

November 13, 2008

Public Review of Residential Mid-Rise Wood-Frame Code Change Proposals

Plans for new BC Building Code requirements to increase the maximum height for wood-frame residential construction from four to six storeys were announced in May of this year by Minister Rich Coleman. These new code requirements are scheduled to be in place in January 2009.

The Province is committed to ensuring the proposed changes to the code receive a high level of scrutiny and due diligence. As part of this commitment, the Province is conducting research, working with leading experts and a wide variety of stakeholders, and conducting technical analysis to address issues related to the proposed BC Building Code requirements.

Technical advisory groups were established including representatives from local governments, the provincial government, the construction industry, engineers, architects, developers, contractors, building officials, fire officials, insurers, consumer advocacy representatives and others. These groups examined and provided advice on technical and implementation issues related to:

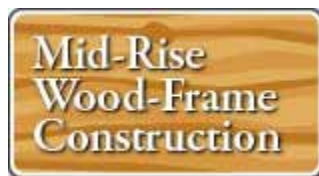
- Fire safety (during and after construction);
- Wood shrinkage and building envelope integrity;
- Seismic and structural design; and
- Administrative issues and education and training needs.

Consultants with expertise in fire, structural, seismic and building envelope engineering provided advice to the Province on risks, mitigation strategies and appropriate code language. Their advice informs the basis of the proposed code changes.

Throughout this process, the Province has also received a number of useful suggestions for general improvements to the regulation of construction in BC. These suggestions will be helpful to inform future code development. The review will close on December 15, 2008, and all feedback will be considered in the preparation of the amendments to the BC Building Code.

We Want to Hear From You

You can provide your comments on the proposed code changes to allow mid-rise wood-frame construction for residential buildings by clicking on this button:



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