

SUMMARY REPORT

Indigenous Engagement on Building Codes

DECEMBER 2021 – JANUARY 2022



Office of Housing and
Construction Standards



*Kikekyelc Indigenous youth and Elders housing in Kamloops
BC Housing photo*

Acknowledgement

The Building and Safety Standards Branch (BSSB) is grateful for the time Indigenous participants took to attend the virtual engagement sessions and share their knowledge and insights on housing and building codes. We would like to recognize the work that many Indigenous communities are doing to improve housing conditions in Indigenous contexts.

Our virtual sessions brought together participants from all across the province, and we would like to acknowledge the many First Nations territories and Métis Charter communities throughout B.C.

For this report, the term Indigenous is inclusive of the First Nations and Métis peoples that participated in this engagement process. We acknowledge the diversity of cultures and history between the many distinct First Nations in B.C. and the Métis Nation.

BSSB acknowledges with respect and gratitude that this report was produced on the territory of the Ləkʷəŋən peoples, known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.





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Introduction

THE BUILDING AND SAFETY STANDARDS BRANCH, Ministry of Attorney General and Responsible for Housing, is responsible for the province's building, plumbing, and fire codes. The BC Building Code (BCBC) regulates health, safety, fire and structural protection, accessibility, energy efficiency, and water use during building construction, alterations, repairs, and demolitions.

Through the BCBC, the Branch is working to require new buildings and retrofits to be more energy efficient and cleaner, while also looking for opportunities to increase the resilience of existing buildings to wildfires, wildfire smoke (air quality), heat waves, drought (water conservation), and floods. The BCBC is intended to ensure buildings constructed and renovated are safe for everyone and it is crucial that Indigenous Peoples can provide their perspectives on how the BC Building Code should respond to their needs, priorities, and the changing climate.

The Building and Safety Standards Branch recognizes the need to build relationships with Indigenous Peoples to guide the provincial building code work over the long-term, including efforts to increase the climate resilience of existing buildings.

Other Provincial ministries have engaged with Indigenous communities on climate change initiatives over the past few years, including the 2019 CleanBC regional sessions, the January 2020 CleanBC Provincial Forum, and the 2020 sessions on the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy. While none of these sessions focused directly on codes, some participants did provide valuable input that relates to codes and housing.

Building on these conversations, the Branch, in collaboration with Pinna Sustainability, hosted a series of virtual engagement sessions between December 2021 and February 2022. The Branch's primary focus was to start building relationships and partnerships with Indigenous Peoples and communities to honour B.C.'s commitments under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

The design of the Codes and Climate engagement series was guided by our recognition that:

- There are challenges with housing and building conditions on reserve and many Indigenous communities are leading important and innovative work to improve housing conditions for Indigenous Peoples across the province.
- The BCBC is used in some Indigenous communities and space needs to be created for Indigenous Peoples to provide input on future building code changes, at the provincial and federal levels.
- Engagement processes need to lead to real influence over policy.
- Respectful partnerships must include a pathway forward based on the needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- The Province needs to support Indigenous Peoples and communities to lead the work that is important in their communities.

The engagement series consisted of five two-hour virtual sessions followed by an optional 30-minute participant debrief space. Of these five sessions, three served as introductions between Indigenous participants and the Branch, one focused on building codes, and one focused on the link between codes and Indigenous Knowledge.

- **Introduction sessions:** Participants learned about the Branch, shared housing and building priorities, stories of strength, and what meaningful collaboration looks like.
- **Building codes session:** Participants shared their experience using building codes and discussed opportunities for the development of new construction and renovation checklists.
- **Building codes and Indigenous Knowledge session:** Participants shared how they use buildings and opportunities for building codes to respectfully reflect Indigenous Knowledge and cultural uses, followed by a discussion on how the Branch can move forward with relationship building.

