



Office of the
Fire Commissioner



Fire Safety Act—Update

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Outline

- **History—timeline**
- **Rationale**
- **Key objectives**
- **Key messages**
- **Communication**
- **Main issues**
- **Approach**
- **Next steps and commitment**

Fire Safety Act—single standard of fire safety

- **2015**—decision to replace the *Fire Services Act* with the *Fire Safety Act* (FSA)
- **2016**—FSA receives royal assent; not brought into force
- **2018 to 2022**—single standard of fire safety introduced; addition of risk-based compliance monitoring to regional district responsibilities
- **2022 to 2024**—Single Standard of Fire Safety Working Group formed to explore options for bringing the FSA into force; FSA FCABC Working Group formed
- **2023 (summer)**—updated direction to bring the FSA into force as enacted in 2016 without, i.e., no amendment to require risk-based compliance monitoring of public buildings in regional districts

Fire Safety Act—rationale

- *Fire Safety Act* (FSA) is the modernized replacement for the *Fire Services Act*
- Features include:
 - implementation of risk-based compliance monitoring system(s) to identify higher-risk buildings in municipalities
 - administrative penalty system to incentivize owner compliance
 - more efficient enforcement of the fire legislation and codes
- FSA provides needed enforcement tools to ensure owner/occupier compliance with fire codes and fire safety legislation

Fire Safety Act—key objectives

Take enforcement out of the court system and into an administrative enforcement model by:

- clarifying who may issue corrective orders, when they may be issued, and for what they may be issued
- developing an administrative monetary penalty scheme
- creating an internal administrative review (appeal) process for orders and for monetary penalties.
- allowing local governments and the Province to take immediate and effective action for owners who refuse to comply with the legislation

Clarify the role and responsibilities of the OFC related to building inspections and fire investigations by eliminating the local assistant to the fire commissioner (LAFC) system

Clarify the role and responsibilities of local governments related to primary delivery of fire prevention services

Single standard of fire safety— communication

- The *Fire Safety Act* was passed in 2016, but not brought into force.
- Since early 2022 the OFC has been working with UBCM, FCABC, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs
- The Minister has expressed his interest in the OFC advancing the file and continuing to collaborate with the working groups
- The OFC cannot be specific on legislative timelines

Fire Safety Act—main issues

- General support for a single standard of fire safety
- Main issue:
 - Expertise, capacity, funding needed for regional districts to meet the requirement to designate inspectors and investigators

Fire Safety Act—approach

- **Mandated service**—Inspectors and investigators must be designated once the FSA comes into force; training must occur by the end of the first year (minimum)
- **Agreement**—OFC will support regional district inspections and investigations when requested
- **Mechanism**—Inspectors and Investigators Procedure Document
- **Cost**—Cost-neutral
- **Post-FSA coming into force**—FSA may be amended to address issues that arise during implementation

Fire Safety Act—next steps and commitment

- OFC will continue to work with the FSA FCABCWG Group on the operational documents and training required to implement the FSA
- Through the SSFSWG, OFC, UBCM, regional districts, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs will continue to collaborate and explore options for addressing outstanding concerns to bring the FSA into force and support its implementation
- The direction will address the expertise, capacity and funding issues raised by regional districts—will be cost-neutral



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Questions?

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