



# TOWN VIEWS

A PUBLICATION FOR TOWN OF CRESTON RESIDENTS | MARCH 2025



**Attention Builders, Contractors, Designers, and Anyone Involved in Residential Construction in BC**

The 2024 BC Building Code came into effect on March 8, 2024. However, seismic and adaptable dwelling unit provisions from the 2018 BC Building Code remained in effect for projects with building permits applied for before March 10, 2025. Starting March 10, 2025, all projects with building permits must fully comply with the 2024 BC Building Code, including the updated seismic design requirements.

### What is Seismic Design?

Seismic design is the process of engineering buildings to withstand earthquakes and high winds. The goal is to enhance safety and minimize damage to buildings and infrastructure during seismic events.

### Seismic Design Requirements

All new buildings constructed in British Columbia, including those in areas that previously did not require seismic considerations—such as Creston—must now comply with BC Building Code 2024 Section 9.23. The redesign of Section 9.23 introduces significant changes to accommodate increased seismic activity, particularly

Subsection 9.23.13, which addresses bracing to resist lateral loads caused by wind and earthquakes.

BC has some of the highest seismic hazard values in Canada, making these updates essential. The revised methods for lateral load resistance provide new solutions that allow designers to continue working within the parameters of Part 9 of the BC Building Code.

### Learn more at this Course Coming to Creston!

To help builders and designers navigate these important updates, the Town of Creston is offering a specialized course covering the changes to Part 9 bracing requirements for wood frame construction.

### BCBC 2024 CHANGES TO PART 9 BRACING TO RESIST LATERAL LOADS

Adopted in the BC Building Code 2024 are new Part 9 bracing requirements for wood frame construction, coming into effect on March 10, 2025. This session will cover the important upcoming changes.

**APRIL 11TH  
9AM – 3PM  
CRESTON**

**This course is highly recommended for builders, contractors, designers, and anyone involved in residential construction in BC.**

Scan the QR to Sign-up or visit the newsfeed at **Creston.ca** to learn more and to register.





## From the Desk of Bylaw Services

The Town of Creston reminds all dog owners to keep their furry friends on a leash when in public spaces. Here's why:

### ✓ Safety

- Protects your dog from running into traffic, getting lost, or confronting other animals.
- Prevents accidents or injuries for both dogs and people.

### ✓ Health

- Helps stop the spread of disease.
- Keeps dogs from eating harmful or toxic substances.

### ✓ Environment

- Preserves sensitive vegetation.
- Prevents pollution of streams and natural spaces.

### Leash Laws Matter!

Dogs must be leashed in public spaces within the Town of Creston (with the exception of the Dog Park).

Leashes must be securely attached to a collar or harness and held by the owner at all times.

Letting your dog roam off-leash could result in fines.

Let's work together to keep Creston safe, clean, and enjoyable for everyone—four-legged friends included!

## House Numbers - Can we Find You?

Creston, we need to talk about something important — your house number. You know, that little (or hopefully not so little) set of digits that tells the world where you live? The Town of Creston kindly reminds all property owners to display their house number prominently. And no, scribbling it on a post-it note and sticking it to your door does not count.

**Why is this so important?** Well, for starters:

- ✓ Emergency responders need to find you! If firefighters or paramedics are trying to get to you in an emergency, clear numbers make their job a whole lot easier.
- ✓ Deliveries will actually arrive at the right place. Nobody wants their online shopping haul going to their neighbour's porch (unless you're in the market for a mystery package).
- ✓ Pizza. Imagine ordering that glorious, cheesy goodness—only to have it end up two doors down. Tragic.



### The Bylaw Details

According to Part 9 of the Fire Service Bylaw 1928, every property must have a visible street address that meets these criteria:

- Legible from 15 metres away (roughly the distance of a short putt at the golf course).
- Numbers must be at least 4 inches tall and at least 0.5 inches wide (bigger is always better).
- Contrast is key! Black on black won't cut it—make sure your numbers stand out from your house color.

So, do a quick check—can people actually see your house number? If not, grab some new ones, make them bold, and help Creston's emergency crews, delivery drivers, and pizza heroes do their jobs.

## Creston Welcomes a New Doctor

The Creston Valley Health Working Group is pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Victor Adegoke, scheduled to join the Family Practice Associates Clinic on March 17, 2025.

Dr. Adegoke, originally from Nigeria, has a wealth of experience with family practice medicine and a special interest in Emergency care. He will be joining our community with his wife and 3 young children.





Dr. Adegoke is relocating under the Practice Ready Assessment program. It is a competitive program, which offers opportunities to internationally-educated family physicians wishing to relocate to practice in B.C. The candidates are offered mentorship at a Canadian practice for three years. It is hoped the physicians will settle long term in the

community and maintain a local practice.

The Creston Valley Health Working Group has been actively recruiting Physicians and other health professionals to the Creston Valley for over 18 years. To meet the needs of residents, the group was formed when Regional District of Central Kootenay Directors and Town of Creston officials saw the need for sustained health care. A dedicated health recruiter reaches out to communicate with potential physicians and locums to encourage them to choose Creston for their career work.

The Creston Family Practice Associates and Summit Medical Clinics are both teaching clinics within the UBC rural program which has students coming to Creston. The medical community is constantly welcoming students, residents, and locums to their practices and we can each do our part to lay out the welcome mat. Be it at the Farmer's Market, the many great eateries in town or in the variety of shops and services offered, every positive interaction with current and future health professionals is a win for all of us.

The Creston Valley Health Working Group is funded by the Town of Creston along with the RDCK Areas B & C.

