

Fire Sprinkler Group Reports: Minister Coleman Appreciative – ASTTBC Involved

The new Building Act received Royal Assent on **March 25, 2015**. The Act aims to establish more consistent building requirements across British Columbia and create a more robust and modern building regulatory system.

Under the Building Act, the Province has sole authority to establish building requirements. Once the Act is brought into force, local governments will have two years to eliminate existing local building requirements that vary from those in the BC Building Code and other provincial regulations.

One of the major goals of the Building Act is to establish more consistent building requirements across British Columbia; the Province recognizes that some local governments may, in limited circumstances, have legitimate reasons for wanting more stringent requirements than those in the Building Code. To this end, the Province is establishing several working groups to address the types of building requirements that are found most often in local government bylaws, including fire sprinklers, energy efficiency, and accessibility. The Fire Sprinklers Working Group is the first group established by the Province for this purpose.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner and the Building and Safety Standards Branch worked with the Fire Sprinkler Working Group as they brought their expertise to the table to advise Government on sprinkler issues. The ASTTBC representative on the Group was Brad Walton, ASCT.

The Group's recommendations have been received and the Province is moving forward with developing an opt-in regulation for fire sprinklers. See full report [HERE](#)

The following options for each recommendation have been approved:

- *Recommendation 1: Objective – approved (only one option provided)*
- *Recommendation 2: Opt in Regulation – Option 1 (all local governments in BC are simultaneously provided the opportunity to opt into a new provincial fire sprinkler regulation)*
- *Recommendation 3: Tiered Structure – Option 2 or 3 (either 2 or 3 tiers. The Minister requested further research before deciding whether to implement 2 or 3 tiers.)*
- *Recommendation 4: Community Fire Risk Assessment – Option 2 (local governments will be required to complete a standardized community fire risk assessment prior to opting into a new provincial sprinkler regulation. More work is needed to determine the appropriate review and evaluation of the assessment.)*

The Building and Safety Standards Branch will soon post the report on their [WEBSITE](#)

Work will begin in the next several weeks on drafting the regulation.

There will be time to review the proposed regulation before it is finalized.