

The Corporation of The Municipality Of Northern Bruce Peninsula

By-Law No. 2026-08

Being A By-Law to Prescribe the Standards for The Maintenance And Occupancy of Property Within The Municipality Of Northern Bruce Peninsula

WHEREAS, under Section 15.1(3) of the Building Code Act, R.S.O. 1992, c. 23, a by-law may be passed by the Council of a municipality prescribing the standards for the maintenance and occupancy of property within the municipality, provided the Official Plan for the municipality includes provisions relating to property conditions.

AND WHEREAS the Official Plan for the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula includes provisions relating to property conditions.

AND WHEREAS Section 15.6(1) of the Building Code Act, R.S.O. 1992, c. 23 requires that a by-law passed under Section 15.1(3) of the Building Code Act, S.O. 1992, c. 23 shall provide for the establishment of a Property Standards Committee, and

AND WHEREAS Section 391 of the Municipal Act, 2001, R.S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides that a municipality may pass by-laws imposing fees or charges on any class of persons:

- for services or activities provided or done by or on behalf of it
- for costs payable by it for services or activities provided or done by or on behalf of any other municipality or local board, and
- for the use of its property, including under its control

AND WHEREAS Section 398 of the Municipal Act, 2001, R.S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides that fees and charges imposed by a municipality constitute a debt of the person to the municipality and that the Treasurer may add amounts owing to the tax roll.

AND WHEREAS Section 11 (2) 6 of the Municipal Act, 2001, R.S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides that Council may pass by-laws in respect of health, safety and well-being of persons.

AND WHEREAS the Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula is desirous and deems it to be in the best interest of the Municipality to enact a by-law prescribing minimum maintenance standards for the maintenance and occupancy of property and to provide for establishment of a Property Standards Committee.

Now therefore, the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula hereby enacts the following:

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Section 1 - Definitions

For the purposes of this By-law, the following definitions shall apply:

"Accessory Building" means a detached building or structure, not used for human habitation, that is subordinate to the primary use of the same property.

"Act" means an enactment or statute of the Province of Ontario.

"Approved" means acceptance by the Property Standards Officer.

"Apartment Unit" means any dwelling unit within a building containing more than one dwelling unit where the units are connected by an interior corridor and or common entrance.

"Basement" means a space of a building that is partly below grade, which has half or more of its height measured from the floor to the ceiling above the average exterior finished grade.

"Building" means any structure used or intended to be used for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

"Building Code" means the Building Code Act and any regulations made under that Act.

"Cellar" means a space of a building that is partly or entirely below grade, which has more of its height from the floor to the finished ceiling below the adjacent finished grade level for at least seventy-five percent of the building perimeter.

"Chief Building Official" - means the Chief Building Official appointed under Section 3 of the Building Code Act, 1992, c. 23 and having jurisdiction for the enforcement thereof.

"Citation - Property Standards By-law" means this Chapter may be cited as the Property Standards By-law.

"Code" means a regulation of the Province of Ontario

- (i) with respect to matters relating to building as the Building Code Act;
- (ii) with respect to matters relating to electricity as the Electrical Safety Code;
- (iii) with respect to matters relating to fire as the Fire Code; and

(iv) with respect to matters relating to plumbing as the Plumbing Code.

“Committee” means a Property Standards Committee established in accordance with this by-law.

“Council” means the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula.

“Complaint” means an expression of discontent or concern.

“Crawl Space” means a space beneath a floor with clearance of less than those required for basements or cellars.

“Dwelling” means a building occupied or capable of being occupied exclusively as a home, residence or sleeping place by one or more persons, and one or more families, but shall not include an mobile home, construction trailer, travel trailer, hotels, motel, a home for the ages, nursing home, hospital, or living quarters for a caretaker, watchman or other person or persons using living quarters which are accessory to non-residential building.

“Dwelling unit” means a room or a suite of rooms operated as a housekeeping unit, used or intended to be used as a domicile by one or more persons and supporting general living conditions usually including cooking, eating, sleeping and sanitary facilities. Dwelling unit is two or more rooms used or designed to be used by one or more individuals as an independent or self-contained domestic unit or housekeeping establishment.

“Exterior property area” means the building lot excluding building(s).

“Fence” means any structure, wall or barrier, other than a building, erected at grade for the purpose of defining boundaries of property separating open space, restricting ingress to or egress from property, providing security or protection to property or acting as a visual or acoustic screen.

“First Storey” means that part of a building having a floor area closest to grade with a ceiling height of more than 1.8 meters above grade.

“Garbage” means the animal and vegetable waste and related products resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food or drink.

“Ground Cover” means organic or non-organic material applied to prevent soil erosion such as concrete, flagstone, gravel, asphalt, grass or other landscaping.

“Guard” means a protective barrier installed around openings in floor areas or on the open sides of a stairway, a landing, a balcony, a mezzanine, a gallery, a raised walkway and other locations as required to prevent accidental falls from one level to another. Such barriers may or may not have openings through them.

“Habitable Room” means any room in a dwelling unit used or designed to be used for the purpose of living, sleeping, eating, cooking or preparation of food and without limiting the foregoing shall include den, library, sunroom or recreational room or any combination thereof.

“Non-habitable Space” means a bathroom, toilet room, water closet compartment, laundry, pantry, foyer, lobby, hall, corridor, stairway, passageway, closet, storage room, boiler room, furnace room, accessory space for service, maintenance of access within a building or a room or space which does not comply with the minimum standards for residential occupancy.

“Non-residential Property” means a building or structure or part of a building or structure not occupied in whole or in part for the purpose of human habitation and includes the lands and premises appurtenant and all of the outbuildings, fences or erections thereon or therein.

