



Canadian Wood Council Applauds Government of Québec's Launch of 12-Storey Wood Building Construction Guide

OTTAWA, Wednesday, August 19th, 2015 – The Canadian Wood Council (CWC) wishes to congratulate the Government of Québec on the recent publication of a technical guide entitled “Construction of Mass Timber Buildings Up to 12 Storeys” (*Bâtiments de construction massive en bois d’au plus 12 étages*). Recognizing the technical expertise and associated science behind the development of this guide, the CWC also wishes to acknowledge the support that FPInnovations provided to the Régie du bâtiment du Québec in its development.

The fair recognition of massive timber products in Canadian building codes, for use in tall buildings, is a stated goal of Natural Resources Canada’s CWC-administered Tall Wood Building Demonstration Program, the first project of which is an already announced 13-storey residential building in Québec City. Québec’s guide is an excellent first step in this process as it provides Québec developers and builders with a rigorous science and experience based means to meet the existing alternative solution pathway in the Québec Construction Code. Such recognition in building codes is already achieved in many countries around the world where these types of buildings are becoming increasingly common.

“The reality is that advances in wood science and building technology have resulted in stronger, safer, more sophisticated and robust products and systems that are expanding the options for wood construction, and providing more choices for builders and architects. These changes are fully supported by science from renowned organizations such as FPInnovations and the National Research Council.” states Michael Giroux, President of the Canadian Wood Council.

Tall wood buildings are not a new concept – 1,400 years ago, wood pagodas that are 19 storeys tall were built in highly seismic areas of Japan, and remain standing to this day. With advanced construction technologies and modern mass timber products such as cross-laminated timber, glued-laminated timber, and structural composite lumber, building tall with wood is a viable building option that is gaining traction.

With growing pressure for communities and designers to reduce the carbon footprint of buildings, wood-product based construction remains a great choice as it is a renewable building material, originating from sustainably managed forests in Canada.

When it comes to information about wood, the Canadian Wood Council encourages you to know the facts and trust the work of an association with over 50 years of expertise in the field, www.cwc.ca.

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