



Reaching New Heights

New Student Residence at University of British Columbia to be Among World's Tallest Wood Buildings

OTTAWA, Thursday, October 1st, 2015 – The Canadian Wood Council (CWC) wishes to congratulate the University of British Columbia (UBC) on today's announcement of a new student residence – which will be among the world's tallest wood buildings. This UBC announcement was made on the first day following the university's centennial anniversary; an appropriate fit for this exceptional learning facility which embraces innovation and challenges status quo.

"We are entering an exciting time for the Canadian and North American wood products industry," said Michael Giroux, president of the CWC. "As the tallest wood building in Canada, the UBC project will serve as a great example of the research and technology that is involved in taking wood construction to new heights – resulting in innovative solutions that are safe, sustainable and viable, and meet or exceed the requirements of the building code."

The UBC student residence is a winning project as part of an Expression of Interest (EOI) that was launched by the Canadian Wood Council in April 2013, for Canadian developers, institutions, organizations and design teams willing to undertake an innovative approach to designing and building high-rise demonstration projects. With funding support from the Binational Softwood Lumber Council, the goal of this initiative was to link new scientific advances and data with technical expertise to showcase the application, practicality and sustainability of innovative wood based structural building solutions.

"Advances in science and building technology for wood products translate to stronger, safer, and more sophisticated products and systems that ultimately result in more choices for builders and architects," states Etienne Lalonde, vice president Market Development for CWC. "These developments for the wood products industry are fully supported by science from renowned organizations such as FPInnovations and the National Research 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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