“Means of Egress” includes exits and access to exits, and means a continuous path of travel provided by a doorway, hallway, corridor, exterior passageway, balcony, lobby, stair ramp or other exit facility used for the escape of persons from any point within a building, floor area or room, or in a contained open space to

- i) a separate building
- ii) an open public thoroughfare
- iii) an exterior open space that is protected from fire exposure from the building and that has access to an open public thoroughfare

“Municipality” means the Corporation of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula unless the context requires otherwise.

“Occupant” means any person(s) over the age of eighteen (18) years in possession of the property.

“Officer” means the Property Standards Officer or his/her designate who has been appointed by Council and assigned the responsibility of administering and enforcing the provisions of his By-law.

“Owner” includes the owner in trust, a mortgagee in possession, the person for the time being, managing or receiving the rent of the land or premises in connection with which the word is used whether on his own account or as agent or trustee of any other person or who would receive the rent if the land and premises were let and shall also include a lessee or occupant of the property who, under the terms of the lease, is required to repair and maintain the property in accordance with the standards for the maintenance and occupancy of property.

“Person” means and includes any person, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association or organization of any kind.

“Residential property” means any property that is used or designed for use as a domestic establishment in which one or more persons usually sleep and prepare and serve meals, and includes any land or building that are appurtenant to such establishment and all stairways, walkways, driveways, spaces, and fences associated with the dwelling or its yard.

“Repair” includes the provision of such facilities and the making of additions or alterations, or the taking of such action as may be required, so that the property shall conform to the standards established in this By-law.

“Rubbish” means any combustible or non-combustible, discarded or waste materials except garbage and shall include debris and other refuse.

“Safe condition” means a condition that does not pose or constitute an undue or unreasonable hazard or risk to life, limb or health of any person on or about the property and includes a structurally sound condition.

“Sewage system” means the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula system of storm sewers, sanitary sewers and combined sewers or a private sewage disposal system approved by the Chief Building Official of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula.

“Sign” means any device or notice, including its structure and other component parts, which is used or capable of being used to identify, describe, illustrate, advertise or direct attention to any person, business, service, commodity or use.

“Standards” means the standards of the physical condition and occupancy prescribed for property by this by-law.

“Snow disposal site” means only those lands on which snow is placed after being brought to the lot from another lot and shall not include areas to which snow is moved to one portion of a lot after being cleared from the rest of the lot.

“Snow storage site” means that portion of land being used for the storage of snow that has been moved to one portion of a lot after being cleared from another portion(s) of a lot.

“Toilet room” means a room containing a water closet and a wash basin.

“Vehicle” includes a motor vehicle, farm vehicles, commercial vehicles, off-road vehicles, trailer, boat, motorized snow vehicle or other mechanical power-driven equipment.

“Visual barrier” means a continuous, uninterrupted structure and/or fence which completely blocks lines of sight when viewed perpendicularly from either of its sides and shall consist of one or more of the following materials: wood, stone, bricks, mortar, fabricated metal or other similarly solid material approved by the Chief Building Official or Property Standards Officer.

“Waste” means any debris, rubbish, refuse, sewage, effluent, discard or garbage of a type arising from a residence belonging to or associated with a house or use of a house or residential property and/or from industrial or commercial operations, or belonging to or associated with industry, commerce, industrial or commercial property which for greater certainty includes all garbage, discarded material or things, broken or dismantled things and materials or things exposed to the elements, deteriorating or decaying on a property due to exposure or the weather.

“Yard” means the land other than publicly owned land around or appurtenant to the whole or any part of a residential or non-residential property and used or capable of being used in connection with the property.

Section 2 General Standards for All Property and Uses

2.1 Scope

- a) No person, being the owner or occupant of a property, shall fail to maintain the property in conformity with the standards required in this By-law.
- b) The owner of any property which does not conform to the standards in this By-law shall repair and maintain the property to conform to the standards or shall clear the property of all buildings, structures, garbage, rubbish, waste or accumulations of such materials that prevent access to or exit from the property in the case of emergency, or other safety or health hazard and shall leave the property in a graded and leveled condition.
- c) All repairs and maintenance of property shall be carried out with suitable and sufficient materials and in a manner accepted as good workmanship within the trades concerned.
- d) All new construction or extensive repairs shall conform to the Ontario Building Code, where applicable.
- e) This By-law does not apply so as to prevent a farm, meeting the definition of “agricultural operation” under the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. 1, from carrying out a normal farm practice as provided for and defined under that Act.
- f) No owner or occupant of property within the Municipality shall use, occupy, or allow, permit or acquiesce in the use or occupation of the property unless such property conforms to the standards prescribed in this By-law.

2.2 Yards

- a) Yards shall be kept clean and free of litter, garbage, rubbish, waste, salvage, refuse, decaying or damaged trees, branches and limbs, objects or conditions that might create a health, fire, accident hazard or unsightly condition.
- b) Every property shall be kept free from garbage, rubbish, waste, or accumulation of such materials that prevent access to or exit from the property.
- c) Without restricting the generality of this Section, such maintenance includes the removal of:
 - i) rubbish, garbage, waste, litter and waste
 - ii) injurious insects, termites, rodents, vermin and other pests; and any condition which may promote an infestation

- iii) trees, bushes and hedges, including any branches or limbs thereof, which are dead, decayed or damaged, and brush
- iv) noxious weeds pursuant to the Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. W.5 and any excessive growth of other weeds, grass and bushes
- v) wrecked, dismantled, inoperative, discarded or unlicensed vehicles, boats, trailers, boat trailers, fifth wheel trailers and machinery or parts thereof, except in an establishment licensed or authorized to conduct a salvage, wrecking or repair business and then only if such establishment conforms with any relevant by-laws, chapters or statutes
- vi) dilapidated or collapsed buildings, or partially constructed structures or erections, and the filling in or protecting of any unprotected well.

d) The warehousing, storage or display of materials or operative equipment in any yard that is required for the continuing operation of an industrial, business or commercial use of the property shall be maintained in a neat and orderly fashion so as not to create a fire or accident hazard and shall be arranged in such a manner to provide unobstructed access for emergency vehicles. Where conditions are such that a neat and orderly fashion is achieved but is still offensive to view, the offensive area shall be made to be either suitably enclosed by a visual barrier/fence of not less than 1.8 m in height and maintained in good repair or the offensive area shall have all items removed therefrom where no visual barrier/fence is to be erected.

