



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Things Are Looking Up In Prince George - High-Rise Wood Project Announced**

*Minister Pat Bell Shows Support for Construction of the Wood Innovation and Design Centre*

**Friday, March 22, 2013 (Ottawa)** - The Canadian Wood Council and Wood *WORKS!* British Columbia are elated with the announcement made earlier today by Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Pat Bell, regarding the selection of PCL Constructors Westcoast Inc. as the preferred proponent to design and build the Wood Innovation and Design Centre (WIDC) in Prince George.

The WIDC, a high-rise wood building, will house academic and research programs focused on advancing British Columbia's leading-edge commitment to innovative wood construction. "This project will promote the advancement of groundbreaking wood building systems, ultimately serving as a catalyst for the application of wood throughout various commercial applications as people witness first-hand the benefits of building with this renewable building material." says Mary Tracey, executive director for Wood *WORKS!* British Columbia.

Also announced as part of the design and construction team for WIDC are Michael Green, Principal of Michael Green Architecture Inc., and Eric Karsh, Principal of Equilibrium Consulting Inc., "Through their authorship of *The Case for Tall Buildings* in 2011, both Michael Green and Erik Karsh have been instrumental in establishing the possibility of such buildings and inspiring other architects and engineers throughout North America to work with wood." says Michael Giroux, president of the Canadian Wood Council.

Giroux also added, "It is only fitting that a building with programs exploring wood design and construction would be made of wood and housed within a project that dares to push the boundaries of innovative construction."

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