

National Building Code



Prince Edward Island

Historical Background

Under the British North America Act and its successor the Constitution Act, responsibility for building regulation in Canada rests with the provinces and territories. In the past, this responsibility was generally delegated to municipalities. Not surprisingly, a multiplicity of regulations developed as each municipality tried to deal with its own needs. These variations from one municipality to the next made it very difficult for designers, product manufacturers and contractors to conduct business in more than one region. Thus in 1937, the Department of Finance asked the National Research Council (NRC) to develop a model building regulation that could be adopted by all municipalities in Canada. The result of that initiative was the publication of the first edition of the National building Code of Canada in 1941.

- **The National Building Code is publically reviewed**

Another important feature of the Code development and maintenance process is the extent of public involvement. During every five-year Code cycle, all technical changes agreed to by standing committees are circulated for a three month public comment period. This allows for feedback from those most affected by a proposed change and increases the range of expertise available on any subject.

- **To better understand the National Building Code.**

The National Building Code of Canada(NBC), The National Fire Code of Canada(NFC) and The Canadian Plumbing Code are model code documents developed by the National Research Council (NRC) and come into effect as adopted by the authority having jurisdiction. They are reviewed revised and issued in approximately 5 year cycles. A special relationship applies between the NBC and the NFC. The NFC establishes a satisfactory standard for fire prevention, fire fighting and life safety in buildings in use, including standards for the conduct of activities, maintenance of fire safety equipment and egress facilities, building contents, fire safety plans and the organization of staff for emergency purposes. In addition the NFC establishes standards for prevention, containment and suppression of fires originating outside

buildings. The two Codes have been developed as complementary and coordinated documents.

- **What regulations govern building construction in Summerside?**

The City has adopted the 2005 National Building Code of Canada as the minimum standard for construction in the City.

- **What does adopting the National Building code do?**

The National Building Code helps to ensure health, safety and welfare of citizens by:

- reducing potential fire hazards
- allowing occupants time and facilities to safely exit a building in an emergency
- requiring certain buildings to be barrier free
- regulating structural soundness of buildings
- reducing property loss from fires

- **What does adopting the National Building Code do for new home buyers?**

By enforcing the National Building Code as the minimum standard of construction in the City, new home buyers are guaranteed that the end product built by one contractor is the same as the end product built by another contractor.

Why are inspections required?

The City does inspections at different points during construction to ensure the work is being done in compliance with the National Building Code standards.

Contacts

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