2.3 Outdoor Storage of Materials – No Immediate Use

No machinery, shipping containers, trailers or parts thereof, or other objects, or materials, not associated with the normal occupancy and use of a property, including among other things, appliances, fixtures, paper, cartons, boxes, or building materials such as lumber, masonry material or glass, other than that intended for immediate use on the property, shall be stored or allowed to remain in an exterior property area.

2.4 Garbage Receptacles

Every building shall be provided with sufficient proper receptacles to contain all garbage, ashes or waste, which accumulates on the property, and such materials shall be placed for collection in proper receptacles in compliance with applicable laws and not allowed to accumulate for longer than fourteen (14) days.

- a) receptacles for garbage shall be:
 - i) made of watertight and animal-proof construction
 - ii) provided with a tight-fitting cover, which may be removed only when the receptacle is empty or is being actively loaded
 - iii) maintained in good condition without holes or spillage
 - iv) closed, or emptied, rinsed and cleaned when not in use, to prevent the escape of offensive odour or waste.
- b) plastic bags shall be considered acceptable receptacles under subsection (a) above provided they are:
 - i) adequately secured so as to prevent spillage
 - ii) not stored outdoors unless protected from access by animals or vermin
 - iii) otherwise are maintained in compliance with subsection (a) above
- c) paper receptacles are not acceptable under this Section, except where they are placed inside other compliant receptacles or are placed out for collection in compliance with applicable collection by-laws.
- d) where commercial and/or industrial on-site garbage containers are visible from a public street or land, or residential properties, the area where the receptacles are stored shall be screened from view.

2.5 Garbage Chutes-Rooms-Containers-Standards

Garbage chutes, disposal and collection rooms, containers and receptacles shall be washed down, disinfected and maintained to be clean, odour-free and in good working order and repair.

2.6 Unenclosed Porch-Balcony

Every unenclosed porch, unenclosed balcony and every exterior and common area shall be kept free of garbage, waste and/or appliances.

2.7 Grass-Trees-Bushes-Hedges-Landscaping

- a) Grass, trees, bushes, hedges, and other landscaping shall be maintained to prevent unsightly or unreasonable overgrowth in relation to the neighbouring environment.
- b) Grass, trees, bushes, hedges and other landscaping, non-organic ground cover and site facilities shall be provided and maintained in living condition or a safe condition.

2.8 Ground Cover-Erosion Control

Suitable ground cover shall be provided and maintained to prevent erosion of the soil and so as to be in harmony with the neighbouring environment. Where grass forms part of the ground cover, it shall be re-sodded or re-seeded as often as is required to maintain the grass in a living condition.

2.9 Lot Grading-Drainage-Surface Conditions

- a) All yards shall be provided and maintained with adequate surface water drainage, including suitable provisions for its disposal, without causing erosion, so as to prevent pending or the entrance of water into a basement or crawlspace.
- b) No roof, sump pump, driveway or other surface drainage, and the drainage of water from swimming pools shall be discharged on an entranceway, walkway, sidewalk, stairs, steps or adjacent property or onto any highway or in such a manner that it will penetrate or damage a building, structure or private or public property or lands.
- c) Every roof drainage shall be discharged onto the ground at least one (1 m) from the building or structure, providing that it does not adversely affect adjacent properties or cause erosion. Lot drainage shall be contained within the limits of the premises from which it originated until absorbed by the soil or drained to an approved swale or ditch.
- d) No fill shall be left in an uncovered state (not covered by sod, seed or agricultural crop) on any property for longer than thirty (30) days unless the property is:
 - i) a construction site for which a building permit is in effect
 - ii) a property being subdivided under a subdivision agreement with the Municipality
 - iii) property being actively farmed

2.10 Walkways and Driveway

- a) Surface conditions of walkways, driveways and yards shall be installed and maintained in a safe condition with non-organic ground cover so as to:
 - i) prevent ponding of storm water
 - ii) not exhibit an unsightly appearance
 - iii) be kept free of garbage and waste
 - iv) be kept free of deep ruts and holes
 - v) provide for safe passage under normal use and weather conditions day and night
 - vi) not to create a nuisance to other property

2.11 Parking Lots

- a) Parking lots, driveways and other similar public access areas of a yard shall be maintained so as to afford safe passage under normal use and weather conditions and be free from health and other hazards.
- b) Parking lots, driveways and other similar public access areas of a yard shall be kept clean and free of litter, rubbish, waste, salvage, refuse, decaying or damaged trees, branches and limbs, objects or conditions that might create a health, fire, accident hazard or unsightly condition.

2.12 Snow Disposal-Storage

A property owner shall cause any snow disposal site or a snow storage site on that property to be:

- a) maintained so as not to cause a hazard on the property
- b) maintained in such a manner and location on a property so as to prevent a hazard, flooding, erosion and other damage to neighbouring private or public lands

2.13 Compost Heaps

The occupant of a residential property may provide a compost heap in accordance with the health regulations, provided that the compost pile is no larger than one square meter in area and 1.8 meters in height and is enclosed on all sides by concrete block, wood, other suitable material or a commercial plastic enclosed container designed for composting.

