

"BUILDING THE FUTURE"

The Strategic Plan

of the

Canadian Commission on
Building and Fire Codes

1995 - 2000

Introduction

A strategic plan identifies where an organization wants to position itself and, in general terms, how it intends to get there. It normally doesn't include detailed proposals, possible actions, implementation plans or specific recommendations. In this context, a separate working document entitled "**Possible Measures to Implement The Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building And Fire Codes,**" has been prepared.

The Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) contains 6 goals, 22 objectives and 58 strategies.

It is obvious that limits on resources will not permit all issues to be addressed at once. The Commission, in consultation with IRC/NRC management and with the participation of all code users, will have to set priorities and schedule actions considering the importance of each issue and the availability of resources to address it.

Fulfilling the plan will require some re-engineering of the CCBFC's operations. In fact, many of the strategies in the plan propose to do just that by changing the focus of code development work away from the continual processing of code changes.

This strategic plan is a living document that will require periodic revisiting and adjustment to account for varying internal and external priorities, challenges and opportunities.

Both this Strategic Plan and the working document have been prepared following extensive consultation with code users across Canada. This activity was the responsibility of a CCBFC Task Group. Members are identified at the end of this document.

Copies of "**Possible Measures to Implement The Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building And Fire Codes,**" are available from the Secretary, Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes, National Research Council, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0R6. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Mission of the Canadian Commission on Building And Fire Codes.

To lead the way in providing model codes vital to Canadians with respect to the built environment.

As an independent body supported by the National Research Council, the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes uses a volunteer, technically-driven consensus process to develop minimum requirements dealing with the health and safety of persons, fire protection and structural sufficiency, while recognizing other widely-supported and related societal issues.

National recognition, adoption and use of its products and process, and the respect given by the public and industry, are the measures of its success.

ROLES

Role of the Canadian Commission on Building And Fire Codes.

The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes is the leader in the development of the national model codes and is responsible for their content and viability. To this end, recognizing the jurisdictional powers of provincial/territorial authorities to establish their own building and fire regulations, and acting in liaison with regulatory authorities, industry and the public, it:

- responds to identified needs,
- establishes policies, procedures and priorities,
- facilitates the resolution of issues,
- responds to technological change and innovation,
- promotes uniform interpretation and understanding, and
- acts as the Canadian focal point for international issues related to codes.

Role of the National Research Council

Within the policies established by the CCBFC, the National Research Council, through its Canadian Codes Centre, provides:

- technical and research support to the codes system, in both the development of code provisions and their application,
- liaison with research establishments, provincial and territorial authorities, codes and standards writing organizations, and other pertinent bodies in Canada and abroad, and
- administrative support and financial management.

GOALS OF THE CANADIAN COMMISSION ON BUILDING AND FIRE CODES.

(in order of priority)

Goal 1. To provide national model codes meet the needs of all code users in Canada.

Goal 2. To have future national model codes adopted without modification by all authorities having jurisdiction in Canada.

Goal 3. To have uniform interpretation and understanding of code requirements throughout Canada.

Goal 4. To have a responsive, objective, efficient and effective code development system.

Goal 5. To strengthen the Commission's leadership role.

Goal 6. To be substantially self-funding.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 1. The CCBFC will provide national model codes that meet the needs of all code users in Canada if:

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1.1. The needs of code users are known.	1.1.1. Strengthen partnerships with code users	For the purposes of this document, the term “code users” refers to all those who, directly or indirectly, use or are affected by the model codes, including designers, enforcement officials, industry, consumers, regulators, fire fighters, building owners, utilities, etc.
	1.1.2. Establish a system to consult code users.	
	1.1.3. Develop a regular feedback system.	
1.2. The scope of all documents is clearly defined in accordance with identified needs.	1.2.1. Prepare clear and concise scope statements on all codes, parts and sections prior to start of the next revision cycle.	This could involve creation of groups of provincial/territorial stakeholders to identify needs and issues for submission to the CCBFC.
		Including additional scope items could jeopardize the acceptance of the NBC or NFC unless these are widely supported, particularly by provincial/territorial authorities responsible for building and fire regulations. It is not up to the CCBFC to tell authorities what to regulate. The CCBFC role is to provide technical requirements in areas where there is consensus that regulation is necessary and appropriate. Where unanimity over new scope items is not evident, separate stand-alone or “progeny” documents (e.g., the energy codes) would give the regulatory authorities flexibility in deciding whether to use the model documents according to each jurisdiction’s regulatory agenda.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 1. The CCBFC will provide national model codes that meet the needs of all code users in Canada if:

Objectives

1.3. All model codes are current, understandable, justifiable, logical, flexible and coordinated.

Strategies

1.3.1. Develop an objective-based code structure, reflecting identified needs.

Notes

Objective-based codes are a set of code requirements based upon explicitly stated objectives. These objectives are stated in terms of a clear and logical hierarchy. The hierarchy starts with a number of key objectives, such as health, safety, and structural sufficiency. These objectives essentially define the scope of the code.

