

# NATIONAL BUILDING CODE - FARM BUILDINGS

## CFBA PARTICIPATION in the PROPOSED UPDATE

The Canadian Farm Builders Association (CFBA) is providing a historical **overview of the CFBA's involvement with and review of the proposed National Building Code updates with respect to farm buildings in Canada.** CFBA members should be aware of the CFBA's commitment and extent of involvement with this initiative. The CFBA's objective has been to ensure that our members - farm building stakeholders were effectively consulted and represented in the process related to the update of the code.



The CFBA first became involved in advocating for farm code updates in **2007**, when **Will Teron (of Tacoma Engineers and CFBA President 2006 - 2007)** raised the issue to government, informing representatives that it was critical that the National Farm Building Code of Canada (1995) be updated to integrate with the National Building Code and reflect all current environmental and building standards. Since 2007, Will Teron, on behalf of the CFBA, and with financial and technical support from Tacoma Engineers has stayed close to the issue, moving it forward, and ensuring the issue remains front and centre. During this timeframe, the CFBA provided support on an as-needed basis, with volunteer committee and task group members recruited from amongst the CFBA to advance this initiative. We thank all CFBA members who have been involved in this important project.



Will Teron  
(Photo by Karen Dallimore)



Gary van Bolderen

In **2016**, CFBA Director, **Gary van Bolderen** took the opportunity to reach out to government (Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes) at a fortuitous meeting, and the CFBA subsequently received an invitation from the National Research Council of Canada to provide a representative to participate in a Joint Task Group on National Farm Building Code (NFBC). Will Teron was unanimously nominated by the CFBA. Gary van Bolderen also received an invitation from the National Research Council, and the CFBA was extremely fortunate to have both Will and Gary participating in this Joint Task Group.



The CFBA established a committee in March 2016 to support Will Teron as the CFBA representative, and we sincerely thank both Will and Gary, in addition to the committee members for their involvement in this.

Our colleagues from the **Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)** - **Dan Ward, Vicki Hilborn, and Steve Beadle** were also involved in the Joint Task Group on Farm Buildings and we sincerely appreciate their work in support of this initiative and in furthering an updated farm building regulation in Ontario.



**March 2016 – 2019**

**Task Force Committee Members**

Will Teron of Tacoma Engineers (Chair)  
Gary van Bolderen of DutchMasters  
Terry Rothwell of Tampa Hall  
Dan Ward of OMAFRA  
Vicki Hilborn of OMAFRA  
Steve Beadle of OMAFRA

Matt Farrell of the Township of Huron Kinloss  
Ed Podniewicz of the Municipality of North Perth  
Dan Reymer of Middlesex Concrete Forming  
Herman Post of POST Farm Structures  
Chris Feenstra of Gara Farm Buildings

**Codes Canada: Members of Joint Task Group**

Will Teron of Tacoma Engineers  
Gary van Bolderen of DutchMasters

**Codes Canada ‘Active’ Observers:**

Dan Ward of OMAFRA  
Vicki Hilborn of OMAFRA  
Steve Beadle of OMAFRA

**Codes Canada: Members of Standing Committee on Structural Design - Working Group on Farm Buildings (2015 on)**

Dr. Jan Jofriet, University of Guelph, Professor Emeritus  
Will Teron of Tacoma Engineers

**Codes Canada: Standing Committee for Farm Buildings (to 1995 Farm Code publication)**

Dr. Jan Jofriet, University of Guelph, Professor Emeritus, Chair

The release of the proposed updates had been anticipated for some time, and the CFBA had readied a group to review the information, once it became public. **The long-awaited updates became available for public review and comment for the period January 13<sup>th</sup> to March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** The proposed farm building regulations were developed by Codes Canada (an arm of National Research Council Canada). The process had taken **13 years** to arrive at this point.

The **CFBA established a Task Group in January 2020 to review and respond to the proposed updates.**



To encourage additional stakeholders to submit comments during the public review period, the CFBA forwarded the proposed updates to numerous construction and agricultural organizations across the country, sharing the information with these groups as they are likely to be impacted by the proposed changes in the future. The CFBA subsequently fielded inquiries from representatives of many of these groups who were seeking support in performing their own review.

