

Province to Consult On Fire Sprinklers

For OGCA members involved in low rise residential and multi storey (greater than 3) residential, the following will be of interest.

Please contact us at the OGCA office if you have concerns.

Please feel free to attend any information sessions which we will advise you of as we become aware of them.

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McGuinty Government Believes Additional Measures Could Protect Families

TORONTO, Feb. 13 /CNW/ - The McGuinty government will hold a public consultation and information sessions on proposed changes to the Building Code that would require fire sprinkler systems in newly constructed multiple-unit residential buildings higher than three storeys.

"Ontario has one of the lowest rates of residential fire deaths in Canada," said Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Nonetheless, we believe we can make our buildings even safer, and we will consider the comments, ideas and concerns received through the consultations when finalizing any amendments to the Building Code."

"Over a ten-year period between 1997 and 2006, 103 people have died in these types of multi-unit residential building fires," said Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services. "My ministry looks forward to partnering with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to develop ways to reduce these tragedies and increase the safety of families and individuals across the province."

A public consultation paper will be available Friday, February 15 on the Building Code website of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing at <http://www.ontario.ca/buildingcode>. Interested parties will have until May 1, 2008 to submit comments.

Public information sessions will be held in late March and early April 2008. The locations and dates of the information sessions will soon be posted on the Building Code website and on the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Office of the Fire Marshal website at www.ofm.gov.on.ca.

"These consultations are a chance to build consensus and increase awareness about fire safety across the province," said Ontario Fire Marshal Patrick Burke. "Everyone must understand that fire safety begins with prevention, and that smoke alarms and sprinklers can save lives and limit property loss."

The Office of the Fire Marshal will use the information sessions to highlight fire safety challenges and home fire safety practices, and to discuss common misconceptions regarding residential sprinkler systems.

"Sprinklers can make a difference," said Linda Jeffrey, MPP for Brampton-Springdale. "The proposed regulations would help protect what we value most, including those most at risk - seniors, the young and the disabled."

Jeffrey previously introduced private members bills calling for sprinklers in new residential buildings.

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www.mah.gov.on.ca

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/For further information: David Brezer, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, (416) 585-6656; Brian Teefy, Minister's Office, (416) 585-6333; Chris Slosser, Office of the Fire Marshal, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, (416) 325-3120/