

**Joint CCBFC/PTCBS Task-Group on  
Implementation of a New Code Development System  
Report of the Sixth Meeting  
3 & 4, April, 2000  
Victoria, B.C.**

**Members present**

Chair: Bruce Clemmensen  
Ann Borooah  
Jeannot Fecteau  
Tim Macaulay  
Rick McCullough  
Dick Miller  
Krystyna Paterson  
Ross Rettie  
Ted Ross  
Chuck Sanderson  
Bob Thompson  
Chris Tye  
Yaman Uzumeri

**Members Absent**

Chris Fillingham  
Tom Makey

**IRC Staff:**

Bob Bowen  
Richard Desserud  
John Archer

**Visitors:**

Fred Nicholson- Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Rod McPhee- CWC  
Gerry Buydens- B.C. Ministry of Finance and  
Corporate Relations  
John Robertson- City of Vancouver  
Douglas Watt- City of Vancouver  
Easton Lexier- Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Jack Robertson- ULC  
Steve Batt- B. C. Ministry of Social  
Development & Economic Policy

**Review of the Report of the 5th Meeting.**

The report of the 5th meeting was approved with minor editorial changes..

**Meeting of the Deputies- Draft Meeting Report**

The format of the meeting report was discussed. It was agreed that the long version distributed by John Archer would be the formal record of the meeting. P/T Staff will be reminded to submit comments on the draft.

There was concern over making the report public since discussions at DM meetings are normally not released. However, the CCBFC needs to be advised of the discussions and recommendations and CCBFC materials become part of the public record.

It was agreed that once comments have been received on the meeting report, Dr. Carty will write to the Deputies, enclosing the meeting report and asking for authority to submit it to the CCBFC. A communiqué will also be included suitable for inclusion in publications such as the IRC "Construction Innovation"

It was also agreed that the issue of communications of the meeting outcomes be a part of the agenda for future DM meetings

March 7, 2000

## **Participation of the City of Vancouver**

Messrs. John Robertson and Douglas Watt from the City of Vancouver made a presentation on the code development activities at the city.

It was suggested that because of the sophistication of Vancouver's code development process, consideration should be given to including the city as part of the new system in the same manner as provinces and territories.

The Task Group saw no reason why this should not occur, but suggested that the city and the Province of B.C. should investigate the best way for this to be implemented.

## **Core Building, Fire And Plumbing Codes.**

The Task Group discussed the briefing paper on core codes prepared for the Deputies meeting and a draft minute of the discussion at the meeting.

Regarding **Barrier-Free Design**, a paper was discussed which made a first attempt at identifying policy-related requirements in Section 3.8 of the NBC.

The Task Group agreed that

- the report of the meeting should make clear that there will be no diminishment of the BFD provisions in the NBC.
- the issue of confirming which requirements are policy related and which are technical, should be referred to the new Policy Advisory Committee. Until this committee is established, the PTCBS could discuss the matter.
- Section 3.8 be redrafted to group together all the provisions considered to be policy-related.
- Identified technical differences should be referred to the Working Group on technical differences

How quickly efforts will be made to resolve the policy related differences will be up to the Policy Advisory Committee

Regarding **administration**, a paper was discussed which made a first attempt at identifying potentially non-core administrative requirements in the NBC. A possibility exists that a progeny document could be created to include any requirements removed from the NBC, together with additional administrative provisions.

The Task Group agreed that

- the issue of confirming which administrative requirements should not be included in the core codes, should be referred to the new Policy Advisory Committee. Until this committee is established, the PTCBS and the CCFM/FC could discuss the matter.
- Standing Committees will be consulted prior to removing any requirement

Regarding **Part 8, Safety on Construction and Demolition** sites, it was reported that at least 2 provinces delete Part 8 and several others do not enforce it. It appears therefore, that Part 8 should not be part of the core codes, except for requirements proposed for relocation to the NFC. This will be recommended to the CCBFC and the PAC.

## **Single Coordinated Public Review**

The Task Group discussed the briefing paper on the coordinated public review prepared for the Deputies meeting and a draft minute of the discussion at the meeting.

The Task group considered 2 draft consultation documents.