2.14 Exterior Lighting

- a) Every stairway, exterior exit and entrance doorway, cellar, basement entrance or building entrance shall have a permanently installed lighting fixture that shall be maintained in a good working order.
- b) All underground parking areas and common areas shall be illuminated so as to provide safe passage.
- c) Facilities for lighting shall be maintained in a good state of repair.
- d) Outdoor lighting and indoor lighting that can be seen outdoors shall be placed and maintained, or have barriers or shades placed and maintained, so as to prevent or block direct illumination of the interior of a dwelling on adjacent property, regardless of whether such dwelling has or may have shades, drapes or other interior window coverings.

2.15 Retaining Walls

All retaining walls, screen walls and ornamental walls shall be constructed of durable material and shall be maintained in a structurally sound condition.

2.16 Wells-Cistern-Cesspool-Privy Vault-Pit or Excavation.

A well, cistern, cesspool, privy vault, pit or excavation shall be permanently sealed or secured by a fence, cover or netting unless it is in active use, in which event, it shall be secured by fencing with warning signs until the use has ceased, whereupon they shall be sealed or secured as required above.

2.17 Accessory Buildings

- a) The foundations, walls, roofs and all parts of accessory buildings and other structures appurtenant to the main building shall be:
 - i) constructed with suitable materials
 - ii) maintained in good repair
 - iii) protected from deterioration by the application of paint or other suitable protective material

2.18 Fence

- a) A fence erected on a property or separating adjoining properties shall be maintained:
 - i) in good repair; (free from loose or insufficiently secured, rotten, warped or broken materials.
 - ii) in a safe and structurally sound condition so as to be capable of sustaining safely its own weight together with any load to which it might reasonably be subject to.
 - iii) shall be free of dangerous objects
 - iv) reasonably plumb, unless specifically designed to be other than vertical
- b) The owner of any property used for multiple-dwelling, commercial, institutional, or industrial purposes shall install and maintain a visual barrier not less than 1.2 meters and not more than 2.0 meters in height where such property is used for the parking, access, and exiting of vehicles by tenants, employees, or customers or when used for the operation of equipment or when used for the storage of goods, or when used for any other purpose which may detract from the enjoyment and good appearance of an abutting residential property.

2.19 Town-Gantries-Masts-Antennae

- a) Towers, gantries, masts, antennae, and structures of similar character and any attachment thereto shall be maintained:
 - i) reasonably plumb, unless specifically designed to be other than vertical
 - ii) in good repair
 - iii) in a safe and structurally sound condition

2.20 Signs

A sign and any structure connected therewith shall be installed and maintained:

- a) in good repair without any visible deterioration when viewed from any property
- b) other than the property on which the sign is situated
- c) in a safe and structurally sound condition
- d) in a reasonably vertical plane unless otherwise approved by the Municipality.

An unused or discarded sign(s) shall be removed from the property or shall be stored within a building.

2.21 Defacements

All exterior walls of a building or structure and their components, and all fences and visual barriers shall be free from graffiti, profanity and other similar defacements.

Section 3 – Exterior Property Areas

3.1 Structural Adequacy Capacity

- a) All repairs and maintenance of property required by the standards prescribed in this by-law shall be carried out in a manner accepted as good workmanship in the trades concerned and with materials suitable and sufficient for the purpose.
- b) Every part of a property shall be maintained in good repair and in a structurally sound condition so as:
 - i) to be capable of sustaining safely its own weight, and any additional load to which it may normally be subjected
 - ii) to be capable of safely accommodating all normal structural movements without damage, decay or deterioration

- iii) to prevent the entry of moisture that would contribute to damage, fungus growth, decay or deterioration
- iv) to be capable of safely and adequately performing its function subject to all reasonable serviceability requirements.

3.2 Foundation Walls-Basements

- a) all foundation walls and the basement, cellar or crawl space floors shall be maintained in good repair and structurally sound.
- b) every basement, cellar and crawl space in a property shall be maintained in a reasonably watertight condition so as to prevent the leakage of water into the building.

3.3 Exterior Walls-Surface-Cladding-Masonry

All exterior walls and surfaces of every building or structure shall be sound, plumb, weather-tight, free from loose or unsecured objects and maintained in good repair:

- a) in good repair, free from cracked or broken masonry units, defective or deteriorated wood or metal siding or trim, cracked, broken or loose stucco, loose or unsecured objects.
- b) shall be maintained by the painting, restoring or repairing of the walls, coping or flashing, by the waterproofing of joints and the walls themselves, by the installation of or repairing of weather-tight finishing, or the installation of termite shields, if required.
- c) all exterior surfaces that have previously been covered with paint or other protective or decorative materials shall be maintained in good repair and the covering renewed when it becomes damaged or deteriorated.
- d) every part of a building, including the exterior, shall be maintained in a structurally sound condition and so as to be capable of sustaining safely its own weight and any additional weight that may be put on it through normal use.

3.4 Doors-Windows-Cellars-Hatchways

- a) Windows, skylights, exterior doors and frames, basement or cellar hatchways, attic access doors including storm and screen doors and storm windows shall be maintained in good working order, good repair, in a safe condition and shall be of such construction so as to prevent the entrance of wind, snow or rain into the building and to minimize heat loss through infiltration.
- b) At least one entrance door in every dwelling unit shall have hardware so as to be capable of being locked from inside and outside the dwelling unit.
- c) All windows are capable of being opened.
- d) All windows capable of being opened shall be equipped with a screen to prevent the passage of insects, and the screen shall be maintained in good condition.

