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Solutions for the construction industry : new and improved National Research Council web site

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<http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/irc>

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Solutions for the Construction Industry

New and Improved National Research Council Web Site

<http://irc.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca>

The National Research Council's Institute for Research in Construction (IRC) is a prime source of information for construction practitioners in Canada. The IRC's popular Web site receives more than 120,000 "hits" each month and most of these visitors are accessing IRC publications.

"The site is a key part of our technology transfer and communication efforts," says Mike Culhane, IRC's Head of Library and Internet Services. The site contains more than 2,000 publications, many geared towards the practitioner, such as architects, engineers, and builders. Among the most popular publications are the practice-oriented *Construction Technology Updates*. The Updates are concise distillations of IRC research results and reviews of building science principles.

Another popular series is the *Canadian Building Digests*, which represent a history of building science in Canada. They were written between 1960 and 1990. By putting them on the Web, they remain accessible to users. As well, reports of innovative products evaluated by IRC's national evaluation service (CCMC) can be found in the *Registry of Product Evaluations*, which are also posted on the site.

New publications are added on a weekly basis and the Upcoming Events section is updated regularly. Anyone can sign up to receive the list of new publications by e-mail or subscribe to the electronic version of the newsletter *Construction Innovation*.

The Web site includes a searchable Index, which allows users to quickly find information on the IRC's 5,000+ Web pages, if they know what they're after.

The site also contains comprehensive information on IRC's research activities, most of which are carried out with industry partners. Another key part of the site deals with building codes. The IRC provides national leadership to the codes community in Canada and readers can follow key developments by accessing the IRC site. As Canada's largest construction research organization, the IRC also acts as a gateway for Canadians to access global construction technology information. The IRC site provides access to search the Web sites of members of the CIB (International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction).

The goal is to make the IRC site an active, relevant and useful one-stop source of information. There are plans to add a searchable database of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) dealing with a variety of technical issues, as well as to increase linkages and information sharing with other national and international construction organizations.

Questions or suggestions about further ways to improve the site are welcomed. Contact Mike Culhane at (613) 993-3774, fax (613) 952-7671, or e-mail mike.culhane@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca.

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