



Canadian Wood Council Supports Ontario's Decision on Mid-Rise *Proposed Code Changes to Allow for 5- and 6-Story Wood Mid-Rise Construction*

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Ottawa, ON – The Canadian Wood Council (CWC) and Wood *WORKS!* Ontario are pleased with the Government of Ontario's announcement today that it will move ahead with proposed changes to the Ontario Building Code to allow the use of wood-frame construction in buildings of up to six-storeys. The changes will allow Ontario builders to access safe, strong and sophisticated building solutions.

"We welcome Ontario's announcement that it will undertake a Regulatory Review of the implications of adopting wood-frame construction in five- and six-storey applications," said Michael Giroux, President and CEO of CWC. "We look forward to supporting this review process with the knowledge and expertise gained from years of designing and constructing these types of buildings in British Columbia and elsewhere in North America. Our goal is to ensure that wood products and building systems are fairly represented in the Ontario Building Code and ensure a level playing field for all structural products."

The changes to the Ontario Building Code would be similar to changes made to the British Columbia Building Code in 2009, which had an immediate impact on the local economy. With B.C. as a case study, Ontario builders are presented with a viable code compliant construction option that meets safety, health, accessibility, as well as fire and structural requirements in the code.

Whether built with light wood framing materials or new engineered wood products, the added height and area of these buildings creates new opportunities for architects and developers to deliver projects that best fit their overall vision and design. And by providing a reduced carbon footprint in the construction of mid-rise buildings, wood offers a sustainable and environmentally friendly solution to Ontario home builders.

"We are very happy with the code changes announced today. They are the result of a lengthy, carefully considered process that has involved a great deal of consultation and input from all stakeholders," said Marianne Berube, Executive Director of the Ontario Wood *WORKS!* project. "These changes offer new opportunities to meeting urban densification plans and create more affordable housing. We look forward to the innovative niche market for mid-rise buildings that will be created by these changes."

For additional information on the new wood mid-rise opportunity, visit: <http://woodfacts.cwc.ca/>.

Details of the regulatory review can be found here:

<http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=15462&language=en>

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*The **Canadian Wood Council (CWC)** is the national association representing manufacturers of Canadian wood products used in construction. CWC is a strong advocate for the use of life-cycle assessment and communication about the environmental attributes through the use of Environmental Product Declarations. Visit us at www.cwc.ca. Wood *WORKS!* Ontario is a national industry-led initiative of the Canadian Wood Council, with a goal to support innovation and provide leadership on the use of wood and wood products.*

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