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21 September 1981

Mr. R.V. Hession
President
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Head Office
Montreal Road
Ottawa, Ontario ,
K1A 0P7

Dear Mr. Hession:

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This is to acknowledge your letter of 27 August 1981 regarding moisture related problems in houses.

The Associate Committee on the National Building Code has a particular interest in ensuring that the model requirements published under its auspices provide appropriate minimum standards of structural sufficiency, fire safety and health. If it can be shown that these requirements are directly related to excessive deterioration in buildings, the Associate Committee would naturally take appropriate action to overcome the problem.

In order to justify changes to the existing requirements, however, the Committees must satisfy themselves that the requirements are in need of modification and that the proposed changes will correct the problem. Costs and benefits also have to be considered in order to justify more restrictive requirements.

It was noted in your letter that CMHC has committed substantial staff and money "towards seeking measures which will reliably diminish the problem in the future." We would naturally welcome this information when it becomes available. You also mentioned that you have received reports upon which you based your assumption about the magnitude and seriousness of the problem. These reports would also be of interest to our technical committees.

Please be assured that your comments will be carefully considered by the ACNSC Executive Committee at its next meeting.

Yours sincerely

A. Grant Wilson
Chairman, ACNSC

81-AC-757

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