



Regional District Highlights

Important BC Building Code changes take effect March 10

The province of BC has updated its Building Code. Starting March 10, 2025, all new building permit applications must follow the 2024 BC Building Code. This includes updated seismic design rules and new 'zero carbon' GHG emission standards. These provincial requirements apply to any permit applications submitted on or after this date.

Key changes

- Starting March 10, 2025, as mandated by the province, all building permit applications must fully comply with the 2024 BC Building Code, including new seismic design standards
- New buildings must adhere to zero carbon standards by meeting specific greenhouse gas emission level 1 and install systems to track and report these emissions

Seismic design

The 2024 BC Building Code includes significant changes to Section 9.23.13, addressing bracing requirements for lateral loads from wind and earthquakes. These requirements reflect British Columbia's high seismic hazard values. The Ministry of Housing will provide additional resources, including an illustrated guide for lateral load design, to help builders and designers implement these new requirements.

New Zero Carbon standards

Starting March 10, 2025, all new buildings must comply with the provincial minimum Level 1 of the Zero Carbon Step Code. This requires:

- Measuring and disclosing operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Installing systems to track and report these emissions
- The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) will only enforce the Level 1 provincial minimum

The PRRD is here to help builders and developers understand and implement the new provincial building code requirements. To get started, please review the provincial code updates and resources provided by the BC government at prrd.bc.ca. If you have any questions about how these provincial requirements will be implemented locally, contact the PRRD by calling 250-785-8084 or by emailing the Development Services Department at building.inspection@prrd.bc.ca.

Teams are available for in-person meetings in Fort St. John or Dawson Creek to discuss how these requirements may apply to your project. To schedule an appointment, email building.inspection@prrd.bc.ca or call 250-785-8084.

Area B By-Election general voting on February 22

A by-election for the position of PRRD Area B Director is happening this month, with the remaining voting opportunity on February 22. The director position was vacated by Jordan Kealy after being elected MLA for Peace River North in November 2024.

All eligible voters who reside, or own property in, Electoral Area B can vote for one of two nominated candidates (in order of nomination paperwork received by the PRRD): Madeleine Lehmann and Reid Graham.

For more information on candidates or what to bring with you to vote, visit prrd.bc.ca/getoutandvote. Residents can visit one of seven voting stations on General Voting Day (February 22):

- Pomeroy Sport Centre, Fort St. John, 8am to 8pm
- Buick Creek Community Hall, 10am to 6pm
- Cecil Lake Hall, 10am to 6pm
- Clearview Arena, 10am to 6pm
- Montney Community Hall, 10am to 6pm
- Prespatou Elementary School, 10am to 6pm
- Wonowon Elementary School, 10am to 6pm

Next PRRD Board Meetings

February 20, 2025 | 10am, Dawson Creek
February 26, 2025 | 10am, Dawson Creek

Board meetings are streamed live on Facebook @OfficialPRRD

To view all meeting information and agendas visit prrd.bc.ca/agendas-minutes.

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