

Advocacy at a Glance

Q1 Issue Updates:

Manitoba Hydro

The MHBA has continued to meet with and work with Manitoba Hydro to identify ways to improve the timeline for underground servicing to new homes and improving the timeframe for completing locates. Manitoba Hydro continues to meet with the MHBA as part of its Customer Journey Optimization process. Ongoing meetings are scheduled for Q2 2023 with the goal to improve service levels and timeframes for builders.

MHBA, along with our construction association partners, is a member of the Manitoba Common Ground Alliance which is working to improve locate services. On April 3, the MHBA attended the MCGA meeting with Manitoba Hydro officials to discuss industry concerns over locate timeframes and recommend ways to help improve speed of service.

2020 Code Adoption & Implementation

The MHBA has provided the provincial government with recommendations on the upcoming adoption and implementation of the 2020 code changes. Our recommendations were:

1) Tiered Energy Code

The MHBA supports the approach of implementing Tier 1 of the tiered energy code in 2023 and having the province work with industry, municipalities, and other stakeholders to develop and approve a phased approach to moving Manitoba to the subsequent tiers. We support a phased approach in order to build capacity, both within industry and municipalities, to be able to properly implement the 2020 energy code changes as well as properly prepare Manitoba to be ready to adopt and implement the next set of energy code changes. We need to collectively build towards that.

2) 2023 Implementation of the 2020 code changes

The MHBA supports the province's goal of adopting and implementing the 2020 Code changes before the end of 2023. We do, however, require sufficient time between the province's adoption of the 2020 code changes and the implementation of the code changes. Specific to the 2020 code changes, we would accept the following timeframe for adoption and implementation:

2020 Code adoption: No later than May 1, 2023

2020 Code implementation: No earlier than November 1, 2023

This timeframe provides a 6 month period for proper education to take place on the code changes and prepare both industry and regulators (provincial and municipal) to implement the code changes as effectively as possible. A November 1, 2023 implementation date is also preferred by industry as we discussed at the meeting. 6 months would be the minimum timeframe between adoption and implementation that we could find acceptable in this specific instance.

3) Future Code Change implementation dates

For future code changes, we would look for the province to provide at least 12 months between code adoption and code implementation. With the timelines for code adoption now being set in legislation

and the new process on code formulation, we would expect that the provincial review and adoption process would be less time consuming than in the past. This should allow for the province to meet its obligation under the legislation while still providing ample time for industry to be properly educated on the upcoming code changes, make any supply chain adjustments they require, and implement any further changes they would need have ready for the implementation of the new code. We would again ask for code change implementation to take place in November 1, December 1, or January 1, as this avoids code changes being implemented during peak permit/construction seasons.

MHBA's TRC representatives met with Labour Minister Jon Reyes on April 4th to present and discuss our recommendations.

City of Winnipeg Permits/Inspections

The MHBA meets regularly with the City of Winnipeg's residential permits and inspection administrators regarding permit timelines and inspection issues. In addition to participating in our Technical Research Committee and Renovator Council meetings, P&D officials are in regular contact with the MHBA to provide updates on staffing levels and any other issues that may impact inspections and permits. The MHBA continues to participate on the PP&D Industry Advisory Group, providing feedback and information on behalf of the residential construction sector. Recent topics of discussion include issues arising from the City splitting the development permit and building permit application processes, harmonizing the PDCH certification form for engineers, and advocating for changes in the City's Budget to properly fund the department through permit and inspection fees paid by builders.

Consistency with Code Interpretations

The MHBA continues to work with the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg, the Red River Planning District, and other municipalities to achieve greater consistency and shared understanding of code interpretations to help streamline the inspections process. The MHBA's Technical Research Committee continues to work collaboratively with regulators to help address and minimize areas of misunderstanding on inconsistent applications regarding code compliance.

Capital Planning Region

The MHBA continues to work closely with provincial officials and the Winnipeg Metro Region on the establishment of a new Capital Planning Region Board and the development and implementation of a regional development plan for the WMR. We expect the new CPR Board to be established in the coming weeks.

Task Force on Construction, Renovation and Demolition Materials Waste Diversion

The Manitoba government has created a task force to examine construction, renovation and demolition materials waste diversion in the province. The purpose of the Task Force is to guide and support the development of policy options and recommendations to increase the diversion and recycling of construction, renovation and demolition waste in public and private practices. The MHBA is a member of the task force and will be providing insight and recommendations on behalf of the residential construction and land development industries.