



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister

AR77977

February 25, 2015

Lloyd Beckedorf
Moose Mountain Log Homes Inc.
info@moosemountain.com

Dear Mr. Beckedorf,

Thank you for your email of February 2, 2015 regarding log walls in log-built homes being exempt from the upcoming adoption of national energy codes for buildings and houses. You present a persuasive case for requesting this exemption and I appreciate your bringing this to my attention.

I am pleased to inform you that the upcoming adoption of the Alberta Building Code (ABC), which includes energy efficiency requirements for housing, will not apply energy efficiency requirements for log walls in log homes. This exemption forms part of the ABC requirements, so an exemption in regulation is not required, as was the case in Ontario and the Yukon. The National Research Council, which develops the National Building Code, is supporting provinces and territories to make energy code exemptions for log walls for many of the same reasons that you describe. Of course, the ABC will continue to apply to all other aspects of log-home construction.

As you point out, log homes represent a fraction of the home-building industry, primarily in rural or recreational areas. Energy efficiency codes were never designed to accommodate this traditional building construction because it is simply not practical to do so. Another reason for an exemption is that this class of housing forms a niche market where the application of energy efficiency requirements has no discernable impact on climate change, energy efficiency ratings, or the economics of the housing industry. Most importantly, the scope of application for energy code requirements does not represent a matter of public safety.

I understand you have discussed your concerns with James Orr, Director of Building/Fire and Accessibility Standards at Alberta Municipal Affairs. I encourage you to raise any additional concerns with him. Log homes represent an important heritage symbol in Alberta and across our nation, and that is well worth preserving.

Thank you again for sharing your perspective on this matter

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana McQueen".

Diana McQueen
Minister