We offer a sincere thank you to co-Chairs **Bram Van den Heuvel of Stonecrest Engineering** and **Tyler Griffith of Tacoma Engineers**, along with the members of the **CFBA Task Group; National Building Code - Part 2 Farm Buildings** (list following), for their extensive work on this project. The impact of this will be felt by all CFBA members and extends beyond the CFBA to farm building and agriculture across Canada. We thank **Steve Beadle of OMAFRA** for support with distributing to agricultural organizations, **Matt Farrell of Huron Perth** and the **Ontario Building Officials Association (O.B.O.A.)** for distributing to a network of building officials across Canada, and **Ian Cunningham of the Council of Ontario Construction Associations (COCA)** for distributing to provincial construction associations across Canada.



The CFBA's Part 2 Farm Buildings Task Group commenced mid-January 2020. The Task Group co-Chairs established a plan, and under their guidance, the group:

- reviewed and evaluated the extensive proposed code information
- determined necessary feedback
- organized and facilitated a CFBA member feedback session
- prepared **45 response comments** regarding the proposed update
- submitted the response comments via the established portal

In addition, the Task Group co-Chairs prepared and delivered a presentation to Conference attendees @ the CFBA's Annual Conference on February 28th, 2020.

The above proceedings took place during the January – March 2020 timeframe, and were a significant undertaking for the CFBA and we sincerely thank all our contributors and their employers for the support. We especially recognize **Tacoma Engineers** and **Stonecrest Engineering** for providing the Task Group co-Chairs in support of this project, and also we appreciate and thank **Tacoma Engineers** and **Tampa Hall Ltd.** for providing the meeting venues necessary to support this endeavour.

We sincerely thank **Tyler Griffith of Tacoma Engineers**, and **Bram Van den Heuvel of Stonecrest Engineering** for their extensive hours of work and commitment to leading this project, in addition to special mention and thanks to Task Group members **Patricia Douel** of the **City of Hamilton**, and **Terry Rothwell** of **Tampa Hall** and the CFBA's Past President - for their considerable efforts and support in preparing CFBA's 45 comments and recommendations, and then formally submitting these one by one via the online portal to Codes Canada.







**January – March 2020**

**Part 2 Farm Buildings Task Group Members**

Tyler Griffith of Tacoma Engineers  
Bram Van den Heuvel of Stonecrest Engineering  
Terry Rothwell of Tampa Hall  
Matt Farrell of Huron Kinloss  
Patricia Douel of the City of Hamilton  
Herman Post of POST Farm Structures  
Ed Podniewicz of North Perth

Ken Worsley of the Cowan Group  
Dan Reymer of Middlesex Concrete Forming  
Chet Liu of Y.C. Liu Engineering and Great Lakes  
Perma-Column Inc.  
Sam Bradshaw of Ontario Pork  
Observer - Brett Bunting of the Ontario Structural  
Wood Association

**Active Observers:**

Will Teron of Tacoma Engineers  
Steve Beadle of OMAFRA

Gary van Bolderen of Dutch Masters  
Vicki Hilborn of OMAFRA



**NEXT STEPS**

The submitted stakeholder comments will be reviewed by the Joint Task Group on Farm Buildings (Gary van Bolderen of Dutch Masters and Will Teron of Tacoma Engineers are members) and the relevant Standing Committees (Will Teron of Tacoma Engineers is a member of the Structural Design Committee Working Group). Ultimately, based on the recommendations received from these groups, the new regulations will be approved by the Codes Canada Executive Committee and subsequently adopted in the National Building Code Part 2.

We await these results. Once the proposed updates (new regulations) have been approved at the national level, the updates will be forwarded to the Canadian provinces and territories for the same review, potential amendment, and adoption. This is a process that may take a period of years. The CFBA will continue to be involved and follow this, and report updates as we are able.

