



For Immediate Release: March 4, 2009

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Summary of Annual Meeting of CCBFC - February 22 & 23, 2009

On February 22 & 23, the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) held their Annual Meeting in Halifax, NS. Here is a brief summary containing items of interest to CIPH members:

1. **Membership** – in line with the new five-year code cycle, all existing Standing Committees are reviewing their membership and are inviting participation. CIPH members may want to considering putting their name forward for:
 - a) The Standing Committee on Building and Plumbing Services (Part 6);
 - b) The Standing Committee on Housing and Small Buildings (Part 9);
 - c) The Model National Energy Code for Buildings.

All interested parties should contact Anne Gribbon (anne.gribbon@nrc.gc.ca) to submit their C.V. for consideration.

2. **Fragmentation of Codes** – CIPH made a presentation outlining our concerns regarding the fragmentation of the Canadian codes system, including the concern that the model national codes are not providing the leadership required on issues of concern to jurisdictions such as water-use and energy efficiency. The Commission is beginning to recognize this deficiency and has issued the following response:
 - a) The Model National Energy Code for Buildings will be complete by the end of 2011;
 - b) There is a new Joint Task Group on Energy Efficiency for Houses. They anticipate having a document ready for 2012;
 - c) There is a new Joint Task Group on Harmonizing of Provincial/Territorial and National Codes. CIPH has been invited to sit on this committee;
 - d) Water-use and energy efficiency are being added as new objectives of the next code cycle, due 2015;
 - e) Strategic planning has been done and the Commission has created a committee to address responsiveness and timeliness issues;
 - f) There is no appetite from the provinces/territories to have the code cycle move from 5 years to a more rapid cycle.

In the meantime, CIPH will work with the Provincial/Territorial Policy Advisory Committee on Codes (PTPACC) to create interim guidelines on water-use and energy efficiency for jurisdictions to consider. This should help eliminate some of the fragmentation that would otherwise occur.

3. **The Model National Energy Code for Buildings** – This relatively new Standing Committee is on target to update the existing Code by the end of 2011. At this point, it appears that it will attempt to match the requirements in ASHRAE 90.10. These requirements are slightly above and beyond the targets that Canadian Provincial Premiers established in 2008 (i.e. 25% reduction in energy consumption by 2020).

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4. **Solar Collectors** – It was raised that in Ontario, the Building Code is sometimes viewed as a barrier in the uptake of incentive programs (i.e. it may be difficult to get building permits). It appears more clarification is needed in the code on this matter.
5. **Additions to Part 6** – The Standing Committee on Building and Plumbing Services has added some new tasks to their work plan. These include:
 - Stainless steel is being added;
 - The section on cleanouts is being updated for education purposes;
 - Thermal insulation may be added, but not from an energy conservation perspective. Instead it is the safety perspective that is driving this (i.e. hot steam pipes are a burn hazard – or – chilled water systems may need thermal insulation in order to avoid moisture and mold);
 - CSA B483 may be added;
 - There have been technological advances in air admittance valves. The Committee will review the restrictions on this to see if they can be lifted now that technology has advanced;
 - The Committee is seeking advice on humidification and temperature control. (i.e. related to mold growth, health and safety to low humidity where large amounts of dry air are being introduced into the building).

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