More specific objectives are then expressed under each of these general objectives (e.g., safeguard people from injury caused by structural failure, safeguard people from injury or illness when evacuating buildings during fire).

These are then followed by a set of specific objectives or functional requirements (e.g., "buildings shall be provided with safeguards against fire spread so that occupants have time to escape to a place of safety without being overcome by the effects of fire...")

The final element in this hierarchy is a statement about how the compliance will be verified. It will be expressed in terms of performance where the knowledge or tools are actually available to verify such performance. In other cases, it will be a prescriptive solution.

An objective-based code would therefore contain a mixture of both prescriptive requirements and performance-based criteria. Where both feasible and practical, an increased emphasis would be placed on the establishment of specific performance criteria which have to be met for the building or facility to comply with the requirements (objectives) of the code (e.g., occupants of a building are in a place of safety within a set time after detection of a fire). In other cases, prescriptive requirements could continue to be used.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 1. The CCBFC will provide national model codes that meet the needs of all code users in Canada if:

Objectives

1.3. All model codes are current, understandable, justifiable, logical, flexible and coordinated (continued).

Strategies

1.3.1. Develop an objective-based code structure, reflecting identified needs (continued).

Notes

The establishment of "acceptable solutions" to meet the requirements of an objective may be stated in both prescriptive and performance terms. In general, there will be a prescriptive "acceptable solution" for each requirement and an alternative performance "acceptable solution" will be available where appropriate. The prescriptive solutions would generally follow the current code documents, where the materials and process are clearly defined. The performance-based solutions would be expressed in terms of the performance that the solution must deliver. A number of alternative "acceptable solutions" may be given, to satisfy an objective. A designer and others would be free to use any one of these solutions to meet the requirements of the code.

There is a need for continual and thorough communication to code users on this subject to alleviate apprehension and misunderstanding. The move to objective-based codes should result in better understanding of regulations and not in an increased burden on regulators. Mechanisms to support enforcement, such as training and verification methods, will be developed.

It must be emphasized that acceptable solutions in the form of requirements similar to or the same as the present codes will be available for all code provisions. Prescriptive and "deemed to satisfy" acceptable solutions will be provided. Experience in other countries has shown that use of these solutions is the most common situation, at least initially. Where a proponent chooses to propose a different or innovative solution, review and acceptance tools and procedures will be required. Such situations will probably require greater reliance on professional designers.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 1. The CCBFC will provide national model codes that meet the needs of all code users in Canada if:

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1.3. All model codes are current, understandable, justifiable, logical, flexible and coordinated (continued).	1.3.1. Develop an objective-based code structure, reflecting identified needs (continued).	Initially it is proposed to concentrate on the NBC (including the Housing Code) and the NFC.
		The work on objective-based codes will also result in a re-examination of the appropriateness of all code requirements.
	1.3.2. Establish code language drafting policies.	The structure of most existing codes have evolved over time and could be made more clear. A lack of clarity exists both in terms of the logical structure of the document and in terms of the language structure.
	1.3.3. Improve co-ordination within and between documents.	Providing a restructured document based on a set of clearly defined objectives will simplify the process of understanding the code contents and provide for a more uniform interpretation of the codes. Clear and easy-to-understand codes can significantly reduce the costs associated with code compliance.
		At present, committees are organized so that they have responsibility for individual documents or parts of documents. With the move to objective-based codes, it may be more logical and efficient to reorganize the committees around subject areas which transcend the documents.
		For example a committee with expertise in fire safety in buildings would be responsible for fire safety requirements in all parts of all documents. Similarly, building services, be they HVAC, plumbing or energy-related, would become the responsibility of one committee.
		The result should be consistency of requirements throughout the model codes.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 1. The CCBFC will provide national model codes that meet the needs of all code users in Canada if:

Objectives

1.4. Cost implications are taken into account for all new or revised model code requirements.

Strategies

- 1.4.1. Require all proposals for code change to be accompanied by information on cost implications.
- 1.4.2. Include information on cost implications in public review packages.

