



**MINUTES OF THE
FOURTH BARRIER FREE SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2022**

DATE: September 27, 2022

TIME: 9:05 a.m. to 2:46 p.m.

LOCATION: Safety Codes Council Office and Videoconference

PRESENT: *Sub-Council Members*
Karen Muir, Chair
Tanya Befus, Vice Chair
Bev Knudtson
Robert Lipka
Bob Macklon
Lee Ramsdell
Georg Rath
Deliany Sather
Chris Chamber
Ron Wickman

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach, Jennifer Johnson

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Linnie Tse

REGRETS: Gunjan Dhawan, Donna Monkhouse, Helen Evans Warren

GUESTS: Keith Jansen, BSC Liaison; Shannon Wiebe, CART

RECORDER: Allison Karch

2022 MEETINGS: December 13

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 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

Chris Schamber/Bob Macklon moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the March 22, 2022 Minutes

Chris Schamber/Bob Macklon moved to adopt the minutes of the March 22 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

1.3 Adoption of the June 14, 2022 Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and the last paragraph of Item 4.2. NBC Update was updated to:

“It was asked whether the new 1700mm turning diameter would be suitable for bariatrics. Door widths are also critical for accommodating persons with obesity, so the new 1700 mm turning radius would not cover that. (The CSA Z8000 standard for Canadian health care facilities recommends a bariatric turning radius of 1800 mm, and the BFDG recommends 1900 mm.) It was noted that there are situations where one or two suites in a building are built to be suitable for bariatric patients but the common areas are not.”

Chris Schamber/Bob Macklon moved to adopt the minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting, as amended; CARRIED

1.4 Adoption of the August 29, 2022 Minutes

Chris Schamber/Bob Macklon moved to adopt the minutes of the August 29, 2022 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Closed Session

Deliany Sather/Bob Macklon moved to enter into closed session; CARRIED

Lee Ramsdell/Ron Wickman moved to exit closed session; CARRIED

2.1.1. Annual Matrix Review

Ron Wickman/ Bob Macklon moved that the Barrier Free Sub-Council has reviewed its matrix and finds it appropriate as is; CARRIED with one negative vote (Lee Ramsdell) because the hearing disability should be separated into two segments—hard of hearing and deaf—as these communities have very different needs and should not be represented in one segment.

2.1.2. Annual Skills Matrix Review

The following amendments were noted:

- the Hearing Disabilities segment be modified to add a provision that the member must be prepared to liaise with the other identified nominating organization to ensure that the perspectives of both are considered; and
- the Hearing Disabilities segment be modified to add “deaf” to clauses A and B.

Bob Macklon/Deliany Sather move that the Barrier Free Sub-Council has reviewed its skills matrix and finds it appropriate as amended; CARRIED

2.1.3. Reappointment of Deliany Sather to represent Home Construction

Chris Schamber/Georg Rath recommend to the Board reappointment of Deliany Sather to the Barrier Free Sub-Council to represent the Home Construction industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2026, effective February 1, 2023; CARRIED

2.1.4. Reappointment of Donna Monkhouse to represent Residential Apartment and Condominium Owners/Managers

Deliany Sather/Chris Schamber move to recommend to the Board reappointment of Donna Monkhouse to the Barrier Free Sub-Council to represent the Residential Apartment and Condominium Owners/Managers industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2026, effective February 1, 2023; CARRIED

2.1.5. Nomination of Simon Wunderli to represent Building Officials

Lee Ramsdell/Georg Rath move to recommend to the Board appointment of Simon Wunderli to the Barrier Free Sub-Council to represent the Building Officials industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2026, effective February 1, 2023; CARRIED

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Action	Date	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Link to the Ministry of Community and Social Services	As issues arise and expertise is required, a guest may be needed. Municipal Affairs will look into a connection at the Ministry of Community and Social Services. AMA was able to connect with the Disability Advisory and Engagement branch at the Ministry of Community and Social Services. They will provide qualitative and quantitative data on issues related to the built environment.	Nov 20/19	Tse	Ongoing.
2.	Training on the accessibility requirements in the upcoming NBC(AE)	It was asked whether there will be training on the accessibility requirements in the upcoming edition of the NBC(AE) and whether that training would include rationale for the changes. Council staff will request an update from the Training department about what accessibility information will be in the Building SCO code update training.	Oct 13/21	Council Administration	There is no update yet because the code is not yet published; an update will be brought after the code's publication.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Code Change Issues

4.1.1. Assisted Listening Devices

The following was discussed:

- The working group had compiled a list of specific locations where Assisted Listening Devices should be used and requested feedback from the sub-council on whether or not this should be included. Members agreed that recommendations should be as clear as possible to alleviate confusion over where the devices are needed.
- It was explained that some types of systems are not as functional as others and was suggested that the group recommend certain equipment be required to ensure functionality. The Chair suggested the working group include the reasoning behind this in the document.
- It was also discussed that places where critical information is being exchanged (e.g. emergency rooms, pharmacies, etc.) should have a method in place to ensure information can be shared clearly.
- The Building Sub-Council Liaison explained there is a strong desire to harmonize with the national code and therefore, any Alberta specific requests will need to be submitted with substantial information and reasoning for the Building Sub-Council to consider when making their recommendation.

