

Modernization Strategy Update – September/October 2006

The [five projects](#) are well underway. Working groups comprised of experts from the private and public sector have been formed and meetings are taking place. Numerous presentations have been made to a diverse range of groups, along with informative dialogues conducted in a variety of forums.

The majority of work to this point has been research and information-gathering.

Project Updates

Work is underway in the [Information Management and System Performance](#) project to identify existing data sources and determine the information needs of system participants. A draft set of questions is being developed to help assess how well the system is performing. If system performance cannot be determined for a key aspect of the system, the project might also develop the means to collect and provide reliable data.

For the [Liability and Risk](#) project, research has been conducted into the legislative structure governing liability and risk in the construction sector. Numerous meetings have been held with industry experts, including the Municipal Insurance Authority, Insurance Bureau of Canada, Architectural Institute of BC and the Condominium Home Owners Association. Meetings will continue to be held with interested groups to discuss liability and risk issues.

The [Competency](#) project is progressing with research into the existing legislative structure for design professionals, builders and building and fire officials. Further research will be conducted to characterize the issues in greater detail. The project team also met with the Architectural Institute of BC, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, the Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC and fire officials. Meetings are planned with other interested groups.

There are four components to the [Consistent Code Application](#) project:

1. The **Existing Buildings** working group is examining the application of the building code to construction in existing buildings.
2. Alternative solutions or equivalencies to the BC Building Code and BC Fire Code are the focus of the **Alternative Solutions** working group, which is starting to define the scope of what is working well and where improvements are possible. A process mapping exercise helped provide the working group with an understanding of local government processes.
3. The **Interpretations** team is developing options for providing interpretations of provisions of the BC Building Code.
4. **Letters of Assurance**, a tool used by local governments and professional architects and engineers to certify buildings are designed to comply with the BC Building Code, are being reviewed with the assistance of a multi-stakeholder working group. Working group members strongly support this tool, and before March 2007 expect to make recommendations on ways that this tool could remain effective and address the appropriate range of issues.

The [Consistent Code Compliance and Enforcement](#) project working group had a very successful first meeting in October. Discussion centred around what's working or not working, B.C.'s model and other potential models, accountabilities and the roles of participants in the system, and the scope of work ahead.

Next steps

Preparations are underway for the November 28, 2006 interactive workshop in Vancouver. Invitations were sent to approximately 120 system participants, including all members of the working groups. The status of each project will be presented and workshop participants will be given the opportunity to discuss options and provide input in their areas of expertise.

The success of projects under the Strategy depends on the continuing involvement of local government representatives, industry and other participants to build and test ideas for moving forward.

For more info

<http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/modernization/>

Email: Modernization.Strategy@gov.bc.ca