Notes

It would be impractical to require that every proposal submitted to a committee must be accompanied by a detailed cost/benefit analysis. However, at the minimum, a proposal should address the costs associated with the change as well as identifying the groups, industries, sectors of society and others that may be affected and in what manner. This information could be part of the public review process.

Requesting formal cost/benefit analyses for significant changes is desirable in principle but problematic in execution for subjects, such as life safety, for which every societal cost and every societal benefit can be virtually impossible to quantify. Fortunately more tools are being developed to assist in this.

The concerns addressed by these strategies may eventually become less of an issue as the development of objective-based codes proceeds. Attention will then be focused on identification of acceptable solutions and approved documents as opposed to technical code changes which appear to restrict options available.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

1.5. Compliance issues are taken into account for all new or revised model code requirements.

1.5.1. Develop an infrastructure by 2001 for the introduction and implementation of objective-based codes.

This objective is designed to help ensure that objective-based code requirements are enforceable and do not place an unreasonable burden on the enforcement community.

Infrastructure in this case refers to a support system for code users including training materials, tools and models for enforcement, verification and design, legal and adoption issues, approval of acceptable solutions, and issues related to responsibilities.

This objective will only be realized with the participation of the regulatory and enforcement communities, as well as designers, researchers and industry.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 2. Future national model codes will be adopted without modification by all authorities having jurisdiction in Canada if:

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Notes</u>
2.1. Provincial and territorial authorities are more involved in the technical decision-making process in developing the codes.	2.1.1. Ensure that provincial and territorial authorities play a key role in development of objective-based codes.	Municipal building and fire officials are considered to be part of the provincial/territorial regulatory system. Their greater participation will be sought.
	2.1.2. Ensure that provincial and territorial authorities are more involved in the technical revision process.	The justification behind this strategy is to account for the jurisdictional powers of provincial/territorial authorities (and, in some cases, municipalities) to establish their own building and fire regulations and to minimize the necessity for them to deviate from the national codes. If the technical activities are better co-ordinated between the national and provincial/territorial levels, the workload on all involved would be reduced. Secondly, if key technical concerns at the provincial level can be addressed in the model codes, it eliminates a need for deviation.
2.2. Strategic partnerships exist with industry and other groups.	2.2.1. Establish partnership arrangements with key industry groups.	Industry groups with national markets appreciate the importance of uniformity of building regulations across Canada and can help encourage participation in the national development process.
	2.3. All codes are adoptable, i.e., they do not conflict with legislation, regulations, timing, etc.	2.3.1. In consultation with the provinces/territories, determine critical success factors for adoption. 2.3.2. Identify positive factors for adoption of the National Codes.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 2. Future national model codes will be adopted without modification by all authorities having jurisdiction in Canada if:

Objectives

2.4. A coordinated provincial/territorial/CCBFC public review process is in place.

Strategies

2.4.1. Initiate negotiations with PTCBS to establish a coordinated public review process.

Notes

Some provinces have comprehensive public review processes that, in the past, have included changes that had already been subjected to national public review. It should be possible to establish a process by which such changes are only circulated once. Concurrent CCBFC and provincial review of the same comments should result in efficiencies and promote consistency.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 3. There will be uniform interpretation and understanding of code requirements throughout Canada if:

Objectives

3.1. The intent of all code requirements is clearly stated.

Strategies

3.1.1. Develop an objective-based structure.

3.1.2. Study the extent and nature of non-uniform interpretation of codes and recommend solutions.

3.1.3. Provide more commentaries and graphics.

Notes

Stating the objectives of the code explicitly will facilitate code users' understanding of the intent of specific requirements within the code. This will better enable the users to comply with the requirements or offer alternative solutions that are able to meet the intent. Lack of clarity often results in a broad range of interpretation or in misunderstanding. This detracts from the objective of providing codes for Canada that are uniformly interpreted and understood.

Although non-uniform interpretation of code requirements from jurisdiction to jurisdiction is widely cited, evidence is mostly anecdotal. a better understanding of this concern is required.

For legal reasons, regulatory authorities have requested that the body of the code be restricted to enforceable technical requirements only. Graphics or explanatory materials must therefore appear in appendices or separate documents.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 3. There will be uniform interpretation and understanding of code requirements throughout Canada if:

Objectives

3.2. The CCBFC/CCC provides a more effective information service on the meaning and intent of code provisions.

Strategies

3.2.1. Establish more effective mechanisms for the dissemination of code information.

3.2.2. Consider establishing a mechanism for the dissemination of CCBFC (standing committee) "opinions" (i.e., non-staff).

