



# Safety Codes Council

## MINUTES OF THE SECOND BUILDING SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2025

**DATE:** March 13, 2025

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.

**LOCATION:** Videoconference

**PRESENT:** **Sub-Council Members**

Ralph Jonker  
Ingo Viehweger  
Keith Jansen, Vice-Chair  
Matthew Kramer  
Laura Ritchie  
Cam Buskell  
Dana Bjornson  
Geoff Brownlie  
Laurence Bernhard  
Rob Swart  
Joe Pipke  
Joshua Selby

**Safety Codes Council**

Jennifer Johnson

**Alberta Municipal Affairs**

Paul Chang, Paula Elliott, Krista Reinhardt, Mike Hill

**REGRETS:** Corey Klimchuk

**GUESTS:** Karen Muir, ASC Liaison; Barry Fielden, FSC Liaison;

**RECORDER:** Jennifer Johnson

**2025 MEETINGS:** May 15

### 1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A round table introduction was held and videoconference functionality was reviewed, and members were reminded that their primary duty is to act in the interest of safety in the built environment for the benefit of all Albertans.

## **1.1 Agenda Adoption**

**Ingo Viehweger/Dana Bjornson moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED**

## **1.2 Adoption of the January 9 Minutes**

**Dana Bjornson/Ingo Viehweger moved to adopt the minutes of the January 9 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED**

## **2. Matters for Decision**

### **2.1. Closed Session**

**Geoff Brownlie/Ralph Jonker moved to enter into closed session; CARRIED**

**Ralph Jonker/Dana Bjornson moved to exit closed session; CARRIED**

#### **2.1.1. Nomination of Jay Cavanaugh to represent Mechanical Contractors**

**Joshua Selby/Geoff Brownlie moved to recommend to the Board appointment of Jay Cavanaugh to the Building Sub-Council to represent Mechanical Contractors for a term ending January 31, 2028, effective immediately; CARRIED**

#### **2.1.1. Nomination of Mark Robertson to represent General Contractors**

**Joshua Selby/Geoff Brownlie moved to recommend to the Board appointment of Mark Robertson to the Building Sub-Council to represent General Contractors for a term ending January 31, 2028, effective immediately; CARRIED**

## **3. Review Matters Arising/Action List**

None identified

## **4. Matters for Discussion**

### **4.1. House with Secondary Suite STANDATA**

A copy of the draft standata was shared and the following was discussed:

- This standata clarifies that an attached garage serving a house with a secondary suite should be considered part of the dwelling unit and does not require a one hour fire separation.
- This interpretation aligns with the building code's definition of a secondary suite and addresses potential inconsistencies.
- This standata aims to support affordable housing initiatives by avoiding unnecessary and costly fire separations.
- This item will also be brought forward to NRC for consideration in the National Building Code.

### **4.2. Energy Efficiency Exemptions for Oil and Gas STANDATA**

A copy of the draft standata was shared and the following was discussed:

- It was suggested that the category could be broadened to industrial, instead of just oil and gas.

- The Administrator explained that exemptions must be based on the use of the building, not just the type of building.

#### **4.3. CMHC Housing Design Catalogue**

The following was discussed:

- Some members expressed concerns over aspects of the designs that do not appear to meet code (decks over living areas, cladding, etc.)
- The final catalogue will have preapproved designs which is intended to expedite the permitting process.
- Local AHJs will have authority over how they administer the permitting process.

#### **4.4. Liaison Reports**

##### **4.4.1. Fire Sub-Council**

No update as the Fire Sub-Council has not met since the last meeting.

##### **4.4.2. Accessibility Sub-Council**

Nothing to report from the last meeting.

#### **4.5. Working Group Reports**

##### **4.5.1. Resilient Roofing**

No update, interim report will be ready for May meeting.

##### **4.5.2. Exterior Insulation (joint w/FSC)**

- The working group relied heavily on the co-chair from FSC, who has stepped down.
- Need to determine next steps.

##### **4.5.3. Requirements for Professional Involvement**

- The working group requests feedback on the interim report that was previously provided to the sub-council.
- Members are asked to please review and bring feedback to the next meeting for discussion.

[All]

##### **4.5.4. Risks Related to Energy Storage, Charging and Collection Systems**

- The working group is working to get consensus in order to move forward with recommendations.
- Interim report is expected for May.

##### **4.5.5. Definition of Secondary Suites**

No update

#### **4.6. Administrator/AMA Report**

##### **National Building Code of Canada 2020**

- Second Printing-Expected publication later this month (Free download)
- MA will review for what may be applicable for Alberta

- Illustrated users Guide NBC 2020 Part 9 published

### Issued Standata and Notice (Since January 9<sup>th</sup> BSC)

#### Notice

- Notice : Standata building code bulletin : 23-BCB-002 roof truss layout for one- and two-family dwellings
  - [23-BCB-002 - Roof truss layout for one- and two-family dwellings](#)
  - [23-BCI-015 - Wood roof truss systems in Part 9 buildings](#)
- Administrator developing a presentation for the implementation plan of truss profile authentication requirements related to one- and two-family dwellings.

