



REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION BY CITY COUNCIL

Developing a “Made in Toronto” Building Code

Date:	January 29, 2009
To:	Planning and Growth Management Committee
From:	City Council
Wards:	All

City Council Decision

City Council on January 27 and 28, 2009, referred Motion MM30.7 to the Planning and Growth Management Committee.

Recommendations

Councillor Palacio, seconded by Councillor Moscoe, recommends:

1. That the City Manager and the Executive Director and Chief Building Official, Toronto Building, be requested to report to the Planning and Growth Management Committee on the feasibility of creating a protocol or mechanism for Toronto-specific adjustments to the Ontario Building Code, including through future amendments to the City of Toronto Act.

Summary

Despite the significant legislative independence and latitude gained by the City of Toronto as a result of the new City of Toronto Act, there remain some areas in which the City of Toronto should be able to exercise more autonomy.

One of these areas is the Ontario Building Code. As by far the largest urban area in Ontario, the City of Toronto faces unique challenges and has unique opportunities (such as the opportunities and challenges that result from density) that can only be realized through certain Building Code provisions tailored to Toronto's needs. Greener building standards and code provisions that deal with reducing noise between semi-detached buildings and row houses are just some examples of the many areas that Toronto residents' interests and balancing of priorities may not always align entirely with other municipalities in Ontario.

A mechanism for City Council to amend by by-law or recommend to the Minister, Toronto-specific Building Code amendments and adjustments would be of great benefit for addressing these unique challenges and seizing these opportunities.

(Submitted to City Council on January 27 and 28, 2009 as MM30.7)