year compared to last and, historically, most sales are entered into TREB's MLS® System on work

"The fact that we experienced extremely strong growth in new listings in April means that buyers benefitted fro considerably more choice in the marketplace. It is too early to tell whether the increase in new listings was simp ue to households reacting to the strong double-digit price growth reported over the past year or if some of th ncrease was also a reaction to the Ontario government's recently announced Fair Housing Plan," said Mr. Cerqu The MLS® Home Price Index (HPI) Composite Benchmark Price was up by 31.7 per cent yearover- year in Ap 2017. Similarly, the average selling price for all home types combined was up by 24.5 per cent to \$920,791.

It was encouraging to see a very strong year-over-year increase in new listings. If new listings growth contin outpace sales growth moving forward, we will start to see more balanced market conditions. It will likely take mber of months to unwind the substantial pent-up demand that has built over the past two years. Expect annu ates of price growth to remain well-above the rate of inflation as we move through the spring and summer month aid Jason Mercer, TREB's Director of Market Analysis.

Sales & Average Price by Major Home Type - April 2017

		Sales		Average Price									
	416 905 Total					Total		Sales			Average Price		
2017	710		1000	-110		7000	Year over Year % Change	416	905	Total	416	905	Total
Detached	1,268	4,447	5.715	\$1.578.542	\$1,098,827	\$1,205,262	Detached	-8.7%	-4.1%	-5.1%	25.2%	24.5%	24.3%
Semi - Detached	321	704	1,025	\$1,104,047	\$727,218	\$845,230	Semi - Detached	-13.2%	-7.4%	-9.3%	22.4%	27.0%	24.2%
Townhouse	381	1,288	1,669	\$793,129	\$673,942	\$701,150	Townhouse	-13.2%	-7.5%	-8.9%	29.7%	30.7%	30.1%
Condo Apartment	2,148	865	3,013	\$578,280	\$449,792	\$541,392	Condo Apartment	8.0%	6.9%	7.7%	32.3%	31.0%	32.1%



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