



## MEMBER NOTICE

**TO:** Mayor and Council  
Chair and Regional District Board  
Administrator  
Director of Planning  
Director of Engineering

**FROM:** Richard Taylor, Executive Director  
Ken Vance, Senior Policy Advisor

**DATE:** May 1, 2007

**RE: MODERNIZATION STRATEGY:  
BUILDING REGULATORY SYSTEM**

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The Building Policy Branch in the Ministry of Forests & Range and Minister Responsible for Housing is arranging regional meetings to discuss a proposal to change to how the BC Building Code is enforced. Attached is a backgrounder that gives more details on the proposed changes, which are part of a broader Modernization Strategy.

The Modernization Strategy is a provincial government initiative intended to improve the effectiveness of the building safety regulatory system. During the past two years, over 150 individuals, including local government representatives, have been involved in discussions to shape the Strategy. During the consultations, the Strategy team, has heard that responsibilities for Building Code enforcement aren't clearly defined; and that when building inspections are reduced or discontinued, or do not focus on areas of highest risk, there are impacts on building safety. The Branch has also heard about the value to industry of third-party review of building design and construction.

The proposed Modernization Strategy is intended to improve Building Code compliance by:

- requiring Province-wide enforcement of the Building Code by local governments or other third parties, such as the BC Safety Authority or a private-sector agency;
- requiring inspections of specific high-risk areas of buildings under construction.

The Modernization Strategy team will be visiting your region in May or June (date and location to be announced) to present more information, answer questions you may have and get your input on the proposal