3.2.3. Establish a mechanism for the regular dissemination of CCC staff "opinions" on significant or recurring issues.

Notes

NRC is establishing a site on the Internet where code-related information can be found.

Some code users would like the opportunity to receive an opinion from the relevant standing committee. This may, in some cases, provide greater weight than a staff opinion if so required.

Requests from code users for general explanations of requirements of the Code documents are regularly answered by the staff of the Canadian Codes Centre at IRC who are involved with the work of the Code committees. Such explanations are provided as information only.

NRC is establishing a site on the Internet where interesting and frequently-requested staff opinions will be posted.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 3. There will be uniform interpretation and understanding of code requirements throughout Canada if:

Objectives

3.3. The CCBFC/CCC provides resources and materials for training and information on training events, particularly for the introduction of objective-based codes.

Strategies

3.3.1. Produce training materials for code users.

3.3.2. Encourage partnerships for production and delivery of training materials.

3.3.3. Facilitate dissemination of training materials produced by others.

Notes

Responsibility for education and training clearly belongs to the provinces and territories and some have instituted sophisticated code-related training programs. Any CCBFC/IRC training materials would deal with subjects not otherwise or be in support of the efforts of others.

The most likely involvement would be in the areas of new code provisions and documents, development of computer-aided training products and the introduction of objective-based codes.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 4. Canada will have a responsive, objective, efficient and effective code development system if:

Objectives

4.1. The system accommodates changing technology.

Strategies

4.1.1. Develop an objective-based codes structure.

4.1.2. Encourage greater involvement of partnerships (such as industry driven research) in code technical development.

4.1.3. Enhance flexibility of the system to accommodate new technology and research.

Notes

The codes have always had the provision for individuals to show alternative solutions that meet the intent of the code; the only problem is that it has not always been possible for users to understand what that intent is. This can stifle innovative designs. The intent will be much clearer with an objective-based code.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 4. Canada will have a responsive, objective, efficient and effective code development system if:

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Notes</u>
4.2. A streamlined and improved revision process is in place.	4.2.1. Increase the onus on proponents of change to provide rationale and supporting documentation. 4.2.2. Create more rigorous criteria for submission and assessment of code changes.	<p>Proponents of a change are often in the best position to do much of the background work to support the change. The proposal for change, if more complete, will focus committee time on critical aspects of proposals and help ensure a more complete package for public review.</p> <hr/> <p>A flexible approach will be needed so as not to eliminate good ideas from individuals or groups that do not have the resources to fully develop them.</p> <p>More emphasis will be placed on the “rationale for change” statement by proponents and standing committees. The statement must specify the problem to be solved, describe the appropriateness of the proposed solution and comment on the impact (see also Strategy 1.4.1. on cost implications).</p> <p>Committees and proponents will be advised that changes should be restricted to common or widespread issues as opposed to unique or one-off situations, which should be dealt with by local authorities on an equivalence or interpretation basis.</p> <p>The concerns addressed by these strategies may eventually become less of an issue as the development of objective-based codes proceeds. Attention will then be focused on identification of an ever-increasing array of (optional) acceptable solutions and approved documents as opposed to technical code changes.</p>

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 4. Canada will have a responsive, objective, efficient and effective code development system if:

Objectives

4.2. A streamlined and improved revision process is in place (continued).

Strategies

4.2.3. Increase committee efficiency and reduce turn-around time

4.2.4. Use project-oriented ad hoc groups or subcommittees to review proposals and report to standing committees, i.e., do less work by the “committee as a whole.”

Notes

The use of the Internet for committee interaction and decision-making has been successfully done by some standards development bodies.