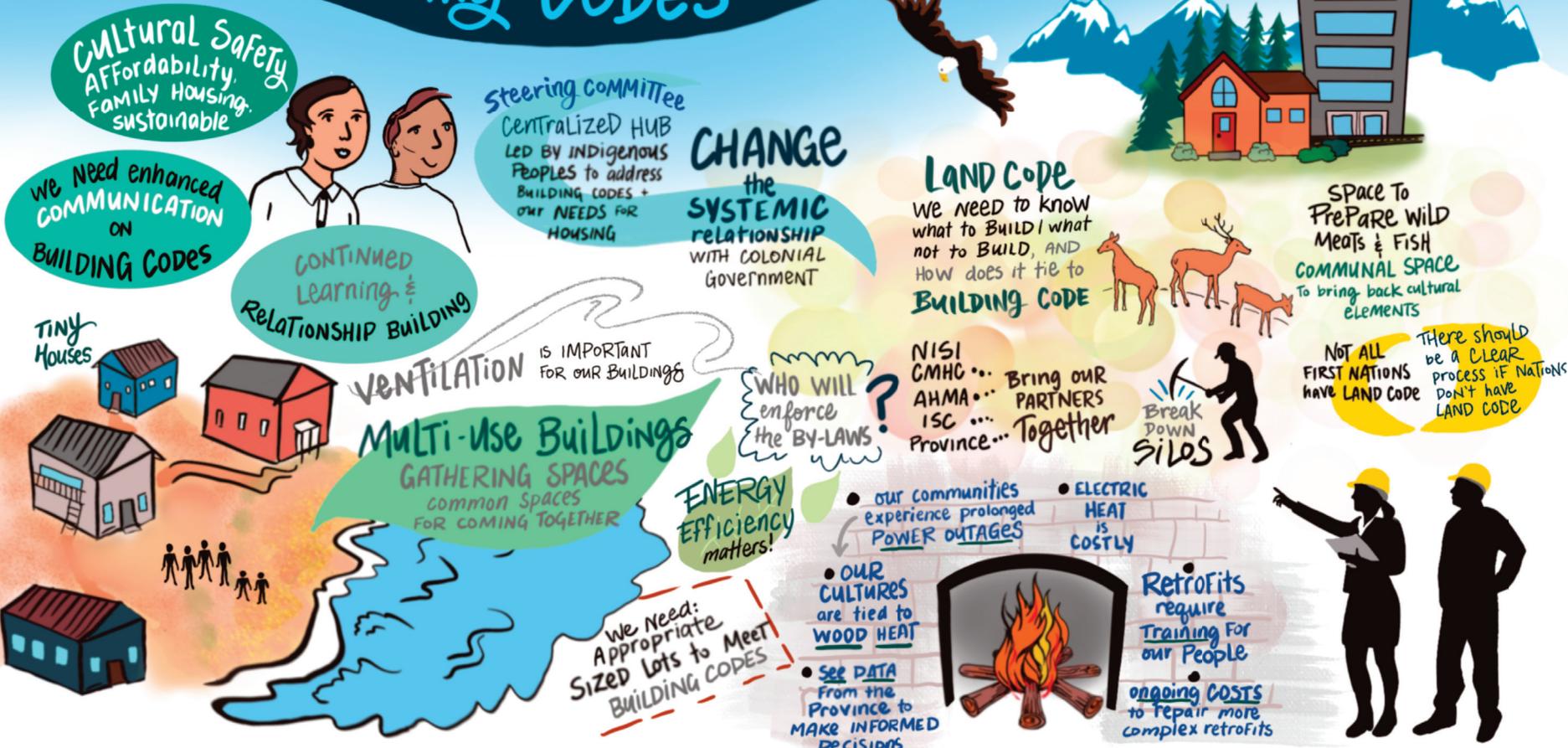
This report summarizes the conversations that occurred in all five sessions, highlighting key themes, insights, and



potential actions raised. This formal engagement series marks the beginning of the relationship-building process between the Building and Safety Standards Branch and Indigenous Peoples, and many more conversations will occur in the future on codes affecting the buildings where Indigenous Peoples work, live, and gather.

Indigenous Engagement on Building Codes

Celebratory Gathering



What we heard

COMMUNITY STORIES AND PRIORITIES

ENGAGEMENT BEGAN WITH PARTICIPANTS SHARING COMMUNITY HOUSING STORIES.

Participants shared many stories about successfully improving housing conditions that deserve celebration and can be expanded and replicated by other communities. The construction of tiny homes in one community was highlighted as a success, providing higher quality housing with more manageable electricity costs for their members. Participants expressed a strong desire to construct more tiny homes. One participant spoke about how their community has gained access to new land, creating opportunity for future housing development. A couple of communities are having different experiences with housing density; some communities are moving towards multi-family units for younger families, while another seeks to

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Building better homes should be the standard.

—Indigenous participant

move towards smaller and denser housing. Others reported the following successful initiatives in their communities:

- Making energy efficiency upgrades to existing homes, and building new homes to reach higher steps of the BC Energy Step Code
- Turning away from oil and gas, and moving towards heat pumps
- Establishing solar projects to generate electricity from the sun
- Designing new homes and buildings with cultural uses and practices in mind
- Training local contractors to use local materials, made with Nation-owned mills, to build their own culturally and climatically appropriate housing
- Building an Elder-plex
- Working with BC Housing to build new apartments on and off reserve for community members
- Using Rapid Housing Initiative funding to deliver affordable housing



Participants also spoke about the factors that impact the quality and durability of housing and overall design needs, primarily focusing on location of Indigenous communities and cultural practices.