3.5 Window Screens

- a) When an exterior opening is used or required for ventilation or illumination and is not required to be protected by a door, window or similar closure, it shall be protected with:
 - i) mesh screening, metal grills, or other equivalent durable rust-proof material
 - ii) other protection so as to effectively prevent the entry of rodents, large insects or vermin

3.6 Canopies-Marquees-Awnings

All canopies, marquees and awnings shall be properly anchored so as to be kept in safe and sound condition and shall be protected from decay and rust by a periodic application of weather-coating material.

3.7 Roof

- a) Every roof and all of its components shall be maintained in good repair and in a safe and structurally sound condition.
- b) Without restricting the generality of this Section, such maintenance includes:
 - i) removal of loose, unsecured or rusted objects or materials
 - ii) removal of dangerous accumulations of snow or ice
 - iii) keeping roofs and chimneys in water-tight condition so as to prevent leakage of water into the building
 - iv) keeping all roof-related structures plumb unless specifically designed to be other than vertical

3.8 Eavestrough Systems-Metal Ducts-Flashing

- a) Eavestrough, roof gutter, rainwater pipe, downspouts, flashing, and all exterior ducts shall be properly secured free from loose or unsecured objects, free from obstructions and health hazards, weather-tight, free of holes and maintained in good repair.
- b) Every eave trough, roof gutter, rainwater pipe, downspout and flashing shall be properly secured and continued to be kept in good repair, free from obstructions and health hazards.
- c) Metal eaves troughs, rainwater pipes, flashing, and all exterior metal ducts shall be kept free from rust by application of a suitable protective material, such as paint, and shall be renewed when necessary.
- d) All roof drainage shall be discharged onto the ground at least 1 metre from the building or structure, when it is physically possible to do so, providing that it does not adversely affect adjacent properties, or cause erosion.

3.9 Chimney Flues

- a) Chimney, vent pipes, smokestacks, flues, ducts and other similar equipment shall be constructed, installed and maintained free from obstruction and shall prevent:
 - i) the entrance of smoke or gases into a building
 - ii) the heating of adjacent combustible materials, walls and structural members to unsafe temperatures
 - iii) fire, health or other hazards
 - iv) any fuel-burning heating equipment used in a building shall be properly vented to the exterior by means of an approved smoke pipe, vent pipe or chimney

3.10 Garage-Carport

- a) The construction between an attached or built-in garage or carport and a dwelling unit shall provide an effective barrier to gas and exhaust fumes.
- b) A door between an attached or built-in garage and a dwelling unit shall be tight-fitting and weather-stripped to provide an effective barrier against the passage of gases and exhaust fumes and shall be fitted with a self-closing device.
- c) Garages and carports, including floors, shall be maintained in good repair and free from hazards.

Section 4 Interior of Buildings, Structures and Dwellings

4.1 Interior Structure-Columns-Seams

- a) In every building, all structural components, including but not limited to all joists, beams, studding, and roof rafters, shall be of sound material and adequate for the load to which they are subjected.

4.2 Walls-Ceilings

- a) Every interior surfaces and finishes of walls and ceilings shall be maintained:
 - i) in good repair, a surface which is reasonably smooth, clean, tight and easily cleaned
 - ii) free of holes, cracks, loose plaster or other material
 - iii) in a safe condition
 - iv) so as to possess the fire-resistant properties required by the Building and Fire Codes.
 - v) In any bathroom containing a bathtub or shower, wall surfaces shall be maintained as water-resistant and readily cleanable to the *minimum heights or size requirements* prescribed by the Ontario Building Code.

4.3 Floors

- a) Every floor shall be smooth and level and maintained so as to be free of all loose, warped, protruding, broken or rotted boards that may create an unsafe condition or surface. Such defective floors shall be repaired or replaced.
- b) Where a floor covering has become worn or torn so that it retains dirt or may create an unsafe condition, the floor covering shall be repaired or replaced.
- c) Every bathroom, kitchen, laundry and shower room shall have a floor covering of water-resistant material and be capable of being cleaned.
- d) Every cellar and basement shall have a floor of concrete or other material acceptable under the provisions of the Building Code, to ensure water drainage and to guard against the entry of vermin.

4.4 Stairs-Handrails-Guards

- a) Every inside or outside stair and every porch or landing appurtenant to it shall be maintained so as to be free of holes, cracks and other defects which constitute accident hazards.
- b) All handrails and balustrades, stairways, fire escapes, balconies, landings and porches and similar appurtenances shall be maintained in good repair so as to be free of holes and other defects which constitute accident hazards, shall be properly anchored so as to be kept in a safe and secured condition, shall be structurally sound for the loads imposed through their normal use and, if metal, shall be protected from rust or similar decay by a periodic application of paint.
- c) Handrails shall be installed and maintained in good repair on all exterior stairs that have more than 3 risers and on all interior stairs within dwelling units that have more than 2 risers.

4.5 Elevators

- a) Elevating devices in a building, including all parts, lighting fixtures, lamps, elevator buttons, floor indicators and ventilation fans, shall be maintained in good repair and operational condition.
- b) All elevating devices, including elevators, dumb-waiters, hoists, escalators, incline lifts and other elevating devices, shall be installed and maintained:

- i) in good working order and good repair
- ii) in a safe condition

4.6 Means of Egress

- a) Every building, structure or dwelling unit/house shall have a safe, continuous and unobstructed passage from the interior to an exit or the outside of the building at street or grade level.
- b) Exterior stairs and fire escapes shall be maintained in a safe state of repair and kept free of ice and snow.
- c) The passage required as egress from one dwelling unit/house shall not pass through any other dwelling unit.
- d) In every multi-residential dwelling where a security locking-and-release system has been provided in the front or rear lobby for the entrance into the multiple dwelling and that system is controlled from each dwelling unit, such system shall be maintained in good repair and in an operating condition.
- e) Where a non-residential building contains dwelling units located at other than grade level, there shall be a secondary means of continuous and unobstructed egress from such dwelling units.
- f) All means of egress within a non-residential property shall be maintained free from all obstructions or impediments.
 - i) provided with clear, unobstructed and readily visible exit signs for every required exit
 - ii) provided with lighting facilities capable of illuminating the means of egress to ensure the safe passage of persons exiting the building.