#### Interpretations

- [23-BCI-003R1 - Occupant loads](#)
- [23-BCI-010 - Special events](#)
- [23-BCI-012 - Rowhousing buildings with five or more dwelling units](#)
- [23-BCI-013 - Approved organization - ICC Evaluation Service](#)
- [23-BCI-014 - Integrated testing coordinator](#)
- [23-BCI-015 - Wood roof truss systems in Part 9 buildings](#)
- [23-BCI-017 - Photoluminescent exit signs](#)

#### Variances

- [23-BCV-010 - Engineer authentication for the qualification of structural steel fabricators](#)  
Currently under Review
- [23-BCV-011 - Polyethylene film for greenhouse enclosures](#)
- [23-BCI-012 - Rowhousing buildings with five or more dwelling units](#)
- [23-BCV-014 - Multi-level storage racking systems](#)

#### Bulletins

- [23-BCB-004 - Occupancy of buildings under construction](#)
- [23-BCB-005 - Sprinkler systems with antifreeze solutions](#)

#### Standata worksheet



Building Code Draft  
Standata Review 202-

#### Presentations/conferences attended

- Electrical Inspectors Association of Alberta (EIAA, PD Day)
- Western Retail Lumber Association (WRLA) Building and Hardware Showcase-January 23-24 Edmonton Expo Center [2025 Building & Hardware Showcase](#)  
WRLA have rebranded to Supply Build Canada
- Fenestration Canada-Prairie Chapter meeting

#### Upcoming Presentations/conferences

- TBD-Truss Implementation Plan – presentations

#### **4.7. Council Updates**

##### **Dr. Sauer - Award Nominations Open**

- The Safety Codes Council is now accepting nominations for the 2025 Dr. Sauer Award.
- Each year this award is presented to a sub-council member who exemplifies the commitment, passion, and energy of Dr. Kenneth Sauer, the first Chair of the Safety Codes Council.
- To qualify for this award a sub-council member must be nominated by their peers. Please consider nominating a fellow sub-council member who you feel shows dedication to improving quality of life in Alberta's communities.
- Click here for more information: [Dr. Sauer Nominations 2025](#)
- The deadline to nominate a fellow sub-council member is March 26, 2025.

##### **Learning Opportunities – Speaker Ideas Requested**

- We held our first webinar for Members in November with a presentation on ISO 9001 by Michael Hart which was attended by almost half our members.
- We are in the process of planning more learning opportunities for 2025 and would love to hear from you.
- Please let us know what types of topics you'd be interested in learning more about as well as suggestions for possible speakers, if you have them.
- Email Gerry Letendre at [Gerry.letendre@safetycodes.ab.ca](mailto:Gerry.letendre@safetycodes.ab.ca) or Jennifer Johnson at [Jennifer.Johnson@safetycodes.ab.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Johnson@safetycodes.ab.ca)

#### **5. Meeting Finalization**

##### **5.1. Round Table**

- The Province of Saskatchewan has announced they are rolling back to Tier 1 energy efficiency standards in an effort to help with housing affordability.
- Council staff discussed moving the sub-council meeting start time to 9:00 am, Council staff will send out a poll to members in advance of the next meeting to get feedback.

[Council Staff]

##### **5.2. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was reconfirmed for May 15, 2025 at the Council office at 8:30 a.m.

##### **5.3. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

**– NEW ACTION ITEMS –**

**4.5. Working Group Reports**

**4.5.3. Requirements for Professional Involvement**

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[Council Staff]

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**– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –**

<b>WORKING GROUP</b>	<b>WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (<u>Chair</u>)</b>	<b>Date Formed</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Resilient Roofing	<b><u>Geoff Brownlie (Chair)</u></b> Keith Jansen, Rick Gratton, Dana Bjornson Municipal Affairs: Mike Hill	May 13/21	Interim report May 2025
Exterior Insulation (Joint w/FSC)	<b><u>Cam Buskell (BSC co-chair), Mark Heiderich (FSC co-chair)</u></b> Rick Gratton, Keith Jansen, Mark Heiderich, Richard Friesen	BSC: Nov. 18/22 Amended to joint by BSC Jan 13/22	Interim report May 2025
Requirements for Professional Involvement	<b><u>Geoff Brownlie (Co-Chair), Cam Buskell (Co-Chair)</u></b> Dana Bjornson, Laura Ritchie, Rob Swart and support from AMA	May 11/23	Interim report March 2025
Risks Related to Energy Storage, Charging, and Collection Systems	<b><u>Ralph Jonker (BSC Co-Chair), Greg Briggs (ESC Co-Chair), Barry Fielden (FSC Co-Chair)</u></b> Roger Buksa, Geoff Brownlie, Ed Knaggs, Mark Wilson, Glenn Baxter	Mar 14/24	Interim report March 2025
Definition of Secondary Suites	<b><u>Corey Klimchuk</u></b> Geoff Brownlie, Keith Jansen, Rob Swart, Cam Buskell	Jan 8/25	Interim Report May 15