Indigenous participants said that their communities are often located in flood plains, at risk of wildfires and rockfalls, have limited access to land, and often experience prolonged power outages. Cultural activities that are practiced inside, including burning wood in stoves, and processing traditionally harvested foods,

can impact air quality and moisture levels within homes when not considered during housing design. Participants shared that existing homes need renovations to address moisture leaking into homes, mold, cracked foundations, overcrowding, and high energy costs.

The challenges facing existing homes have contributed to a renovation backlog. One community shared that 450 homes are in need of renovation. One participant expressed the challenges of understanding how existing buildings, in their current state, fit into broader community plans. In addition to the renovation backlog, accessing new housing is also challenging with long waitlists for community members and

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In our community, our homes are all some of us have in most cases, they have ‘sentimental value’—it is hard to hear when someone says it is ‘easier to replace, rather than to renovate.’

—Indigenous participant

limited access to land reducing the amount of new construction. A participant spoke about how, to provide housing for those who need it, their community would need to build at least 750 additional homes.

Looking forward, Indigenous participants expressed the desire to be more proactive in terms of building new housing and repairing existing homes. A starting point will be to identify buildings that require condition assessments. Throughout the engagement, participants shared their vision for housing in their communities. This vision includes:

- Homes that are energy efficient, sustainable, and resilient to heat waves and extreme temperature swings
- Homes that are healthy and safe
- Homes that are affordable
- Homes that support and reflect the cultural resurgence of Indigenous Peoples
- Communities that have a variety of housing types that meet their needs (e.g., three-bedroom homes, higher density housing, family housing)

- Homes that have adequate insurance
- Community member ownership of homes
- Homes that are built with materials produced within the community or neighbouring communities
- Homes that are built by qualified community members or members from neighbouring communities
- Homes that are built to last long into the future
- Homes built in Indigenous communities that can be a model for climate resilience

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People like to gather wood and work with Elders to ensure everyone’s supplied. Wood stoves represent fire as part of culture.

—Indigenous participant

What we heard

COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION AND FUNDING

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES DESCRIBED MULTIPLE PRESSURES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASED COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION.

Costs are impacted by the remote location of many communities, lack of regional professionals and travel costs associated with flying in professionals, increasingly stringent building codes, designing for climate resiliency, access to and cost of materials, and the price for architect and engineer involvement.

Some participants expressed the desire to build higher quality homes that are more affordable and more climate resilient in the long-term but, due to cost, they are unable to achieve higher standards, including Passive House or BC Energy Step Code requirements. Another participant communicated that building to Step 3 of the BC Energy Step Code may not add much more of a cost to the build and can contribute to lower lifecycle and maintenance costs of homes. One participant specifically asked for data on upfront investments that lead to savings over time so communities can make informed decisions on construction costs and impacts of housing design.

Access to funding is vital to support high quality, affordable, and resilient homes. While designing better homes may create more upfront costs, it can also reduce month-to-month operating costs and the need for expensive repairs in the future. Although participants knew that incentives and partial funding opportunities were available for high-quality housing, they noted that accessing incentives was difficult, and the overall level of funding available could be improved. We have heard that it can be very difficult to deal with funding programs that are not designed to support Indigenous participation, and all communities are experiencing application fatigue. While



Budgets are increasing with Indigenous Services Canada. . . I am working with communities to spend \$300 million over 10 years on new housing on reserves.

—Indigenous participant

another participant spoke to the design and construction limitations placed on communities by the funding programs managed by Northern Affairs Canada and Indigenous Services Canada, another spoke of increasing budgets for housing.

Participants noted there is an opportunity for maximum mortgages and funding programs to be increased to better align with the true cost of new home construction in Indigenous communities. This would allow for building more energy efficient and climate resilient homes that go beyond minimum building code requirements. Recommendations for improving access to financing include:

- Property tax forgiveness
- Financing that does not involve a guaranteed mortgage
- Preferred rates
- Higher per-unit/per square foot cost allowances

What we heard

COMMUNITY CAPACITY

PARTICIPANTS SPOKE ABOUT THE GROWTH OF THEIR LOCAL BUILDING INDUSTRIES AND HOW THEY COULD POTENTIALLY INCREASE COMMUNITY SELF-SUFFICIENCY WHILE REDUCING COSTS. One community has a woodworking shop that is providing yellow cedar for the construction of two six-plexes, and there are efforts underway to bring more investment to grow their facility. The same community has a metal shop for roofing and is also seeking investment to develop a facility where they can make their own cabinets and provide housing packages to neighbouring communities. Another participant noted that two other communities have their own sawmills highlighting the opportunity for both mills to collaborate. The same participant shared how one nation has its own construction company and they are looking at growing and producing materials locally. These are



Strength is our workforce.