4.7 Heating

- a) Every residential dwelling shall have heating equipment capable of maintaining a temperature of not less than 22°Celsius in all living spaces as per Section 9.33 of the Ontario Building Code.
- b) It is the responsibility of the owner that all heating and mechanical systems, and their components, be installed, operational and maintained in good working order.
- c) Only heating equipment approved for use by a recognized standards and testing authority shall be provided in a room used or intended for use for sleeping purposes.
- d) No rental residential dwelling unit shall be equipped with portable heating equipment as the primary source of heat.
- e) Solid fuel burning appliances shall conform to the standards as set out in the Building Code. Fireplaces and similar construction used or capable of being used for burning fuels in open fires shall be connected to approved chimneys and shall be installed so as not to create a fire hazard to nearby or adjacent combustible materials and structural members.
- f) If heating equipment burns solid or liquid fuel, a storage place or receptacle for the fuel shall be provided in a safe place and maintained in a safe condition.
- g) Fuel-burning equipment shall be vented to a flue by means of rigid connections leading to a chimney or a vent or flue. All flues shall be kept clear of obstructions.
- h) Every chimney, smoke pipe and flue shall be maintained so as to prevent gas from leaking into the building.

4.8 Air Conditioning

- a) Air conditioners shall be equipped with adequate devices for the prevention of condensation drainage onto entrance areas, sidewalks or pathways and shall be maintained in a safe mechanical and electrical condition.
- b) Cooling water from water-cooled equipment shall not be discharged on driveways, walkways or other areas used for pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or in such a manner that it may cause damage to the walls, foundations or other parts of a building.
- c) The discharge of cooling water from all water-cooled equipment shall be made to a proper drainage system and shall be connected in accordance with all applicable governmental regulations.

4.9 Electrical

- a) Every dwelling and dwelling unit shall be wired for electricity and shall be connected to an approved electrical supply system. An adequate supply of electrical power shall be available in all occupied parts of every dwelling, suite and building.
- b) The connection to the building and the system of circuits and outlets distributing the electrical supply within the building shall provide adequate capacity for the use of the building, and such connections, circuits, wiring and outlets along with any fuses, circuit breakers and other appurtenances thereto, shall be installed and maintained in good working order.
- c) Extension cords are not permitted on a permanent basis.

4.10 Ventilation

- a) Ventilation shall be provided to and maintained and operated in all rooms and spaces within a building so as to prevent accumulations of heat, dust, fumes, gases, including carbon monoxide, vapors and other contaminants which may create a fire, explosion, toxic hazard or health hazard.
- b) Every ventilation system shall be cleaned regularly and maintained:
 - i) in good working condition and good repair
- c) When an exterior opening is used or required for ventilation and is not required to be protected by a door, window or similar closure, it shall be protected with screens in accordance with this Bylaw.
- d) An opening for natural ventilation may be omitted from a bathroom or toilet room where a system of mechanical ventilation has been provided.
- e) Every basement, cellar, unheated crawl space and attic shall be vented, and such vents shall be designed and maintained to prevent entry of snow, rain, rodents and insects:

4.11 Lighting

- a) Every stairway, exterior exit and entrance doorway, bathroom, toilet room, kitchen, hall, cellar, basement, laundry, furnace room and non-habitable work room in a suite, dwelling unit or building shall have a permanently installed lighting fixture that shall be maintained in a safe condition and in good working order.
- b) Lighting equipment shall be installed throughout every property to provide adequate illumination for the use of each space so as to provide safe passage.

4.12 Plumbing

- a) All plumbing, drainpipes, water pipes and plumbing fixtures in every building and every connecting line to the sewage system shall be maintained in good working order and free from leaks and defects and all water pipes and appurtenances thereto shall be protected from freezing.
- b) Plumbing systems on a property shall be provided, installed and maintained:
 - i) in compliance with the respective requirements of any applicable Act or by-law
 - ii) in good working order and good repair
 - iii) in a safe condition
 - iv) all plumbing fixtures shall be connected to the sewage system through water seal traps

4.13 Water Supply

- a) Every dwelling and every building to which water is available under pressure through piping shall be provided with:
 - i) maximum temperature of hot water supplied fitting to fixtures in a residential occupancy shall not exceed 49 degrees Celsius
 - ii) piping for hot and cold water connected to every kitchen fixture, every washbasin, bathtub, shower, sink and laundry area
 - iii) piping for cold water connected to every toilet and hose bib

4.14 Sewage System

- a) Every plumbing fixture in every building shall discharge the water, liquids or sewage into drainage piping, which shall be connected to a municipal sewage system, or a system approved by the authority having jurisdiction and in accordance with all applicable law.
- b) Sewage or organic waste shall not be discharged to the surface of the ground, but into a sewage system where such a system exists. Where a sewage system does not exist, sewage or organic waste shall be disposed of in a manner according to the Ontario Building Code.
- c) The land in the vicinity of a sewage system shall be maintained in a condition that will not cause damage to, or impair the functioning of, the sewage system.

4.15 Vermin Control

Every property shall be maintained so as to be free from vermin and conditions that may promote an infestation at all times.