A data base could be created of experts on various code-related subjects who are willing to contribute to code development by serving on task groups. In many cases such task groups could be technically and/or administratively supported by provincial/territorial authorities or industry groups.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 4. Canada will have a responsive, objective, efficient and effective code development system if:

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Notes</u>
4.3. An appeal process exists to deal with Standing Committee decisions on proposed changes.	4.3.1. Develop criteria for appeals and a mechanism to deal with them.	An implicit appeals process already exists via the CCBFC. However, because the CCBFC is a policy-oriented body, arbitration on technical issues by the CCBFC creates difficulties. An alternate mechanism is needed to deal with technical issues.
4.4. Access opportunities are improved for all code users.	4.4.1. Improve access to the code development system for all code users.	NRC is establishing a site on the Internet to enable and encourage code users to observe and interact with the code development process. Items included could be minutes, technical papers, background information, proposed changes, announcements, meeting notices, technical explanations and opinions, etc. A news or discussion group could provide the opportunity for code users to discuss and comment on various code issues. Inquiries and code change proposals could be submitted through the Internet.
4.5. The code cycle satisfies varied regulatory and industry needs.	<p>4.5.1. Develop an objective-based structure which minimizes change in the body of the code in favor of creation of new acceptable solutions.</p> <p>4.5.2. Establish a code change cycle that meets consensus among code users and which reflects the shift to objective-based structure anticipated in 2001.</p>	<p>From a legislative point of view, this would allow for greater stability as the code objectives are relatively stable and change little over time. As new technology and products evolve, the establishment and recognition of new "acceptable solutions" can be incorporated in the codes without any further legislative actions. In this way, the codes can be more responsive to the needs of the industry.</p> <hr/> <p>This strategy will not be immediately successful because it will take several code cycles to complete the move to objective-based codes. There will still be a need for traditional technical revisions in the interim.</p>

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 4. Canada will have a responsive, objective, efficient and effective code development system if:

Objectives

4.6. The committee structure and make-up provide balanced input satisfying varied code users needs.

Strategies

4.6.1. Examine the Terms of Reference and matrices of standing committees, particularly considering the move to objective-based codes.

4.6.2. Examine the principle of balanced interests (i.e. regulatory, industry, general interest).

Notes

The move to objective-based codes will require a re-evaluation of the committee structure to ensure that there are no conflicting responsibilities with respect to definition of objectives. This may mean an emphasis on subject areas instead of parts or documents in the terms of reference for committees.

Committee membership presently includes representation under three major categories:

Regulatory — Composed of provincial, territorial and municipal building and fire officials and representatives of federal agencies having a regulatory function.

Industry — Members of the private sector such as those who are involved in the production or promotion of building products, systems or processes, the construction and operation of buildings, manufacturing, property management, insurance, and the supply and utility sectors.

General Interest — Those associated with the building industry and fire protection in an independent capacity such as architects, engineers, and independent research, testing, inspection and consumer agencies.

The number of members in each category is such that no category has a majority vote on the committee. In other words, the number of representatives in any one category should be less than the combined total of the representatives in the other two categories.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 4. Canada will have a responsive, objective, efficient and effective code development system if:

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Notes</u>
4.6. The committee structure and make-up provides balanced input satisfying varied code users needs.(continued)	4.6.3. Identify sources of expertise available to standing committees and task groups to obtain specialist technical advice.	
	4.6.4. Optimize the use of available volunteer time to encourage participation.	
	4.6.5. Standing Committee Chairs need not be concurrent members of the CCBFC.	<p>The use of electronic information technology to support committee interaction and decision-making has been successfully employed by some standards development bodies. This saves time lost due to travel.</p>
4.6.6. Continue the practice of having CCC/IRC staff should participate as non-voting technical advisors and secretaries.		<p>The justification behind this strategy is to emphasize the position of the Commission as a true and independent second level of review for standing committee decisions.</p> <hr/> <p>However, participation by S/C chairs in CCBFC discussions has proven to be a valuable feature of the code development process.</p>
		<p>IRC Staff are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - objectively analyze the available alternatives on an issue, - formulate recommendations for the committee's consideration. <p>In all cases, it is the committee which makes the ultimate decision. CCC staff are expected, however, to explain and support committee decisions.</p>

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 5. The Commission’s leadership role will be strengthened if:

Objectives

5.1. The CCBFC and its standing committees consist of persons highly knowledgeable and experienced in the applicable subject areas.

Strategies

5.1.1. Establish criteria for CCBFC membership reflecting its leadership role.

5.1.2. Establish criteria for standing committee membership reflecting the need for knowledgeable and experienced persons with good judgment.

5.1.3. Develop formal recognition for service for all committee members (during service).

5.1.4. Establish procedures for counseling or removing members and chairs, regarding status or inappropriate behavior, including avenues of appeal.

Notes

The CCBFC is a high level policy-oriented committee that gives strategic direction to the codes development process. Members of the CCBFC should have some knowledge of building design or construction or fire safety, but are not expected to be technical experts.