—Indigenous participant

just some examples of community success that can be supported and expanded moving forward.

There is great opportunity to establish a strong workforce in the construction industry within communities. Some regions face unemployment challenges and a lack of qualified industry experts to support community housing projects. Participants also commented on the poor quality of some companies and contractors who build in communities using low-quality designs. One participant expressed gratitude for the great inspectors they have in their community to hold poor quality contractors accountable. Another participant spoke to the opportunity to increase the number of professional building inspectors. One proposed solution involved creating a space for sharing information on reputable builders and contractors, including a contractor's rating. Another participant shared how they act as the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), the body responsible for enforcement of the BCBC, for many communities. The discussion on being an AHJ also raised the importance



of enhancing community governance capacity for BCBC enforcement. Enhancing community capacity requires investment to increase building science and construction knowledge and provide employment and skills training to community members.

Participants expressed that enhanced capacity has been and can continue to be achieved by supporting train-the-trainer programs, partnering with local adult education centres to run carpentry courses for Red Seal certification, leveraging the Canadian Mortgage and Housing

Corporation's building inspector course, and offering training opportunities for pre-fabrication. With any education and training program, awareness must be built among members, and training must be conducted with cultural safety for Indigenous Peoples. As local capacity grows, communities will be better positioned to address housing deficiencies as they arise. Multiple participants shared the opportunity to support Indigenous inspection programs and energy advisors for First Peoples, with one community reporting they have already trained eight cohorts on energy efficiency. Participants expressed an opportunity for mentorship programs that are grounded in Indigenous Knowledge involving Elders. One organization has secured funding for an energy advisor to support Indigenous communities.

Participants also discussed capacity development in relation to community housing and lands departments. One participant noted that communities with less capacity to fully address their housing needs would welcome further support from the federal and B.C. governments. There is a need to support full-time housing or building managers in communities. This role

would include education and awareness of existing building codes, safety standards and energy efficiency frameworks.

Participants expressed the need for a simple checklist for new construction and renovations, and are looking for enhanced strategic planning tools. With high turnover in band offices and housing manager burnout, participants expressed the need for a complete checklist that encompasses the entire housing process from accessing land, through finding a licensed builder, accessing funding, geotechnical and environmental assessments, insurance requirements, permitting, inspection processes, operations and maintenance, to the final demolition.

This process checklist and accompanying resources would accelerate organizational learning, helping new housing and land

managers have the access to information that they need to understand everything that needs to be completed, and in what order. As tools and resources are developed, participants reinforced the need for open-source and tailored materials based on audience (e.g., guidance based on community governance structures). It was suggested that there be a dedicated online resource specific to Indigenous local bylaws or codes to facilitate information sharing and reduce duplication of efforts.

Communities have different levels of capacity and are at different stages of developing building codes. Some reported that while their capacity in this area is low, they have a high level of interest in self-governance, high quality housing, and code development. Guidance to help communities assess their current strengths and understand possible next steps would be useful.



Invest in your own people to build capacity to build your own homes. This is key for providing long-term vision.

—Indigenous participant

What we heard

BUILDING CODES AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

THE BUILDING CODE-FOCUSED SESSION BEGAN WITH A SURVEY TO UNDERSTAND WHICH CODES ARE USED IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES.

Many participants indicated their communities are using the BCBC, and participants indicated that use of codes is dictated by funding organizations. During the subsequent discussion, a community with a Land Code shared that they have developed building laws and established housing expectations, including a stipulation that housing must follow the BCBC. These comments illustrate that there are various pathways for building code use, including adoption of codes through subdivision or zoning laws.

