

## Change is in the Air in 2021!

Newsletter – March 31, 2021

### Building Standards – Name Change

We learned that Building Standards and Licensing Branch (BSL) is changing its name on April 1, 2021 to **Building and Technical Standards Branch (BTS)**. This is part of their modernizing efforts to coincide with the revision of The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act (UBAS), which will also undergo a name change to **The Construction Codes Act (CCA)** when adopted next year. BSL is also working to harmonize with other provincial branches across Canada.

### The Construction Codes Act

The first reading of **The Construction Codes Act** took place in December 2020. SBOA members were told that the second and third readings are scheduled for spring and summer of 2021, with a proposed in force date of January 1, 2022.

There are some significant proposed changes to the Act, such as:

- Several terms have been clarified (e.g., “owner”, “farm building” and “qualified person”).
- Dwellings on agricultural land will no longer be exempt under the Farm Building exemption.
- Unpaid building inspection and related fees (debt due) can be added to the owner’s property taxes.
- Local Authority can register interest on title for orders written if the owner does not comply within 60 days.
- Collecting a refundable deposit will be allowed.
- Adopting building bylaws will be mandatory for all municipalities. For those without a bylaw on Jan 1/22 a “default” provincial bylaw will be in force. For those with an existing bylaw, you have 7 years to update it.

If you would like to download a free PDF copy of The Construction Codes Act (Bill 4 - first reading) then visit:

<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/110408>

### National Building Code 2020

The NBC 2020 would normally be released in 2020 but there are still several controversial items undergoing discussion that have caused a delay in its publication. NBC 2020 is not anticipated to be released until late this year, so adoption in Saskatchewan will likely not occur until January 1, 2023.

### Municipal Building Bylaws

We have had several municipal clients ask if we will be offering an updated sample building bylaw when the new Act is in force. We do intend to provide an updated copy to all our municipal clients that will be based on the default bylaw provided from the Building Standards branch, plus include several suggestions based on our recent experiences. We will also provide a document explaining the context for our suggested changes.

### Online Training for Municipal Staff

With the world of virtual training evolving due to Covid-19 Bob Baker has been creating a presentation to provide online training sessions for new or existing municipal Administrators to explain the PBI and building permit process. If you are interested in attending a virtual training session please contact **Bob at 306-550-5505** or [bob@pro-inspections.ca](mailto:bob@pro-inspections.ca) to add your name to the list.

### Simplifying Travel Fees

We will be reaching out to municipal clients who are charged PBI travel fees to survey some of the ways we can simplify this for you in the future. For example, one of our clients amended their bylaw to now charge all applicants the same fee (the **Total Permit Fee with Travel** in the last column of the PBI Fee Calculators) and then any remaining surplus from split travel fees is allocated as their Admin fee. This eliminates fee variations amongst applicants or issuing refunds. We hope to discover other ways to simplify travel fees from our survey that we will share with you.

### Administrative Assistant at PBI

PBI posted an ad for a permanent full-time administrative assistant just before the lockdown was announced this month. Hiring an Admin Assistant was something we had intended to do in March 2020 before Covid-19 hit.

When it is safe to do so, we plan to hire someone to assist Cheryl in the office to help expedite plan reviews and new applications, as well as eventually send all reports to our municipal clients electronically (vs mailing yellow copies). We are also looking at other ways to streamline operations and make your life easier. We always welcome your suggestions for improvement.