



## **Farm Building Code revision report**

**By Will Teron**

With guidance from the Task Group Chair and Committee Secretary, I have been told that there are disclosure restrictions and only the Chair is permitted to speak publically on behalf of the group. With that in mind, I have the following comments that can be shared with CFBA Board and CFBA Members at the AGM.

The Canadian Commission on Building and Fires Codes Task Group on Farm Building Requirements was cast late in 2011 with the mandate to:

- ✍ Review how the various jurisdictions are currently addressing construction of agricultural facilities
- ✍ Review the documentation and correspondence received regarding updating the National Farm Building Code of Canada
- ✍ Review the scopes of the latest editions of the National Building Code of Canada, the National Fire Code of Canada, the National Plumbing Code of Canada and the National Farm Building Code of Canada
- ✍ Review the protocol developed by the Task Group on Addressing New Objective in the Code and has been requested to provide a report that:
  - ✍ quantitatively define the differences between large farm building and small farm buildings
  - ✍ determine the appropriate vehicle for addressing construction requirements for large farm buildings
  - ✍ determine the appropriate vehicle for addressing construction requirements for small farm buildings
  - ✍ determine if the objectives related to farm buildings coincide with those of the already established objectives in the National Model Codes
  - ✍ develop a project plan to complete the work, including:
    - ✍ approach to address drafting the technical requirements, key tasks, timetable and resources

I am happy to say that the Group is composed of Building Code experts from across the country including a long time friend of CFBA - Jan Joffriet, Professor Emeritus U. Guelph and Former Chair of Standing Committee on Farm Building Code. I am fortunate to be part of the group and am there to represent the Canadian Farm Builders Association. It is imperative that we are active in these discussions so that a balanced approach is ensured.

The Group has had some very positive discussions regarding the current status of the National Farm Building Code and its short comings.

Members now have a better recognition of the unique nature of farm buildings and recognize the challenges that exist between Codes for industrial buildings and farm structures.

After the first two meeting, the Group has begun defining the base criteria for discussion and recognize that the definition of farm buildings and the size of farm buildings is a key factor in future discussions. The Group mandate makes a clear distinction between small and large farm buildings and this will be reflected in the reports.

I am confident that the report will provide a balanced approach to farm building requirements. I will be advocating for the continuation of special provisions for farm buildings (as currently provided in the Farm Building Code) while recognizing that increased safety and security is required for some structures including our industries largest and most at risk buildings. The Code is intended to ensure life safety in our buildings but currently falls short in some aspects.

While I cannot report anything further at this time, the minutes of the Task Group meetings are available through request from the Commission secretary.

The Task Group mandate runs for 6 months which means that our report should be ready in June. From there, a second group will be assembled to put the details to paper in developing the new Code requirements for farm buildings (release in a 2015 Code?).

