

The Transformation of the Canadian Code Development System

As a result of the signing of the federal/provincial/territorial (F/P/T) Construction Codes Reconciliation Agreement (CCRA), the national code development system will be transformed to:

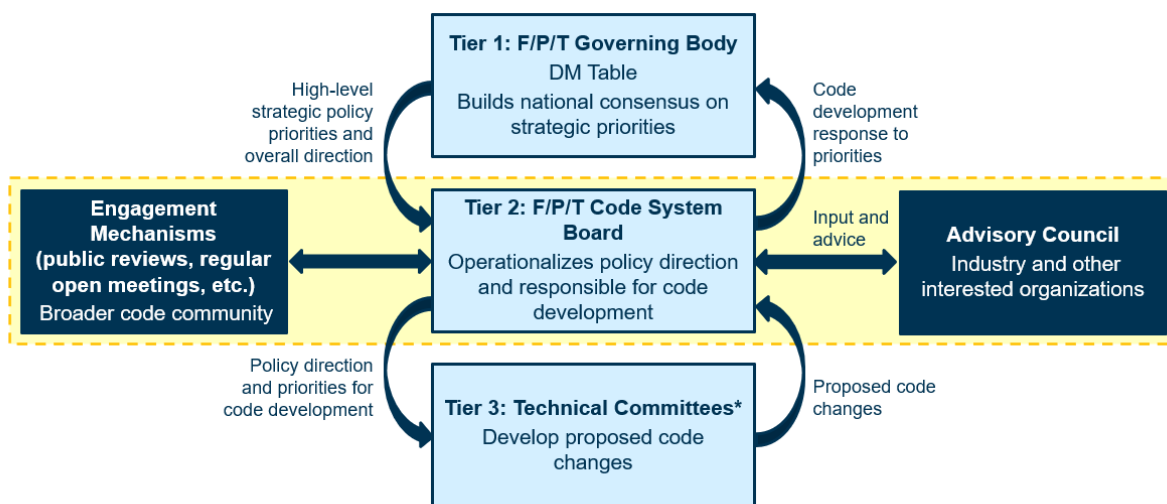
- be more responsive and agile
- include collective decision making by the federal, provincial, and territorial parties
- integrate the provincial and territorial code development processes
- continue to engage stakeholders and the public
- result in fewer variations between construction codes

Joe Rogers, P. Eng., Chair of the Transition Coordination Committee has provided the following information about the proposed transformation of the Canadian code development system:

Overview of the Proposed Canadian Code Development System

The Transition Coordination Committee for the CCRA is developing a transition plan to ensure the continuity of code development work for the 2025 code cycle and a smooth transition to the new governance model. The transition will commence after the 2025 code cycle work is well underway and early enough to ramp up for the 2030 code cycle (in early 2025). Additionally, the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) Executive Committee is proposed to continue to support the code development system during the 2025 code cycle, as both an advisory body and as a standing committee for Divisions A and C.

The new model for the governance structure is shown on the following diagram:



* Existing standing committees for the 2020-2025 cycle

The CCBFC will be replaced by a new governance structure, led by an F/P/T Deputy Ministers (DM) Table that establishes strategic code development priorities, and managed by an F/P/T Code System Board that operationalizes policy direction.

Technical Committees

Development of content for the National Model Codes will continue to be carried out by technical committees made up of volunteers, based on input from industry, regulators and the broader stakeholder community. The structure of the technical committees is under development, with the objective of enabling agility and responsiveness to code development priorities. The current standing committees will remain in place until the end of the 2025 code cycle, with opportunities for current members to be part of the new technical committees in the 2030 code cycle and beyond.

Advisory Council

The new Advisory Council provides advice to the Board on the strategic direction of the National Model Codes and the overall impact of proposed code changes (note that input on individual code changes will continue to be provided through participation in technical committees, code change requests, and public reviews).

The Advisory Council will consist of members from associations that have an interest in the regulation of building construction and operation through codes, are national in scope, and are not, in themselves, for-profit businesses. Sectors represented through the Council are anticipated to include:

- Regulators / enforcement officials
- Designers / architects
- Builders
- Building systems (e.g., roofing, plumbing, HVAC contractors)
- Fire safety and emergency response
- Indigenous building and fire safety associations
- Material inputs (e.g., concrete, wood)
- Building owners/operators
- Advocates (e.g., green buildings, accessibility)
- Insurance / finance
- Standards development
- Research
- Health care
- Educators / instructors
- Consumer associations

The Advisory Council will establish a regular meeting schedule and frequency, with the possibility of scheduling additional ad-hoc meetings or subgroup meetings on certain topics as needed. Coordination of meetings and minutes will be supported by Codes Canada.

Communications With the Code System Board

The Advisory Council may provide advice to the Code System Board during the code development cycle. The Board will share Council advice with the DM Table (e.g., strategic planning topics) and the technical committees, as appropriate. Additionally, the Board may occasionally solicit input from the Council on strategic or specific topics. Formal written communications between the Board and Council will be made available to the public. The Chair and Alternate Chair of the Council will attend Board meetings to support and facilitate the flow of information between the Board and the Council. Similarly, the Chair and Co-Chair of the Board will attend meetings of the Advisory Council. Technical committee Chairs will report to the Board on the activities and progress of their technical committee's approved work and will attend meetings of the Board. The broader code community will have opportunities for engagement through public reviews, participation on technical committees and regular open Code System Board meetings.

Code Cycle Planning and Prioritization

Under the new governance model, code cycle planning and prioritization will commence in advance of the beginning of the code cycle, starting with strategic planning at the DM Table, and followed by work planning at the Code System Board. The Advisory Council will have the opportunity to provide input and advice on both strategic planning (via the Board) and work planning. Given the diversity of its members, the input and advice from the Advisory Council may reflect a range of perspectives, rather than necessarily a full consensus position.

Engagement

It is proposed that the Code System Board and the Advisory Council will have regular open meetings to enable to broader code community to engage with the code development system and provide feedback.

Survey

The federal/provincial/territorial Construction Codes Reconciliation Agreement (CCRA) working groups are conducting a survey on the Advisory Council and the engagement mechanisms in the new Canadian codes development system, from July 7 until July 20, 2022.

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