

Green Construction for Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Administrative Office

4-Storey Building Receives Support from the Green Construction through Wood Program

Toronto – August 9th, 2019 – A new 4-storey administrative office building slated for the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is one of the winning proposals that will receive funding under the Green Construction through Wood (GCWood) Program. The program, administered by Natural Resources Canada, aims to broaden awareness about wood as a sustainable construction material and to increase domestic capacity for wood in Canadian construction.

TRCA's new administrative office building is also part of the Canada Green Building Council's Zero Carbon Building Pilot Program. When complete, the building will achieve a low-carbon footprint through all lifecycle phases, with model simulations predicting over 50% reduction in operating emissions and over 75% reduction in embodied carbon compared to the average building in Toronto. Achieving these results is largely possible because of the chosen construction material: wood. The structure's 948 m³ of wood will net a CO₂ benefit of approximately 1,142 metric tonnes.

"TRCA's new administration office will showcase the environmental benefits of wood in construction while highlighting the structural diversity of mass timber products in column and floor assembly applications," explained Rick Jeffery, Interim President at the Canadian Wood Council. "It's fitting that this structurally advanced wood building will be a learning centre for future developers, researchers, professionals and students, who will expand upon the education and resources available for the carbon benefits of wood in construction."

"We are very excited about this announcement," added Marianne Berube, Executive Director of Ontario Wood WORKS!, a program of the Canadian Wood Council. "The design of the TRCA's new head office is very innovative. It demonstrates applications for mass timber products and systems that are currently uncommon in the low-rise commercial sector. The educational value of this building is significant and the example it sets will help drive advancement in sustainable wood construction and open the door to the increased use of wood in low-rise commercial buildings across Canada."

The team of ZAS Architects and Bucholz McEvoy Architects will oversee the design of the TRCA's new administration office building, highlighting wood in the following areas:

- Potential for bigger column grid and long span floor assemblies involving Dowel Laminated Timbers (DLT), Nail Laminated Timber (NLT), or Glued Laminated Timber (GLT);
- Structure composed of glulam beams and columns, and upstand glulam beams;
- Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) stairs and elevator core;
- CLT as shear walls for Lateral Forces Resistance Systems (LFRS) against wind and earthquake forces.

The GCWood program was announced as part of the Government of Canada's Budget 2017 with \$39.8 million in funding available over four years, starting in 2018–19. The funds will support projects and activities that increase the use of wood as a green building material in infrastructure projects. GCWood provides non-repayable contributions to a project's eligible incremental costs for the demonstration of innovative wood products and systems. Knowledge and information developed using GCWood funding falls under a Creative Commons license and will allow for future knowledge sharing. To learn more about the GCWood program, please visit <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/federal-programs/gcwood/20046>.

When it comes to information about wood, trust the experts with over 60 years of experience at the Canadian Wood Council www.cwc.ca.

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