Section 5 Additional Requirements for Residential Occupancy

5.1 Occupancy Standards

- a) A non-habitable room shall not be used as a habitable room.
- b) No kitchen shall be used as a bedroom.
- c) No basement or portion thereof shall be used as a dwelling unit, unless it meets the following requirements:
 - i) access to each habitable room shall be gained without passage through a furnace room, boiler room or storage room
 - ii) each habitable room shall comply with all the requirements for ingress, egress

- iii) light and ventilation and set out in this By-law
- iv) floors and walls are constructed so as to be impervious to leakage of underground or surface run-off water

5.2 Toilet and Bathroom Facilities

- a) Every dwelling unit shall contain plumbing fixtures in good repair and in an operative condition, consisting of a minimum of one toilet, one sink, and one bathtub or shower.
- b) All bathrooms and toilet rooms shall be located within and accessible from within the dwelling unit.
- d) All bathrooms and toilet rooms shall be fully enclosed and maintained so as to provide privacy for the occupant.
- e) No toilet or urinal shall be located within a bedroom or a room that is used for the preparation, cooking, storing or consumption of food.

Section 6 Non-Residential Property Standards

6.1 Yards

- a) every owner, and every occupant in that part of non-residential property that is occupied or controlled by the occupant, shall maintain to the standards as described in Part 2 of this by- law and:
 - i) in a sanitary and safe condition, free from litter, refuse and waste including such litter and refuse as may be left by customers or other members of the general public and shall provide containers for the disposal of such litter or refuse
 - ii) free from objects conditions which are health, fire or safety hazards
 - iii) free from rodents, insects or vermin

6.2 Means of Egress

- a) All means of egress within a non-residential property shall be:
 - i) maintained free from all obstructions or impediments
 - ii) provided with clear, unobstructed and readily visible exit signs, for every required exit, and
 - iii) provided with lighting facilities capable of illuminating the means of egress

6.3 Guardrails

A guard shall be installed and maintained in good repair on the open side of any stairway or ramp containing three (3) or more risers including the landing or a height of 600 mm between adjacent levels. A handrail shall be installed and maintained in good repair in all stairwells. Guardrails shall be installed and maintained in good repair around all landings, porches, balconies. Guardrails, balustrades and handrails shall be constructed and maintained rigid in nature.

6.4 Separations

Every dwelling unit shall be maintained and protected so as to prevent the passage of noxious fumes and gases from a part of the building that is not used for human habitation into other parts of the dwelling unit.

6.5 Ventilation

- a) All non-residential properties shall be adequately ventilated by natural or mechanical means and with regard to the operations carried on therein, to ensure that persons within the property are not exposed to conditions deleterious to their health or safety.

- b) Ventilation shall be provided for every locker room, clothes drying room and room in which plumbing fixtures are installed, either by means of natural ventilation through openings directly to the outside air or by means of mechanical ventilation, which ventilation will ensure a complete change of air within the rooms at least once per hour.
- c) Mechanical ventilating equipment and the supports for each equipment shall be maintained in good repair and in safe mechanical condition.

6.6 Lighting

All non-residential establishments shall install and maintain sufficient windows, skylights, and lighting fixtures necessary for the safety of all persons attending the premises.

6.7 Salvage Yard

Salvage yards shall be effectively screened from public view by a visual barrier and maintained in good repair.

Section 7 Vacant-Damaged-Demolition

7.1 Vacant Land

- a) Vacant land shall be maintained to the standards described in Part 2 of this by-law.
- b) Vacant land shall be graded, filled or otherwise drained so as to prevent recurrent ponding of water.

7.2 Vacant Building

- a) If any building is unoccupied, the owner or the agent shall protect every such building against the risk of fire, accident, or other hazard and shall effectively prevent the entrance thereto of all unauthorized persons.
- b) The owner or agent of a vacant building shall board up the building to the satisfaction of the Property Standards Officer by covering all openings through which entry may be obtained with at least 12.7 mm weatherproof sheet plywood securely fastened to the building and painted a color compatible with the surrounding walls.
- c) If a building remains vacant for a period of more than ninety (90) days, the owner or agent thereof, shall ensure that all utilities serving the building are properly disconnected or otherwise and secure the building to prevent accidental or malicious damage to the building or adjacent property, but this provision shall not apply where such utilities are necessary for the safety or security of the building.

7.3 Damage by Fire-Storm-Other Causes

- a) In the event of fire or explosion, damaged or partially burned material shall be removed from the premises, except that such material may be temporarily stored within the barricaded damaged building or structure, provided that such storage does not exceed ninety (90) days.
- b) Fire damaged buildings, or portions thereof, shall be repaired to their original condition or shall be demolished accordingly.

7.4 Demolish Building

- a) Where a building, accessory building, fence or other structure is demolished, the property shall be cleared of all rubbish, waste, refuse, masonry, lumber, wood, and other materials and left in a graded and levelled condition.

- b) Where a building, accessory building, fence or other structure is being demolished, every precaution shall be taken to protect the adjoining property and members of the public. The precautions to be taken include the erection of fences, barricades, covered walkways for pedestrians and any other means of protection necessary for the protection of the adjoining property and members of the public.

Section 8 Administration and Enforcement

8.1 General

- a) This By-law shall apply to all property within the limits of the Municipality.
- b) The metric measurements contained in this By-law are given for reference only.
- c) All complaints received regarding Property Standards issues shall be in writing and signed.
- d) All service, use and activity charges shall be established pursuant to the Municipality's Fees and Charges By-law.

