

Ontario residential strikes come to an end

by DCN News Services Jun 20, 2016

TORONTO—Residential strikes that have plagued Ontario's home-building industry have ended as the five remaining sectors without new collective agreements prepare to go to binding arbitration, the **Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON)** has announced.



Labour legislation introduced after a fractious round of bargaining in 1998 mandates that all remaining outstanding issues in contract negotiations be decided through binding arbitration once a pre-determined deadline has been reached.

Three-year contracts in the sector expired April 30, and heading into the June 15 arbitration deadline only negotiations involving drywall, trim, tile, taper and low-rise electrical trades had not been settled, said RESCON.

Trim workers, members of Carpenters and Allied Workers Local 27, were stalemated in talks with the Trim Association of Ontario. The International Systems Construction Association has been negotiating with the Carpenters' Drywall, Acoustic, Lathing and Insulation Local 675. Marble, tile and terrazzo workers represented by Labourers' International Union of North America Local 183 had rejected a settlement proposed by the Residential Tile Construction Association on May 20.

New-home builders are working quickly to assess their current projects to determine the extent of potential delays, said RESCON.

The impact of the strike will depend on the status of houses and projects before the strikes began. Homes waiting for drywall, trim, tile, taper or electrical work will be impacted relatively more than houses at other stages of construction.