

# FIRPAC – Summary of meeting October 26, 2016

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## Federal Industry Real Property Advisory Council (FIRPAC)

*The Council provides a forum for the public and private sector to discuss issues pertaining to the planning and management of Federal Real Properties including the disciplines of architecture, engineering, construction, facility management, interior design, heritage conservation and landscape architecture. Common objectives consist of improved relations, information sharing and enhanced communications.*

### Topics of discussion

#### 1. Canadian Construction Innovations

Pierre Boucher, President of Canadian Construction Innovations, an institute for research and innovation in the Canadian construction industry, gave a presentation titled: *Innovations in Canada, the Future of Construction*. (See presentation below.)

#### 2. BIM

The federal government is planning to develop a consistent strategy for adopting BIM in the design and construction of buildings. A working group/sub-committee was to be formed with government and industry representatives. They include the Department of National Defence, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Defence Construction Canada, the Royal Architectural Institute Canada, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies, and Interior Designers of Canada.

#### 3. National Performance Standards for Office Buildings

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) provided an update on a document they have been working on called the *National Performance Standards for Office Buildings (NPS)*. The NPS is to be a companion to the document *Workplace 2.0*, the federal government's office space modernization program.

- According to PSPC: The NPS will be withdrawn from the PSPC policy approval process as a policy document, and should not be in circulation.
- PSPC will circulate the NPS to government internal working groups for review with a view to improving it for use as an official document by the end of the fiscal year March 31 2017.
- Update: Since the October 2016 meeting, PSPC has asked industry for comments. **If you are interested in commenting on the draft document, please contact [firpac@raic.org](mailto:firpac@raic.org).**
- Industry had advised that PSPC review applicable codes and standards and clarity of

application used on federal properties. As a result, a working group/sub-committee has been formed to discuss the topic. The departments represented include PSPC, Department of National Defence and Defence Construction Canada. Industry representatives include the Royal Architectural Institute Canada, Association of Consulting Engineering Companies, Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals, Engineers Canada, and Interior Designers of Canada.

#### 4. Workplace 2.0

FIRPAC members were advised of an [article](#) published in the Ottawa Business Journal describing Workplace 2.0 as a “disaster.”

In response, a PSPC representative sent an email with the following information:

*“PSPC is revitalizing and changing our approach to how we implement Workplace 2.0 We have created a dedicated WP Solutions service line that is fully accountable for the planning and delivery of this program. New fit-up designs will incorporate wellness and sustainability elements and feature integrated technology that allows for productivity improvements, mobility capability, collaboration, and alternative working arrangements.*”

*“There is a funded pilot program in place to undertake innovative design featuring Activity Based Work. This approach offers employees a variety of work points in a mobile environment that allows for much greater collaboration and allows employees for work from anywhere, when they need to. Many departments are participating in various pilot projects nationally.”*

#### 5. Use of Standing Offers

A representative of Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) provided information on the number and values of Standing Offers for architectural and engineering services in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The presentation was a response to questions from industry members about alternative forms of delivery, including service providers and leased buildings, and whether PSPC was still using Standing Offer arrangements. (See the Standing Offer document below).

There was a discussion about the possibility that PSPC would transition from Standing Offers to a Supply Arrangements process; no decision has been made. Members were invited to provide industry views. FIRPAC would like to hear from RAIC members on their views about Supply Arrangements. **Please provide input to [firpac@raic.org](mailto:firpac@raic.org) by February 20 2017.**

#### 6. Security clearance and fingerprinting

A representative from the Public Services and Procurement Canada-Industrial Security Sector (PSPC-ISS) provided an update of the intention of the federal government to require electronic fingerprinting for new security clearance applications as well as renewals. An

updated communique from PSPC was intended to be issued to the consulting community  
November 2016.

**Next Meeting: February 22, 2017.**