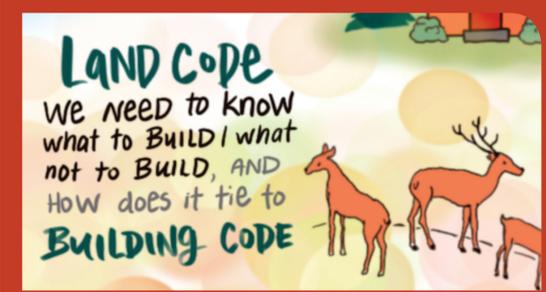
A consistent theme throughout the discussions was the desire to beat minimum building code requirements to achieve higher quality and resilient housing. One participant shared that minimum requirements have been used as a mechanism to cut costs during construction. Minimum BCBC requirements may not always meet the needs of Indigenous occupants and may result in costly solutions that many communities are not positioned to resolve on their own.

Nearly all participants indicated a strong interest in safety standards and energy efficiency. Of those, many agreed there needs to be more awareness and education for community members on building codes, the value in meeting or exceeding code, and the importance of obtaining building permits to check the work of contractors at key stages in the building process. Education and awareness activities support community member engagement in housing which is an important part of fostering meaningful change over time.

The discussion on building codes emphasized assessing the BCBC to ensure it does not limit Indigenous cultural elements, and expressed the need for complementary guidance that addresses Indigenous Knowledge, and supports Indigenous leadership.

A set of participants spoke to the opportunity for the Branch to support communities in creating their own building code and/or adapting the BCBC to their unique context. Due to limited resources, it can be overwhelming for communities to develop their own custom-made building code, but many participants noted the importance of

having Indigenous Peoples develop their own codes. There is an opportunity to collaborate with and support **Land Code** nations while they develop laws and policies on housing. Part of this support to communities is ensuring Provincial building safety policies are designed to allow standards and associated tools to be readily accessible to any First Nations who choose to use them. Participants highlighted the value of information on the potential impacts of flooding, and guidance



LAND CODE

A **Land Code** is a comprehensive law created by a First Nation to replace 32 land management sections in the Indian Act.

on climate change and storm resilience for both new and existing buildings.

Participants expressed interest in co-developing a booklet or building standard for each climate region. This is an example of building from the strengths one community has demonstrated for the west coast. These new products would offer guidance to achieve homes that are resilient, code compliant, and culturally appropriate while addressing housing challenges that Indigenous Peoples experience. Additional complementary resources to building code could include tools around preventative maintenance, renovations, and templates for building affordable, sustainable, and resilient homes. One participant suggested a separate building or architectural guideline that is specific for Indigenous culture, traditions, and practices.

The conversation in the final session included a rich dialogue on Indigenous practices

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Teach staff, leadership and members about how to build efficiently—why things are the way they are.

—Indigenous participant

and culture in and around buildings. Participants spoke about how the connection between culture and building practices requires further exploration, and as Traditional Knowledge is revitalized, there will be more opportunities to honour Indigenous cultures and practices in home building. One participant shared that it is very important to avoid development on or near sacred sites. Acknowledging that there is much more work to be done on this topic, participants gave a few examples of design considerations that could be included to support Indigenous cultures:

- Provisions for outdoor kitchens and accessory buildings that have water and electricity
- Appropriate moisture management provisions and space to accommodate the processing and storing of traditional foods and medicines
- Large pantries for food storage
- Additional guest rooms
- Spaces for community and family gathering
- Multi-use spaces in homes (e.g., homes with daycares)
- Entry ways that keep the cold out of the main living space



- Cultural touches like art
- Spaces for tool storage
- Prayer rooms
- Safe and healthy use of wood heat
- Aligning with sun for solar power
- Provisions for high-quality indoor air where wood burning is practiced
- Larger lot sizes

What we heard

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER



We need to work together and change the systemic relationships. We need to change external policies and create an Indigenous agenda.