- Sub-Council members were reminded to consider the impact on their industry segment and to discuss with their nominating organizations and bring back concerns or questions for discussion.
- The Administrator explained proposed code changes can also be submitted to the National Research Council as we move towards harmonization.
- Lee Ramsdell said he had previously submitted some documents for a social policy change request, he will find those and share with the Administrator and other members to consider for resubmission.
- It was discussed that the work and research currently being done can help inform future code cycles and the Barrier Free Design Guide (submissions for the BFDG should be received by spring).
- The Administrator also suggested that she can submit recommendations to the Accessibility Standards of Canada Communications Technical Committee on behalf of the sub-council.
- Feedback was given to remove the portion of the document regarding ambulances and EMS as it falls outside the sub-council's mandate.
- The group will make the suggested changes and upload the document to the member portal for review and discussion at the next meeting.

4.1.2. Accessible Parking Stalls

The following was discussed:

- The working group presented the latest version of their document for discussion.
- Members noted that since the turning radius has increased in the code, the same adjustment should be made for the accessibility aisles.
- A suggestion was made to add in a reference to the building code and include the current diagram.
- A suggestion was made to include photos of the different types of vehicles that use these stalls.
- Sub-council members are asked to review the document and supply feedback to Kathryn.

4.1.3. Door Closers & Accessible Housing Issues

The following was discussed:

- Hydraulic door closers are difficult for elders to open and lead to isolation for some residents in assisted living buildings.
- These doors are primarily to prevent the spread of fire but with no cooking in the suites they are low risk for fire.
- It was questioned why a B2 occupancy wouldn't require door closers but a B3 does.
- The group discussed requesting a change of classification, but acknowledged this could be cumbersome.
- It was suggested that a recommendation be made that if a building has sprinklers the door closers should be excluded.

4.2. Working Group Reports

The chair reported on discussions with Council staff about how to best approach the work being done by various working groups and the BFSC as a whole. It was suggested that the topics currently being investigated by working groups be tracked on the action list and discussed at

meetings, similarly to the code change issues under item 4.1., according to members' interest and time available at meetings. The working group chairs will pull out individual items and send to Council staff for inclusion on the action list. [Lipka/Ramsdell/Muir]

Members were encouraged to give feedback at any time to the Chair and Council staff about how this process is working.

4.2.1. Awareness Working Group

Bob Macklon / Chris Schamber move to dissolve the Awareness working group and add its topics to the action list; CARRIED

4.2.2. Technical Working Group

Ron Wickman / Georg Rath move to dissolve the Technical Working Group and add its topics to the action list; CARRIED

4.2.3. Structural Support for Lifts Working Group

Chris Schamber / Bev Knudtson move to dissolve the Structural Support for Lifts Working Group and add this topic to the action list; CARRIED

4.3. BSC Liaison Report

The BSC Liaison reported:

- The Building Sub-Council met last week and reviewed the documents submitted by the Barrier Free Sub-Council. They had many comments which are being compiled and will be brought back to the BFSC for review.
- The process requires further clarity and the two Chairs will meet to further discuss once a new BSC Chair is elected.
- It was recommended that each document have an executive summary at the beginning to ensure important information is readily available.
- All documents should reference the applicable portion of the current building code.
- Given the ongoing work to harmonize with the national code, any proposed variations from the national code need to be well supported.

4.4. Administrator/AMA Report

The Administrator reported:

- The next edition of the NBC(AE) is hoped to be published by December but that is subject to change.
- New policy staff may support BFSC in the future.
- The department is working with Accessible Standards Canada regarding built environment technical committees for various topics such as housing, assisted living facilities, emergency evacuations, etc. There will be a call for member to form a committee regarding technical requirements in hotels and the Administrator can forward this to anyone who is interested in participating.

- Accessible Standards Canada was created out of the Accessible Canada Act and reports to the federal minister responsible for that area. It works in communication with NRC and other groups such as CSA, and has a board that oversees the technical committees.
- Robert Lipka noted that he participates in Accessible Standards Canada’s outdoor spaces technical committee.

4.4. Council Updates

A written report was included in the portal and updates were provided on the following:

- Members were reminded of the recent update to the Council’s communications policy which now is applicable to members.
- The Council’s AGM and volunteer appreciation event is being held in Edmonton on October 21, 2022.
 - Council staff will arrange hotel rooms—please include your hotel needs in the registration form if applicable.
- Member Training dates—two virtual half-day sessions for each course, you must attend both days to complete the course:
 - Appeals Training: November 15 & 16, 2022
 - Effective Meetings: October 31 & November 1, 2022
 - Contact gerry.letendre@safetycodes.ab.ca to register.
- Clarification was provided about the approach to in-person and virtual sub-council meetings.
 - The Council’s overall approach is a hybrid of some meetings held in person and some held virtually.
 - All members are asked to make an effort to attend in-person meetings in person, but there will be the option to attend virtually if they’re not able to attend because of illness, etc.
- Please notify Council staff as soon as possible of any contact info changes for yourself or your nominating organization.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

- Helen Evans Warren is stepping down from the Education and Training seat and Council staff are reaching out to educational organizations to solicit new nominees.

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for December 13, 2022, via videoconference at 9:00 a.m.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Bob Macklon / Chris Schamber to adjourn the meeting; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

4.2. Working Group Reports

The working group chairs will pull out individual items and send to Council staff for inclusion on the action list. [Lipka/Ramsdell/Muir]

– MOTIONS –

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