



Catherine Lalonde Memorial Scholarships Awarded *Students Share Legacy's Passion for Wood Industry Innovation*

Ottawa, ON, November 16th – The Canadian Wood Council (CWC) awarded two student recipients as part of the 2018 Catherine Lalonde Memorial Scholarship – **Hercend Mpidi Bita** (University of British Columbia) and **Tom Joyce** (University of Alberta); who demonstrated academic excellence through research projects that will have positive influences on the structural wood products industry.

Established fourteen years ago, the memorial scholarship is awarded yearly to graduate students whose wood research transcends the same level of passion that Catherine Lalonde championed relentlessly for the wood/wood products industry as a professional engineer and president of the CWC.

- **Hercend Mpidi Bita**
Hercend is a 4th year PhD candidate in Wood Science at the University of British Columbia. His thesis examines the mechanisms of disproportionate collapse in structures and seeks to develop practical guidance on design methods and new mitigation strategies for tall wood buildings.
- **Tom Joyce**
Tom is a 2nd year PhD candidate in Civil Engineering at University of Alberta. His thesis seeks to better understand the behaviour of large groups of inclined self-tapping screw connections assembled with steel side plates under a range of different applications.

“The winning scholarship recipients’ submissions exemplify the level of enthusiasm and expertise that Catherine Lalonde encouraged and inspired within our industry.” explained Etienne Lalonde, VP Market Development of the CWC. “Her legacy lives on through initiatives such as the memorial scholarship, and we are elated to celebrate and recognize future practitioners that share her passion for wood construction.

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