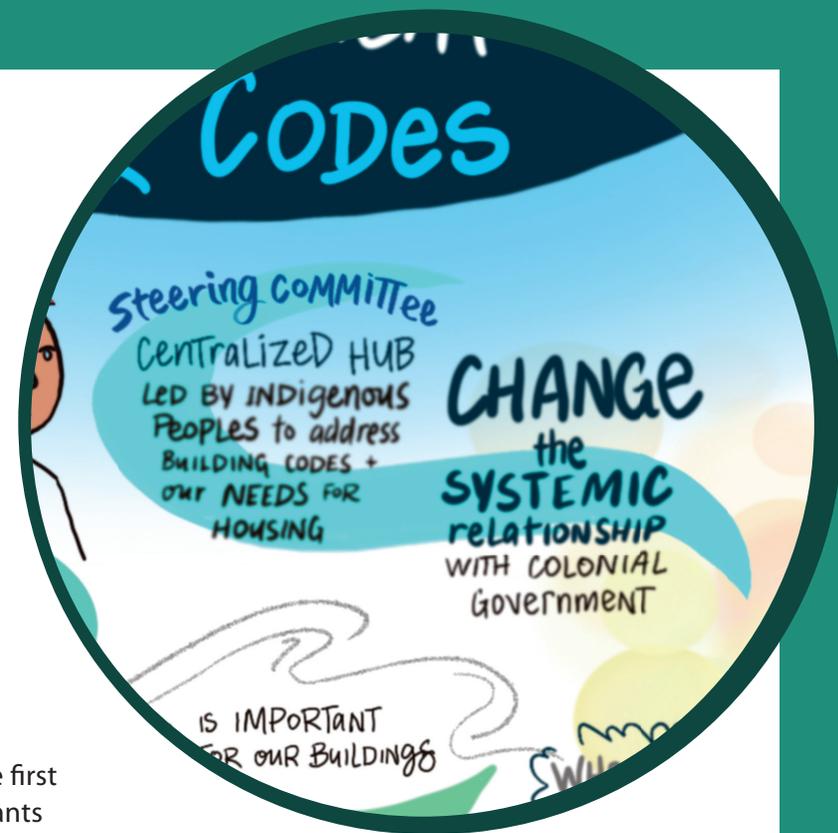
—Indigenous participant

DURING THE DIALOGUE SESSIONS, PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED WHAT IT MEANS TO MEANINGFULLY COLLABORATE WITH THE BUILDING AND SAFETY STANDARDS BRANCH, and how we can create relationships that are beneficial for Indigenous communities moving forward.

Participants shared the importance of learning as foundational to the success of the relationship-building process between the Branch and Indigenous Peoples; one participant noted that learning is a two-way process. The Branch's learning needs to include cultural safety training and understanding the different Indigenous governing structures, including Land Codes, Treaty, Self-Government, and the

Indian Act. With this series being the first introduction to the Branch, participants note that there is a lot for communities to learn about building codes and the Building and Safety Standards Branch. As both parties continue to learn about each other's context, the opportunities for partnership will grow.

Moving forward, participants noted it will be important for the Branch to ensure the right individuals are at the table and to be more inclusive. This includes bringing other provincial ministries, Indigenous Services Canada, BC Housing, First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council, the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre, and other organizations responsible for building



and housing to the table. It is important for the Province to eliminate silos between ministries and agencies to ensure activities are aligned and participants are not repeating similar conversations. Participants also expressed the desire to have meetings with higher-level staff within the provincial and federal governments.

Relationships need to be Indigenous-led and localized because each community may have a different view of next steps for their context. Larger group meetings can serve to advance shared initiatives

and can provide opportunities for smaller nations to participate fully. This approach will bring reciprocity to this work, allowing participants to give and receive knowledge and support.

Participants communicated a strong desire to continue the conversations on building codes and shared how they would like to see engagement continue:

- One-on-one meetings with Branch staff
- Provincial liaison providing technical support for communities
- Monthly meetings for community housing managers to talk about energy efficiency and climate resilience

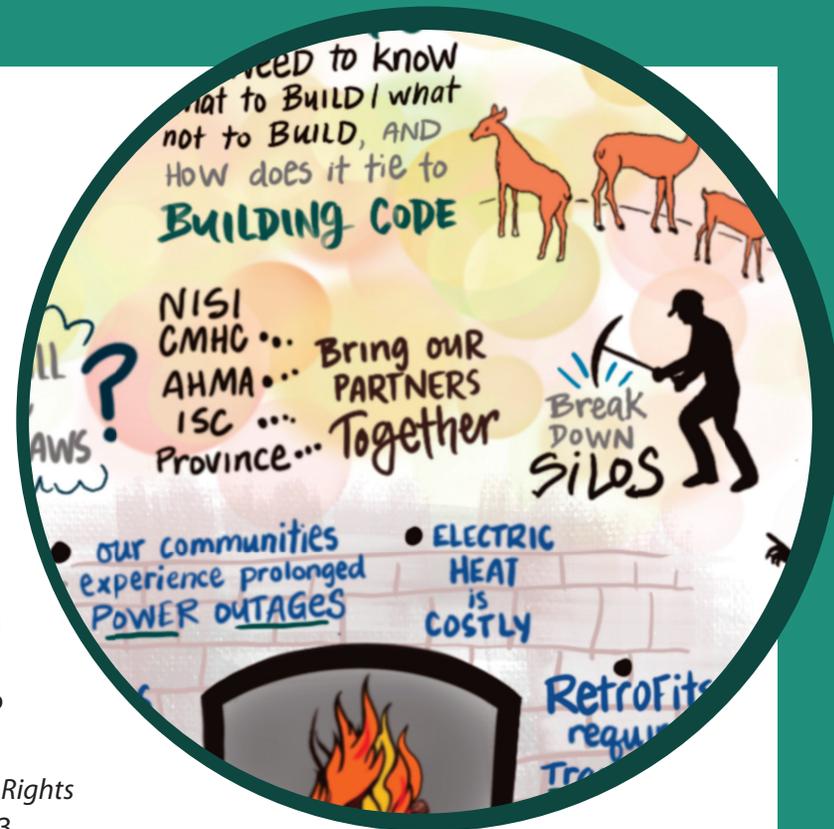
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**Without the support of others,
we will not get to the goal.**

