



Report to the Regional Associations

Spring 2021

Greetings from the Canadian Wood Truss Association. Who would have thought a year ago that we would still be meeting virtually, and doing business in ways we had not thought imaginable? As an industry, wood truss manufacturing continues to thrive in regions that have designated construction and manufacturing as essential, with increasing demand for our products. Driven by demand for multi-family housing, commercial developments, and warehousing, we are seeing greater challenges across the country with sourcing materials and supplies, delivery delays, workforce shortages, and new increased Health and Safety requirements. In addition, mounting lumber and related material costs, mean our budgeting and quoting is a moving target, contingent on the supply chain and manufacturing capacity. WHEW what a year

We have heard from most regions that plants have risen to the challenges and although it has meant some innovative planning and execution, most plants have been able to continue to operate well and meet consumer demand, with some regions having new manufacturers starting up.

S349 - National Quality Assurance Program

The CWTA will be pursuing registration with the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) as the Certifying Body (CB) for the Truss Manufacturing National Quality Assurance Program that will ensure that all manufacturing plants are producing trusses to the minimum standard(s) as prescribed by S349.

The start-up funds required are estimated at \$180,000, with an annual program operating budget of \$495,000.

Since October of 2020, the CWTA has been looking at options for securing the start-up funds outside of industry through alternate funding sources, as well have been discussing other options within our industry to invest in the start-up.

Meetings were held with representatives from FPIinnovations, and although they are supportive of the program, they are unable to provide funding or expertise to assist with the certification process.

FPIinnovations has suggested that the CWTA look at raising funds through a levy on plates purchased from our three major plate suppliers for the start-up costs.

The CWTA will be asking the plate manufacturers if they would be willing to invest seed money; contact industry to determine if larger manufacturers would be interested in pre-paying for



future inspections; and we are continuing to watch for government initiatives that we may be eligible to apply for.

The projected operating budget of \$495,000 per year is based on a fulltime Program Manager with support staff; 150 plants participating per year; and a cloud-based data management system.

The annual cost per plant \$3,500 (2 inspections per year) plus the Inspector travel expenses.

Program development - The CWTA has discussed the benefits of collaborating with all Provinces and regions that have QC programs in place and building the National Program using the best practices already available incorporating the S349 requirements, and either building on existing software or developing industry QC software.

Program implementation – The CWTA has discussed starting the program in the Western Provinces first, work out any program glitches then move East, region by region for full implementation S349 inclusion in the NBC 2025.

Timelines – Once start-up funds have been secured, it is an estimated 12 months to meet SCC requirements to become the Certifying Body. During this 12-month period, the program QC tools are developed and Inspector Licensing requirements are developed.

Regional Inspectors – The CWTA anticipates that QC Inspectors that are currently working in the field will move to work as Inspectors for the National QC Program.

Manufacturiers de Structures de Bois du Québec (MSBQ)

MSBQ officially joined the CWTA in November of 2020. The CWTA is happy to have our Quebec colleagues back as part of the National association.

MSBQ has started in September 2019 and has approximately 20 members, 60% of which are truss manufacturers. They expect to end up with 25-30 members. It is estimated that they will have 40 truss manufacturers out of 60 plants, and they are happy that all main plants are members. MSBQ has started a Quebec Truss Manufacturing QC Certification project and is working to ensure it meet S349. They look forward to participating with the National QC program.

Canada Wood Council

In early March 2021, Mark Fox, Barry Schick and Patti LeFrancois were invited to meet with Kevin McKinley, President and CEO of Canada Wood Council to provide the CWC with for a brief update of what is happening in our organization and to discuss the CWC priorities and actions coming up.



The CWC is working on obtaining better data on carbon sequestration of wood and the “health” benefits of wood. Woodworks Sessions will be discussing “Wood Wellness”. Kevin discussed that we see now is anecdotal, and the governments are looking for more sustainable solutions. Kevin stressed that the future of construction in Canada is wood. We have a Wood Culture.

Kevin advised that the CWC has started working with new contacts at the Insurance Council. They are working on a pre-qualification program for the wood industry participants, with the intent of working with the insurance industry to develop a program that allows for better fiscal planning and pre-qualification to avoid project holdups.

The CWC has lost a major lumber producer member and as a result, a significant loss in revenue. To balance their budget for 2020/2021, CWC has used reserves, however moving forward, their Board has made the decision to increase the dues of non-lumber producer members from \$15,000 per year to \$20,000 beginning the 2021/2022 fiscal year. Kevin McKinley will be providing the CWTA with additional information on this increase for presentation to our members. The CWTA will be discussing this increase at the June 2021 Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

On behalf of the Board of Directors
Canadian Wood Truss Association

Patti LeFrancois
Executive Secretary