



FOR RELEASE
January 8, 2015

National Building Code will be adopted, equipped with Yukon standards

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon government has accepted recommendations for the application of new, national energy efficiency standards in the territory. The recommendations were made by a special advisory committee.

"I thank the committee for their expertise in reviewing all impacts these new standards might have on residential construction in Yukon," Minister of Community Services Brad Cathers said. "We believe that any building standards adopted in Yukon must be relevant and appropriate for the types of construction Yukoners may choose to build."

Experienced log-home builders, home construction contractors and other stakeholders were invited last fall to sit on the advisory committee, review each part of Section 9.36 of the National Building Code and provide recommendations.

Committee members sought feedback from their respective building communities. Members also considered public comments and spoke with energy efficiency code development experts in other Canadian jurisdictions.

The committee recommended that Section 9.36 be adopted for Yukon as an energy efficiency standard with specific modifications, including provisions that:

- support log home construction;
- ensure buildings that are unheated or only occasionally heated are exempt from Section 9.36; and
- set a minimum ceiling insulation standard of R40.

More consultation will be sought on two recommendations regarding:

- the proposed inclusion of commercial buildings; and
- whether standards should change depending on the size of the building, for example when renovations are made to enlarge a home.

"Until recommendations are legislated as regulations, current exemption from compliance with the new energy efficiency standards in Section 9.36 of the National Building Code will continue," Cathers said. "This does not affect City of Whitehorse building standards which are established by municipal bylaw."

See backgrounder for a complete list of the recommendations provided by the committee.

-30-

Contacts:

Elaine Schiman
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Bonnie Venton Ross
Communications, Community Services
867-393-6907
bonnie.ventonross@gov.yk.ca

Advisory committee recommendations regarding National Building Code Section 9.36

The Committee has reviewed the information available, both fact and opinion-based, and believes that there should be a minimum energy efficiency standard in Yukon.

The Committee puts forward the following recommendations for consideration by the Minister:

- That all of Section 9.36 be included in Yukon law as building standards, with the option of recommending specific additional standards.
- The Committee recommends the following specific additional standards:
 1. That changes to Section 9.36 be made to:
 - a. eliminate the requirement to insulate crawlspace floors.
 - b. require R40 nominal insulation values for all ceiling types/assemblies.
 2. That an independent and knowledgeable body be contracted to review the recommendations and assist in the crafting of recommendations into regulations.
 3. That buildings under 480 square feet of living area to be exempt from Section 9.36.
 4. That solid wood wall structures (i.e. log walls) must meet the following minimum standards:
 - a. machined timbre must have a minimum nominal eight-inch thickness;
 - b. natural and machined round-logs must have an average 10-inch minimum diameter; and
 - c. both framed walls and components of a solid wood wall home must comply with Section 9.36.
 5. That while already identified in Section 9.36, for greater clarity buildings that are not required to be conditioned – or only required to be conditioned on an occasional basis – be exempt from Section 9.36.
 6. That an easy-to-read code primer, similar to the document produced by the province of British Columbia, be adopted.
 7. That it be ensured contractors and the general public are made aware that the Building Standards Appeal board exists and that anyone can access this board. The mandate of the board is:

Any person aggrieved by the denial or cancellation of a permit, or by an interpretation of the building code by a public officer or municipal official, may appeal that decision to the board.
 8. That the Government of Yukon adopt the National Energy Code for all buildings (i.e. commercial buildings).
 9. That the Government of Yukon inform the public that the standards in an amended Section 9.36 only reflect minimum standards. Further, the public be informed by the Yukon

government that all Yukoners are free to invest in energy efficiency beyond these standards.

10. That Yukon should consider a long term review of the incremental standards that would require a higher standard of energy efficiency for larger structures, reflecting the reality that a larger building will have a greater impact on the environment.

News Release #15-001



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here: <http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.