Creston Doctor's offices do NOT have individual clinic waitlists. There is a centralized waitlist for the Creston area which is maintained online. Please do not contact the clinics directly. Once you have registered online, your place will be held within that waitlist for all future intakes utilising this system. You will be contacted by the appropriate clinic when it is your turn. The website for Creston Valley residents without a family doctor is: <https://hcr.healthlinkbc.ca/s/> Those individuals without access to a computer or a smartphone can request assistance by dialing 8-1-1. Your BC Services number and dates of birth for all family members is required for registration.



## Exciting News for Childcare Providers in Creston!

Thinking about opening a childcare facility in Creston? Great news! On February 25, Council approved updates to our zoning bylaw to make it easier to provide childcare—especially in residential areas. Childcare facilities are now permitted as a primary use in *all* zones!

### What do you need to get started?

- ✓ A Local Business Licence from Town of Creston
- ✓ Interior Health licence approval

Ready to make a difference in families' lives while building a rewarding career? Learn how opening a daycare can bring both purpose and success—take the next step today!

## Short-term Rentals

If you operate an AirBnB or similar short-term rental (STR) in the Town of Creston, here's a quick reminder about your responsibilities:

### Business Licence Required:

All short-term rental operators must pay an annual business licence fee. Check out the Town of Creston Business Licence Fees in the Fees and Charges Bylaw for details. Complete your short-term application at [creston.ca/business-licences](https://creston.ca/business-licences).

**By May 1, 2025**, the Province will require all hosts and platforms to register with the Province and pay a registration fee. Hosts must provide proof of a local business licence to validate compliance with local bylaws.

**Beginning May 1, 2025**, the Province will require platforms to stop advertising any short-term rentals that do not

have a valid registration number and local business licence and prevent any new bookings.

**Beginning June 1, 2025**, the Province will require platforms to stop advertising short-term rentals without a valid registration number and local business licence, prevent new bookings, and cancel existing bookings.

**To learn more about provincial regulations visit:**

[www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/short-term-rentals/short-term-rental-legislation](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/short-term-rentals/short-term-rental-legislation)

## Public Art

Are you interested in installing public art, such as a mural, in Creston? Did you know there's an application process for that? Even if you own the building or property, you'll need to apply.

If you're considering a public art installation in Creston, please complete an application: [creston.ca/public-art](http://creston.ca/public-art).

Your application will be reviewed by our dedicated Public Art Working Committee and Council.

Interested in joining the Public Art Working Committee to have your say on public art in our community? Complete an application here:

[creston.ca/town-news/recruiting-membership-public-art-working-committee](http://creston.ca/town-news/recruiting-membership-public-art-working-committee)

Many of the positions are filled, but we still recruiting:

- 1 youth representative
- 1 representative from the community at large
- 1 representative from Kootenay River Secondary School

## Wildfire Preparedness

Emergency Management Creston



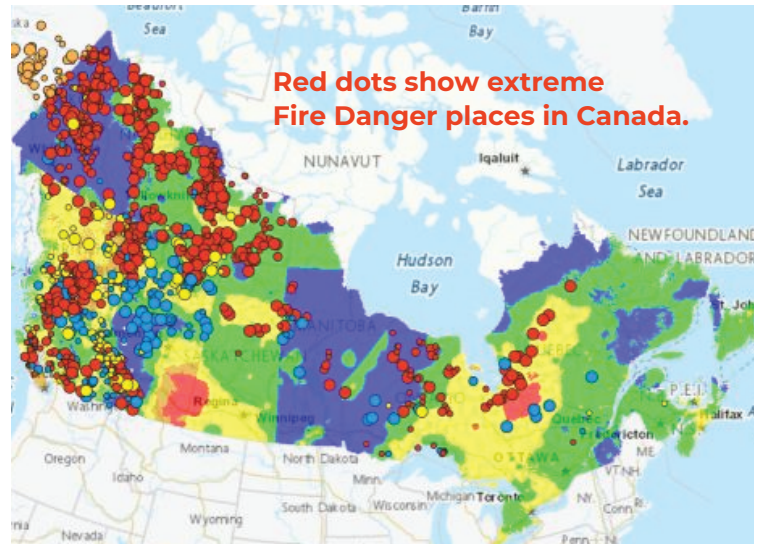
In 2023, Canada faced the formidable challenge of **record-breaking wildfires**.

These fires were fuelled by record high temperatures and widespread drought conditions across the country.

According to the World Resources Institute, forest fires are becoming more widespread, burning at least twice as much tree cover today as they did two decades ago.

The entire Town of Creston is located within a Wildland

Urban Interface, which is the area where human development meets or intermingles with the natural environment. When we live, work and play in wildland urban interface zones, we become more exposed to the danger of wildfire, but it is possible to live safely in this natural environment.



**FireSmart BC** is a program aimed at reducing the risk of wildfire damage to homes, communities, and forests. Part of this program is providing free FireSmart Home Assessments that will identify specific actions and upgrades you can take on your property to reduce wildfire risks.

When you sign up for a Home Assessment, a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist will visit your property for 1-2 hours to conduct the assessment, which is entirely outdoors. After your assessment has been completed, the FireSmart team will work with you to develop a workplan where you can become eligible for up to \$5,000 in rebates if you spend up to \$10,000.

**To learn more and sign up, visit:**

[em.creston.ca/firesmart-at-home/](http://em.creston.ca/firesmart-at-home/)

## Wildfire Preparedness Day

You can also sign up for a home assessment by visiting us on May 3rd at the Creston Museum for **Wildfire Preparedness Day**. The Creston Museum is looking for volunteers to conduct wildfire mitigation work and the FireSmart team will be there with smiling faces and free hot dogs to teach you all about wildfire preparedness.

To sign up to volunteer in helping the museum become FireSmart contact [tammy@crestonmuseum.ca](mailto:tammy@crestonmuseum.ca).