2024–2025 Fee Consultation: What We Heard

Introduction

From May 10–June 16, 2023, we engaged with our clients and industry partners on proposed fee changes for 2024–2025. The proposed changes included:

- a general fee increase of 7% in 2024 and 4% in 2025;
- charging the same fee across all technologies, with cost depending on exam delivery (paper, digital remote, digital in-person, or practical);
- reducing fees for electrical permits with lower job values, while increasing 8% in 2024 for electrical permits with job valued over $1000; and
- charging hourly rates for administrative, safety, and professional services, with the same rate across all technologies.

Summary of Reponses

Survey participants rated the impact each proposed fee change would have on their business or personal finances, from minimal to severe. The comments below summarize the feedback received through the survey, email, and meetings.

To view all fee proposals and feedback, please visit the Engage page.

General Fee Increase

Survey Results	Summary of Comments
16% minimal 25% low 36% moderate 17% severe	• Cost of living and working is also increasing. • High fees discourage consumers from wanting to get permits and hire licensed contractors. • General fee increase affects certification renewal fees. Some certificate holders feel they should not have to pay a renewal fee to maintain their certificate.

In comparison, we received over 55% negative comments in response to the consultation for the 2021–2023 general fee increase, and most comments related to the economic impact of the pandemic.

Certification Exams

Survey Results	Summary of Comments
15% minimal 17% low 21% moderate 27% severe	• High fees may discourage people from wanting to enter these professions and trades.

Outreach and Participation

Before the consultation, we met with 12 industry associations and surveyed over 950 clients about their industry's financial outlook and sentiment around certification fees.

We notified 70,000+ clients and associations about the consultation by email. In total, 277 clients and industry partners submitted survey responses or emails, or attended meetings and feedback sessions. In comparison, 850+ participants participated in the fee consultation for the 2021–2023 fee cycle.

Method	Participants
Survey	248
Email	19
Meetings & feedback sessions	12

TECHNICAL SAFETY BC

Electrical Permits

Survey Results	Summary of Comments
8% minimal 15% low 34% moderate 22% severe	• Larger businesses can absorb higher increases. • Reduced fees for lower tiers is a positive step. Fees could be charged as a percentage of the job value. • Fees for job values around $1000 are still too high for homeowners.

Administrative Services Hourly Rates

Survey Results	Summary of Comments
19% minimal 13% low 17% moderate 21% severe	Few specific comments received.

Safety Services Hourly Rates

Survey Results	Summary of Comments
9% minimal 17% low 28% moderate 26% severe	• Reassessment fees seem high, considering that many reassessments are done remotely. • Remote assessment fees should be reduced to consider the lower cost to conduct a remote assessment rather than a physical assessment.

Professional Services Hourly Rates (technologies)

Survey Results	Summary of Comments
13% minimal 9% low 30% moderate 22% severe	Few specific comments received.

Fee Schedule

Survey Results	Summary of Comments
53% No issues 18% Hard to find specific fee	The complicated layout of the fee schedules makes them difficult to understand.

Next Steps

In our final recommendation to our Board of Directors on the fees for 2024–2025, we will consider all feedback that we received through this consultation, our pre-consultation, and other inputs such as BC's consumer price index, and the financial outlook of BC's industries.

If the Board of Directors approves, the new fees for 2024–2025 will be announced by early October 2023, and will be in effect January 1, 2024.

Most participants worked with the electrical and BPVR technologies.

Technology	Participants
Electrical	42%
Gas	31%
Boilers, Pressure Vessels & Refrigeration	48%
Elevating Devices	12%
Passenger Ropeways	0%
Amusement Devices	1%
Railways	2%
Other	4%

*Note: Participants may work with more than one technology

Most participants were either contractors or certificate holders.

Participant Type	Participants
Certificate holder	40%
Contractor	32%
Facilities operator	7%
Facility owner	6%
Facility administrator	4%
Industry association	3%
Student or apprentice	1%
Training provider	1%
Government/ Regulatory authority	1%
Homeowner	0%
Other	3%