



Press Release:

When it comes to construction, wood is a recognized safe and sustainable solution.

Ottawa, Ontario – December 10th, 2012 – With growing pressure in the Province of Nova Scotia in general and the Halifax Regional Municipality in particular to reduce the environmental and carbon footprint of building construction, various construction sector stakeholders including owners, builders, architects and engineers are all increasingly being called upon to balance functionality and cost objectives with reducing the environmental impact of the built environment. Among the many solutions to choose from, the use of regional, locally-sourced, wood building materials can help to achieve that balance.

Economically and environmentally, wood delivers in terms of its beauty, versatility and performance, in concert with its renewability and sustainability.

It can be designed to conform to rigorous fire safety requirements contained in National and Provincial Building Codes for a wide range of low- and mid-rise building types. Development of innovative new technologies and wood building systems has enabled longer wood spans for floors and roofs, taller walls and higher buildings. Such innovation by the wood industry is continuing, which will further expand the possibilities for wood use in construction, while being underpinned by stringent building regulations and credible research at the various national institutes and universities across the country.

Wood is more than a building material; it's a renewable and responsible choice for all stakeholders to consider. The facts are clear:

- Wood is versatile and its design flexibility makes it suitable for a wide range of building types and applications, both structural and aesthetic.
- Wood is light weight and workable, making it easy to apply to specific applications.
- Wood buildings can be constructed quickly and efficiently, and new projects can be undertaken year round, in almost any climate.
- Wood buildings are safe – they are designed to meet fire safety requirements of building codes, just like steel and concrete buildings, or they don't get built. Today's Nova Scotia building code, coupled with advances in wood science and building technology, have expanded options for wood construction.
- Wood building materials and systems have a proven safety record for fire protection, while years of research and building-code development have

- established that wood-frame and hybrid structures can meet or exceed the most demanding earthquake and high wind design requirements.
- Wood is renewable and has excellent and verifiable environmental attributes. Over the years comparative Life Cycle Assessments by the Athena Sustainable Materials Institute and others have shown that the environmental impacts of wood are lower than those of competing materials.

Many examples of beautiful and durable institutional and commercial buildings built with wood can be found all across North America. Visit the Canadian Wood Council's websites (www.cwc.ca) to view the various case studies and CWC's Wood Awards book, which annually highlights some of the best.

*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. For more information contact: Michael Giroux, President, 99 Bank Street, Suite 400, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6B9 (613) 747-5544*