1. “Objective-Based Codes” (prepared by the Ontario Ministry of Housing)
2. “Issues Addressed by The National Building Code” (This is a reference document providing more detail on the information the CCBFC used to reach the position taken in the public consultation document)

The Task Group agreed upon the following:

- the format, tone, flow and approach of the Ontario Ministry of Housing paper was well received
- the Issues paper needs work and should be rewritten to be consistent in format and more neutral. Several ideas for improvement were offered.
- the package should consist of a stand-alone paper that would discuss the situation and ask the questions, together with a paper that presented the issues with little discussion. The latter would not be expected to stand alone.
- There should be a CCBFC meeting to consider public comments and prepare recommendations prior to the Deputies meeting. The work plan will be revised to accommodate this. Some slippage on the date of the next DM meeting may result. The CCBFC would then consider the comments received from the Deputies prior to making decisions on objectives, which hopefully would be acceptable to all P/T jurisdictions.

Revised versions of both papers will be prepared, as well as companion papers on the fire and plumbing codes. It was noted that there will be several opportunities to fine tune the package specifically meetings of the CCBFC Executive Committee, PTCBS, CCBFC, CCFM/FC and the CRCP. As well, several provinces have requested “sign-off” on the final version.

The Task Group noted that it is virtually certain that consumer protection issues, other than health and safety, will be raised during the public consultation on objectives. Therefore the CCBFC, with the participation of the provinces and territories, needs to be prepared to address this issue during the consultation. The Task Group recommended that this issue not be mentioned in the consultation documents but that clear messages be prepared in advance for use in replying to comments raised.

Further discussion will be necessary on how the coordinated consultation will be conducted in each jurisdiction (forums, speakers, arrangements, distribution, publicity, etc).

Sept 18 to Dec 15 were considered appropriate dates for the consultation for the time being.

### **Provincial/Territorial Advisory Committee(s)**

The Task Group discussed the briefing paper on a Provincial/Territorial Advisory framework prepared for the Deputies meeting and a draft minute of the discussion at the meeting.

Discussed as well was a draft terms of reference for the Policy Advisory Committee and its sub-groups.

A key issue will be the level of participation on this committee. It will be important the members be part of the “policy” process in each of the P/T’s. Because of different organizational arrangements in each P/T, it is not possible to specify what level is expected, therefore the terms of reference needs to clearly identify the nature of what this committee is expected to deal with.

A more detailed terms of reference for the sub-groups was requested.

It is proposed that the President of NRC will write to the Deputies with the draft terms of reference of this committee and its subgroups and offering assistance in establishing the new committee. Reference should be made to the existing Memorandum of Understanding.

Prior to this, Task Group members will provide detailed comments on the Draft Terms of Reference.

An ultimate goal could be preparing an updated memorandum of understanding.

### **Resolve Present Technical Differences.**

Fred Nicholson, Chair of the Working Group considering this issue requested direction from the Task Group so the working group could begin its work.

It was confirmed that

- the Working Group will cover all 3 codes
- provinces and territories will identify members
- although focus is on technical differences, policy items could be considered if submitted by the P/T's
- P/T's will submit the technical differences they wish addressed to the working group, describing the nature of the technical difference and the rationale for the each.
- the P/T should submit what they have to date by June 1, even though the package may not be all inclusive.

### **“Fair and Equitable” Core Code Development Funding**

The Task Group discussed the briefing paper on Core Code Development Funding prepared for the Deputies meeting and a draft minute of the discussion at the meeting.

It was seen that it will be necessary to have some formal agreements from the provinces and territories to permit NRC to do financial planning to ensure the system is sustainable. It is expected that the CCBFC will play a greater role in deciding priorities with respect to commitment of resources.

Timing was seen as a concern since it is foreseen that such agreements would only come into effect for the post 2003 codes. In the interim opportunities would be sought to strengthen the revenue sources.

It was requested that NRC prepare for the next meeting, a financial feasibility model. Such a model should enable the development of different scenarios for pricing, sales, costs etc. The impact of the 3 year cycle should be reflected.

### **Participation by French-Speaking Code Users**

Although there was no progress to report on this item at this meeting, it was agreed that this matter should be left to NRC, the CCBFC and the province of Quebec to resolve. It need not be part of the Task Group's work plan.

### **Core Code Cycle**

The Task Group discussed the briefing paper on Code Cycle and Interim Revisions prepared for the Deputies meeting and a draft minute of the discussion at the meeting.

The Task Group discussed how to consult with stakeholders on this issue and it was agreed that the proposal for a 3-year cycle be bundled with the consultation on objectives and the code format.

## **Coordination with Production of the 2003 codes**

The work plan of the Task Group was discussed. The final out come of this Task Group will be a revised set of comprehensive policies and procedures describing the new system. It is expected that an additional 2 to 3 meetings will be required to complete the task.

## **Next Meeting**

August 21 & 22, 2000- Quebec City.