Formal recognition could include such non-monetary items as certificates and plaques, and discounts on CCBFC or IRC products and services.

At present the only grounds for removal from a committee is non-attendance at meetings (or non participation in letter ballots). There are no provisions for Counseling.

Concerns that need to be addressed include: lack of contribution to committee discussions, disruptive behavior, conflict of interest, chronic attendance for portions of meetings only, badgering other members, single issue zealotry, lack of preparation, chairs not exerting control over discussion, discriminatory behavior, refusal to accept committee decisions and ignoring meeting etiquette.

These procedures would also apply to IRC staff who are non-voting members of committees.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 5. The Commission’s leadership role will be strengthened if:

Objectives

Strategies

Notes

5.1. The CCBFC and its standing committees consist of persons highly knowledgeable and experienced in the applicable subject areas (continued).

5.1.5. Reinforce the concept of members as individuals rather than as delegates.

Members are expected to represent the knowledge of a specific sector by bringing it’s views and concerns to committee discussions.

However, as committee members, such individuals are expected to be in a position to take independent decisions based on evidence and discussion.

5.2. The CCBFC and the Canadian codes Centre are known as the Canadian focal point for code-related issues.

5.2.1. Develop a North American leadership position in objective-based codes.

Since the strategy is to move to objective-based codes, there is a need to influence organizations who are supporters of code development through creation of standards or professional tools. To encourage development of such support mechanisms by groups such as NFPA, SFPE, ASTM and ASHRAE, Canada needs to be seen as a leader in this field.

5.2.2. Develop a higher profile in Canada.

Many code users remain unaware that the National Model Codes are developed through a Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial/ Industry partnership reflecting the input and consensus of individuals from virtually all aspects of the construction and fire protection fields. It is important that Canadians become aware of the role of the CCBFC and the status of the codes it produces.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 5. The Commission’s leadership role will be strengthened if:

Objectives

Strategies

Notes

5.2. The CCBFC and the CCC are known as the Canadian focal point for code-related issues (continued).

5.2.3. Develop a CCBFC policy with respect to the harmonization or compatibility of non-Canadian standards.

Canadian standards development organizations (SDO's), continue to be under severe competition from the US certification bodies, with the result that there is less funding from certification activities to support the development and maintenance of standards. In addition, some Canadian industries and groups do not invest in standards development in Canada. Consequently, Canadian SDOs are having to take a very hard look at the construction-related standards to determine their future viability and the SDOs' ability to continue to adequately maintain them.

Industry groups are being asked why international standards can't meet their needs and, if a Canadian standard is essential, where is the best place to develop it and how will it be funded.

This issue is rapidly becoming critical to the national codes system due to an ever-increasing number of referenced standards being withdrawn, and the uncertainty over the acceptability of their replacements.

5.3. Responsibility for code content is well understood.

5.3.1. Reinforce the concept of committee ownership of code contents.

5.3.2. Develop a chair’s guide for committee operations.

5.3.3. Prepare a description of roles and responsibilities of the chair, committee members and NRC staff.

Although the committees, and ultimately the CCBFC, make final decisions on technical content of the model codes, a perception exists among some code users that NRC staff have undue influence on committee decisions.

It is important that all concerned, including NRC staff, have a clear understanding of each other’s roles and responsibilities.

Strategic Plan of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes

Goal 6. The model code development system can be substantially self-funding if:

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Notes</u>
6.1. All code users support the cost of the national model codes system.	6.1.1. NRC publishes all building, energy, plumbing and fire codes used or adopted by authorities.	The goal is only for substantial, not full self-funding through the user-pay principle. Government investment provides, and will hopefully continue to provide considerable resources. Given the present economic climate, the intent of this strategy is to protect the system by reducing the reliance on the public purse.
	6.1.2. Develop partnerships with provinces/territories and industry.	Non-public revenues in support of code development come mostly from document sales. Those provinces and territories which adopt the national codes, therefore, contribute to CCBFC code development through their adoption. Though Alberta and Manitoba have chosen to create provincial building codes, NRC presently publishes building and fire codes on their behalf, which contributes resources directly to the CCBFC process.
6.2. Increased revenues from code-related products and services provide a substantial proportion of income.	6.2.1. Invoke a reasonable price increase reflecting the market value.	
	6.2.2. Consider providing additional services funded through a membership/club framework similar to BOCA, ICBO, NFPA.	Any membership/club framework would not conflict with or undermine present building officials organizations.
	6.2.3. Consider additional services on a user-pay principle.	