Steering Through the Building Code Process in Canada

Wildland Fire Canada Conference

Kelowna, B.C.

October 26, 2016 | Shayne Mintz: NFPA - Canadian Regional Director
When we’re done – you should be aware of...

• The Canadian National Model Building and Fire Codes System and Canadian Codes Council
• What are the National Model Construction Codes and how are they managed/administered
• How are the Codes developed and updated
• If you find something wrong with the Codes that need to be changed, what do you do?
• How to go about making a change to the Codes.

* All material is from CCBFC website - http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
Structure of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Construction Industry and Public

PTPACC  CCBFC  Executive Committee

Technical Translation Verification Committee  Task Groups and Working Groups

SC-EEB  SC-ES  SC-HMA  SC-HSB  SD-UE

SC-ED  SC-FP  SC-HP  SC-SD

Standing Committees
- Energy Efficiency in Buildings (SC-EEB)
- Earthquake Design (SC-ED)
- Environmental Separation (SC-ES)
- Fire Protection (SC-FP)
- Hazardous Materials and Activities (SC-HMA)
- Housing and Small Buildings (SC-HSB)
- HVAC and Plumbing (SC-HP)
- Structural Design (SC-SD)
- Use and Egress (SC-UE)

Task Groups and Working Groups
How to make a Code Change Request

- What should be considered in a CCR
  - New construction techniques and practises
- What to include in a CCR
  - Existing and proposed requirements
- Consideration by Code Committee
  - Complete and what to be changed
- Clarity
- Focus On Generic/Widespread issues
- Focus on Technical issues
Making Code Changes

• When a code change is being considered, what information and factors are taken into account? What factors are not considered? Why?
  – What’s the problem
  – What’s the proposed Solution
  – What Objectives and/or Functional Statements will be enhanced with the change
  – What are the cost/benefits
  – What enforcement implications are there
Code Change Process

• How does a person propose a code change? What is involved, and do you need to be an “expert” to do this?
  – Submission
  – Work Plan
  – Review
  – Pre-Public Review
  – Public Review
  – Post Public Review
  – CCBFC Approval
  – Translation
Making Code Changes

• I understand that I can provide input to the CCBFC, but my building code is managed by my province. Can I also discuss code issues with my provincial government? If so, who do I talk to?
Making Code Changes

• Can the code development process respond quickly to emerging issues, or must everything wait until the end of each five-year cycle? Does it take long to make changes to the Codes?

• What is the “consensus-based decision-making process” that is used to update and produce the Codes and how does it work? Why is it important?

• Why do the National Model Construction Codes only set minimum standards of health and safety? What is meant by “minimum requirements”? 
Objective Based Codes

• What is an objective-based Code?
• Can a requirement be added to the Codes that is not related to one of the stated objectives?
Code Council Priorities

• How do the Codes address climate change?
• How do the Codes address energy efficiency?
• How do the Codes address resource conservation?

• Why are requirements to protect communities from wildfires not in the National Model Construction Codes?
Questions

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Thank You

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