



*building communities together*

## **2022 Business Plan Building Inspection (1007)**

*Virgil Hoefels, Chief Building Official*

***Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.***

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### **Building Inspection (1007)**

2022 Tax Requisition: No increase proposed.

#### **Goals**

- 1. Incorporate previous years' goals into 2022 goals, objectives and action steps.**
- 2. Develop consistency and increase efficiencies across all three offices.**

A constant challenge within the department has been to ensure clerical and operational consistency across all three offices. These problems have been amplified in recent years due to employee turnover and lack of updated policies and procedures for new staff to rely upon. By implementing automated processes and documenting policies and procedures, we will transfer institutional knowledge from staff into a tangible process and documents that can be relied upon by all.
- 3. Enhance inspection staff expertise.**

The BC Building Code was revised in 2018. Since its revision in 2018, it has undergone various updates each year. It is a challenge for Inspectors to remain on top of these updates. It is critical that they do, however; as it is difficult for and creates risk to the CRD to interpret these changes on the fly in the field. Advanced training provides for a better service to the public and ensures certifications required by the BC Building Act.
- 4. Increase building permit application efficiency.**

It is a standing order within the Building Department to provide services to the public in the most efficient manner possible. The onset of COVID-19 has forced the Building Department staff to accept numerous online building permit applications, which has led to exploring the options available within CityView to automate this process. It has been revealed that the CityView Portal offers a number of powerful tools to assist in this.

**5. Address staff shortages during EOC activation and busy building season.**

EOC activation is now the new normal. EOC activations typically occur during the busy construction season and cause disruption that is felt for many months post EOC deactivation.

**6. Update the Building Bylaw.**

The construction industry is evolving at a rapid pace. As it evolves, the complexity of building increases as does the cost of construction. As building becomes more complex, it becomes more difficult to provide services to historical levels. The Building Bylaw has not been updated since 2016; and as such, there are various areas that need to be addressed.

**7. Maintain historic staffing levels for Field Inspectors.**

The 10-year average for Cost of Construction inspected per Inspector (COC/Inspector) is \$9,405,672. The average for the last three years has been \$13,228,452. This is a 40% higher COC/Inspector than for the last 10 years. While some of the excess workload can be accommodated through increasing efficiencies, much of it cannot. An increase in part-time staff is proposed for 2022. However, 2023 may require expanding the full-time staff within the Building Department.