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Yukon adopts new energy efficient building standards

WHITEHORSE—New energy efficiency standards are now in effect for Yukon home builders.

"Implementing these standards for new home construction or renovation demonstrates the Yukon government's commitment to increasing our energy efficiency," Minister of Community Services Currie Dixon said. "The territory is now on par with the rest of the country when it comes to energy-efficient home construction."

The adoption of section 9.36 of Canada's National Building Code follows a thorough review by a special advisory committee on energy efficiency. The committee, which included members of the local building construction community, considered the territory's climate and geography and the types of construction preferred by Yukoners.

Committee members sought feedback from their respective building communities, spoke with energy efficiency code development experts in other Canadian jurisdictions and considered public comments. They recommended some Yukon-specific amendments to the new regulations, while still requiring builders to meet the overall Energuide rating of 78 out of 100 required by the National Building Code energy efficiency section.

The core requirements of the National Building Code include effective insulation levels in floors, walls and ceilings, minimum U-values for all doors and windows and minimum performance ratings for all furnaces and water heaters.

The changes have little effect on the City of Whitehorse building standards which generally exceed the requirements of the National Building Code.

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