—Indigenous participant

- Annual meetings following a similar format to this virtual engagement series
- Committees and sub-committees to implement actions raised during this engagement series, such as a multi-region steering committee to promote collaboration

As required by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination. Indigenous participants need to be fully involved in designing and co-leading future engagement on building codes in order to meaningfully influence policy.



Opportunities for implementation

The following offers a summary of opportunities for the Province and the Building and Safety Standards Branch to consider as an outcome of this engagement process. Some of the opportunities fall within the Branch's jurisdiction, while others will require leadership by other provincial ministries or federal departments. The Branch will share insights and opportunities expressed throughout this engagement series with partner ministries.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

BUILD RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS:

Continue to engage in partnership with First Nations and Métis Nation representatives to refine a shared understanding of the challenges that pertain to building code, and other related building issues, and work together to identify pathways forward. Some pathways identified in this process could include:

- Setting up government-to-government conversations to build connections with individual communities and nations.
- Creating a working group or committee(s) that include partner organizations and ministries to move forward key issues.
- Build on the momentum gathered during these sessions (e.g., potentially through continued virtual engagement) to foster the trust and mutual respect needed to

develop meaningful relationships with First Nations and Métis Nation representatives over time.

SHARE MESSAGES AMONG PARTNERS:

Champion the wisdom shared in this engagement process by actively sharing outcomes with other ministries, federal departments, and non-government organizations. This will enhance successful Indigenous engagement in the building sector and support partnership and collaboration on issues outside the Branch's expertise or mandate.

ENSURE INDIGENOUS CULTURES AND HISTORIES ARE RESPECTED:

Continue to learn and develop an understanding of the diverse Indigenous cultures and histories across the province. Recognize that this diversity is also represented in the many unique housing and building governance and policy landscapes in Indigenous communities. Understand these

complexities as an important foundation for relationship building. Reciprocity is required to ensure communities are being served and supported by the Branch. The Branch needs to:

- Learn more about the different Indigenous governance systems in B.C. (i.e., Land Codes).
- Learn how codes are developed/adopted based on the various governance systems.
- Tailor their communications to different audiences based on this refined understanding.

RECOGNIZE AND EMPOWER

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP: Indigenous leadership needs to be at the center of initiatives and solutions. Include Indigenous communities and knowledge holders in the pathway forward. Centre Indigenous leadership to shape any solutions that are intended to serve Indigenous Peoples.

FUNDING

INCREASE FUNDING FOR CODE

DEVELOPMENT AND COMPLIMENTARY GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS: Funding is needed to develop specialized Indigenous building codes, and should be flexible to meet emerging needs.

PROVIDE STABLE FUNDING TO

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES: Ensure that funding is available over a two-to-three-year cycle providing the financial stability required to hire and retain support staff in communities.

FUNDING NEEDS TO BE STREAMLINED:

Work to ease the administrative burden of funding programs for housing and building. Offer a liaison / concierge to enhance funding accessibility and help communities navigate funding processes.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY

DEVELOP SUPPORTS FOR COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING:

Learn from Indigenous communities and organizations who are successfully creating meaningful employment and training opportunities. Identify respectful ways to share these stories and opportunities for peer-learning, including:

- Continue to identify the employment and training needs of Indigenous communities

and organizations and identify strategies to meet these specific needs.

SUPPORT INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP THE CAPACITY OF LAND CODE AND HOUSING MANAGERS:

Indigenous communities have diverse needs when it comes to the capacity to lead housing and Land Code sectors. Participants mentioned several different opportunities, including:

- Identify funding avenues and support access to these funding sources.
- Create a community of practice where these managers can learn from each other and share knowledge and resources potentially through regional hubs mentioned previously.
- Create plain language tools to communicate the scope, purpose, and intent of the BC Building Code.
- Support communities to understand the connections between Land Code, housing policies, building codes, land-use planning, community planning, etc.

