



Canadian Wood Council applauds City of Calgary's Decision on Mid-Rise

Code changes allow for 5- and 6-storey wood construction

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Ottawa, ON November 5, 2014 - The Canadian Wood Council (CWC) and Wood *WORKS!* Alberta congratulate the City of Calgary on their decision to adopt the 2015 National Building Code recommendation to allow 6-storey wood-framed buildings in approved land use zones. These changes will allow builders access to safe, strong and sophisticated building solutions.

Calgary joins jurisdictions in Quebec, British Columbia and Ontario (effective January 1, 2015) to allow 6-storey wood buildings. The City is also taking best practices from these jurisdictions, including enhanced Fire Safety Plans during construction. The building code currently limits wood-frame construction to a maximum of 9 meters (3- or 4-storeys depending on the design).

"We are very happy with the City of Calgary's decision to bring the mid-rise wood construction opportunity to the construction and design community for this region," says Michael Giroux, President of the Canadian Wood Council. "These changes are the result of a lengthy, carefully considered process that involved a great deal of consultation and input from all stakeholders."

Rory Koska, Program Manager for Wood *WORKS!* Alberta, explained that, "the changes to the City of Calgary code offer designers new opportunities for innovation that will help municipalities meet urban densification plans and create more affordable housing options." Rory goes on to say that, "it was a pleasure to assist with information and support the hard work of the Canadian Home Builders Association and the City of Calgary. We look forward to the new mid-rise buildings that will be created as a result of these changes."

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. By providing a reduced carbon footprint in the construction of mid-rise buildings, wood offers a cost-effective and environmentally friendly solution to Alberta home builders and owners alike.

The City of Calgary will accept building permit applications for 6-storey wood-framed structures immediately, using an alternative solution process to meet the requirements of the Alberta Building Code. The technical guide and examples can be viewed at calgary.ca.

For additional information on new wood mid-rise opportunities, visit: www.woodfacts.cwc.ca.

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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! Alberta is a national industry-led program 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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