



MEMBER NOTICE

TO: Mayor and Council
Chair and Regional District Board
Administrator

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

DATE: May 15, 2007

**RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION:
BUILDING REGULATORY SYSTEM**

The Building Policy Branch in the Office of Housing and Construction Standards is arranging regional meetings to discuss a proposal to change to how the BC Building Code is applied and enforced. Information on meeting dates and locations is attached. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

The proposed Modernization Strategy and its proposals are intended to clarify the regulation of building construction to result in:

1. Increased Public Safety
 - Required inspection of public buildings under construction in rural areas (i.e. resorts and lodges etc.) and of high risk areas of buildings generally.
2. Certainty in Code Enforcement and Delivery of Building Inspection Services
 - 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.
3. Clarity and Guidance on Application of the Code
 - Provincial authority to provide interpretation bulletins on the meaning of the Building Code that are legally binding.

The province is looking for feedback and direction from local government elected officials and senior staff from local government on a number of questions, such as:

- What are local government views on a requirement for province-wide Building Code enforcement, including inspections (i.e. for public buildings and high risk areas/buildings etc.)?
- What approach should be taken?
 - Should local government have the choice whether or not to provide building inspection services to enforce the Building Code and the province take on the service where there is no inspection;

- Or should local government continue to manage the service and delegate responsibility for building inspection services, if it chooses, not to deliver the service directly?
- Who should pay for the inspection service, if it is required, province-wide (i.e local owner; local government; province etc.)?

MEETING DATES

June 6, 2007 – Burnaby

Hilton Vancouver Metrotown

1 pm to 4 pm

Registration: Lower Mainland Local Government Association will be sending out registration information for the meeting.

June 20, 2007 – Prince George

Coast Inn of the North

1 pm to 4 pm

Registration: North Central Municipal Association will be sending out registration information for the meeting.

June 22, 2007 – Kelowna

Best Western Inn

9 am to 12 noon

Registration: Southern Interior Local Government Association will be sending out registration information for the meeting.

July 4, 2007 – Terrace

City of Terrace – City Hall

TBD

Registration: City of Terrace will be sending out registration information for the meeting.

July 6, 2007 – Creston

Town of Creston – City Hall

1 pm to 4 pm

Registration: Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government will be sending out registration information for the meeting.