SUPPORT RURAL INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN ACCESSING BUILDING

SUPPORTS: Build relationships with rural communities to continue understanding the many challenges facing rural and remote Indigenous communities (e.g., connectivity, transportation issues) and identify ways to

address these based on the unique needs of each community.

RAISE AWARENESS AND PUBLICIZE THE CURRENT SUPPORTS AVAILABLE FOR HOUSING AND BUILDINGS:

Effectively communicate future engagement opportunities, funding and training opportunities through graphic and online formats that are easily accessible for Indigenous communities and organizations. The Branch can support to:

- Create communications tools that can effectively share the benefits of the BC Building Code with members.
- Support development of strategic planning tools that capture the entire planning and building process—selection of land, orientation of buildings, funding, mortgages, construction, demolition, etc.

BUILDING CODES AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

SUPPORT INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES TO CREATE BUILDING CODES:

Enable and support Indigenous communities to develop their own codes and specifications. Advance self-government by providing capacity for Indigenous communities to develop and enforce their own codes. The Branch and partners need to:

- Support Indigenous-led processes to create Indigenous building codes. Communities that are ready or are already doing this work need to be supported.
- Support capacity for Indigenous communities to enforce Indigenous made building standards.

RECOGNIZE THAT INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IS COMPLEX AND BELONGS TO NATIONS:

Indigenous Knowledge belongs to the communities where it comes from. Indigenous Knowledge is being revitalized and reclaimed by Indigenous communities. Recognize this work takes time to foster and develop. The Branch and partners can:

- Support communities to develop their own knowledge base.
- Do not take Indigenous Knowledge and use it only to benefit a non-Indigenous process.
- Ensure Indigenous communities benefit first and foremost and earn consent over how Indigenous knowledge is used.

CREATE RESOURCES OUTLINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BUILDING CODE AND LAND CODE PROCESSES:

Indigenous communities are at varying stages of creating building guidelines and need to understand the possible pathways

to achieve their housing and building code goals based on their own readiness. Provide guidance on the various pathways Indigenous communities can follow to support building on their lands.

ENSURE FLEXIBILITY IN THE BC BUILDING CODE FOR INDIGENOUS NEEDS:

In addition to supporting Indigenous led-initiatives, changes need to happen within the BC Building Code to ensure that Indigenous needs can be included and addressed. Some of the needs outlined by Indigenous communities are:

- The building code will need to enable customizable homes for dynamic families, and traditional food preparation and storage (including drying, canning, smoking meats, equipment, and food storage).
- There is a need for flexibility regarding electrical, plumbing, ventilation, and moisture requirements to account for unique cultural practices.
- Codes must enable traditional architecture and designs (e.g., Pit houses). This can be achieved through building guidelines or architectural standards specific to Indigenous cultures, traditions, or practices as needed.

SUPPORT REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITIES TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND BUILD UNIQUE, REGIONALLY RELEVANT RESOURCES:

Indigenous communities often face similar issues and opportunities as their neighbours and relatives in their climate regions. The Branch and partners can:

- Support communities to connect regionally to develop their climate and building-related knowledge base.
- Support the development of regional hubs or online platforms for communities to share resources and knowledge.
- Allocate resources to enhance Indigenous Peoples' readiness for climate change, including its link to housing, and work with partners to support Indigenous communities to become more climate resilient.
- Support Indigenous communities to develop codes and guidebooks by region.
- Adjust future building requirements to consider all climate risks and hazards.

Participant list

NATIONS

Binche Whut'en	Tseil-Waututh Nation
Heiltsuk First Nation	Uchucklesaht Tribe
K'omoks First Nation	Government
Kwadacha Nation	Ulkatcho First Nation
Kwikwetlem First Nation	Wei Wai Kai First Nation
Lil'wat First Nation	Wei Wai Kum First Nation
Métis Nation British Columbia	West Moberly First Nations
Musqueam Nation	Xeni Gewt'in First Nations
'Namgis First Nation	Leq'á:mel First Nation
Nuxalk Nation	
Penticton Indian Band	
Seabird Island Band	
Sumas First Nation	
T̓silhqot'in National Government	

INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS

First Nations National Building Officers Association
First Nations Health Authority
Aboriginal Housing Management Association

ORGANIZATIONS

BC Housing
CleanTech Community Gateway
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Community Power
GWAII Planning
Laurentian University
Karl Neufeld Consulting

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