8.2 Non-compliance

- a) The owner of any property which does not conform to the standards as set out in this by-law shall repair and/or maintain said property to comply with the standards, or the property shall be cleared of all buildings, structures, waste or refuse and left in a levelled and graded condition.
- b) The Property Standards Officer may, at his/her sole discretion, issue informal notices of infraction to the owner of any property which does not conform to the standards as set out in this by-law and request such repair and/or maintenance of said property.
- c) Where the Property Standards Officer is satisfied that, in some respect, any property does not comply with the standards as set out in this by-law and where informal compliance requests have been unsuccessful, an Order in accordance with the Building Code Act will be issued. A fee in accordance with the Municipality's Fees and Charges By-law will be charged when an Order is issued.
- d) Where any person fails to comply with an order issued, the Municipality may cause the required work to be done at the cost of the registered owner of the property. The cost of such work may be recovered by action or by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as property taxes as a priority lien.

8.3 Orders

- a) Every Officer who finds that a property does not conform with any of the standards prescribed in this By-law, may make an order pursuant to the provisions of Section 15 of the Building Code Act.
- b) An owner or occupant who has been served with an order made under subsection 15.2(2) and who is not satisfied with the terms or conditions of the order may appeal to the committee by sending a notice of appeal by registered mail to the secretary of the committee within fourteen (14) days after being served with the order.
- c) Each person who initiates an appeal of an Order made under Section 15.2(2) of the Ontario Building Code Act, R.S.O. 1992, c 23, shall submit a Notice of Appeal in the time frame and the manner as prescribed in section 15.3(1) of the Act.
- d) Every order shall be deemed confirmed where an appeal has not been filed within the prescribed period.

- e) Every person to whom an order is issued shall, where the order has been confirmed, comply with the requirements and/or conditions of the order by the prescribed date.
- f) Failure to comply with the requirements of an order shall constitute an offence pursuant to section 36 of the Building Code Act, S.O. 1992, c.23, as amended.
- g) Where an owner fails to comply with the conditions of an order within the prescribed time period, the Municipality and its agents may enter upon the property and take the actions necessary for compliance with the order.
- h) All costs incurred by the Municipality under clause (f), may be recovered as taxes upon the property.
- i) If a Notice or Order is served by registered mail, the service shall be deemed to have been made on the fifth day after the day of mailing.

8.4 Officers

The Council of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula shall appoint a Property Standards Officer(s) to be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this by-law.

8.5 Conflicts-By-Laws-Standards-Regulations

- a) Where a provision of this Chapter conflicts with the provisions of another by-law, Act and/or regulation in force within the Municipality, the provision, which establishes the higher standards to protect the health, safety and welfare of the occupants and the general public, shall prevail.

Section 9 Validity

- a) If any provision or article of this By-law is for any reason found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the provision or article found to be invalid shall be severed from the Chapter and the remaining provisions or article shall remain in effect until repealed.

Section 10 Penalty

- a) An owner who fails to comply with an order that is final and binding under this By-law is guilty of an offence under Section 36(1) of the *Building Code Act*, S.O. 1992, c. 23 and is liable to a penalty or penalties as set out in Section 36 of that Act.
- b) Every person who contravenes the provisions of this By-law is guilty of an offence and upon conviction thereof is liable to a penalty as provided for in Section 61 of the Provincial Offences Act as amended from time to time.
- c) No person(s) shall willfully obstruct, hinder or otherwise interfere with an Officer in the performance of the Officer's duties, right, functions, powers, or authority under this By-law.
- d) Where an Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that an offence under this By-law has been committed by a person(s), the Officer may require the name, address, and proof of identity of that person(s) and every person(s) shall supply the required information.
- e) No person shall obstruct the visibility of an Order, and no person shall remove a copy of an Order posted under this by-law unless authorized to do so by an Officer.

Section 11 Severability

It is hereby declared that each and every of the foregoing provisions of this By-law is severable and that, if any provisions of this By-law should, for any reason, be declared invalid by any

Court, it is the intention and desire of this Council that each and every of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 12 Transitional Rules

After the date of the passing this By-law, By-law No 2018-36, as amended, shall apply only to those properties in which an Order to Comply has been issued prior to the date of passing of this By-law, and then only to such properties until such time as the work required by such Order has been completed or any enforcement proceedings with respect to such Order, including any demolition, clearance, or repair carried out by the Municipality shall have been concluded.

Section 13 Property Standards Committee

- a) Council shall appoint by by-law no fewer than three (3) persons, from the Municipality at large, to the Property Standards Committee for a term of office concurrent with Council.
- b) Each member of the Property Standards Committee, appointed by Council, shall be entitled to compensation in accordance with the Municipality's Fees and Charges By-law for his/her attendance at Committee meetings.
- c) Every person who initiates an appeal of an Order made under Section 15.2(2) of the Ontario Building Code shall submit a Notice of Appeal in the timeframe and in the manner as prescribed in Section 15.3(1) of the Act. All Notices of Appeal shall be accompanied by a non-refundable appeal fee payment as set out in the Municipality's Fees and Charges By-law.

Section 14 – Short Title

This By-law shall be referred to as the Property Standards Bylaw.

Section 15 Repeal

This By-law no. 2018-36 is hereby repealed.

Section 16 – Effective Date

This by-law shall come into force and effect on May 1, 2026.

Read A First, Second and Third Time and finally passed This 26th Day of January 2026.

Original document signed by Mayor, Milt McIver, and Clerk, Alexandra Croce.

Part 1 Provincial Offences Act

The Corporation of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula

By-law 2026-08: Property Standards Bylaw

Item	Column 1 Short Form Wording	Column 2 Offence Creating or defining offence	Column 3 Set Fine
1	Fail to comply with Property Standards Order	Section 10 (a)	\$900.00
2	Obstruct, hinder or otherwise interfere with an Officer	Section 10 (c)	\$900.00
3	Fail to provide required information	Section 10 (d)	\$900.00
4	Obstruct visibility of an Order -No Authorization	Section 10 (e)	\$900.00

Note: The penalty provisions for the offences indicated above is/are Section 10 of by-law No. 2026-08, a certified copy has been filed.

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