

Commentary-BDO Canada

The following is taken from an article by BDO Canada.

Top 10 Growth and Profitability Disruptors in 2023

A potential recession, geopolitical instability, and tightening monetary policy are undoubtedly concerns for business leaders as we begin 2023. But opportunities always exist, even in challenging times, and 2023 will be no different.

Businesses must improve their ability to manage uncertainty this year, and successfully address several factors causing disruption in markets. In the face of these disruptors, businesses will need to rethink their strategies and embrace rapid transformation. As we continue to navigate an uneven economy and shifting political winds, we must look to the lessons of last year to help us understand and prepare for what’s ahead.

For the second year in a row, we’ve asked our experts to identify the top 10 disruptive forces that will impact business growth and profitability in the coming year, as well as potential initiatives to combat them.

1 Consumers will have less discretionary spending

With an economic slowdown on the horizon, consumer buying patterns will inevitably change. The excess cash that powered consumers over the past year will likely dwindle and their spending will decrease. While interest hikes and decreased spending will put us on a healthier path in the long run, businesses will need to adapt quickly to softer demand and take advantage of changes in pricing in response to inflation and other factors.

To sustain growth, companies will need to rethink their broader strategy and adjust expenses accordingly. With this in mind, determining corporate priorities and reducing unproductive expenses will be key. Understanding what is truly important to achieving critical short- and long-term objectives will help to uncover ‘low hanging fruit’ cost reduction opportunities.

2 High interest rates will make it difficult to borrow capital

Although the Bank of Canada interest rate hikes in 2022 have slowed down the rate of inflation, borrowing rates will remain high in 2023 and beyond. With a greater cost of capital, it will be more difficult for businesses to afford debt financing, hindering their ability to grow both inorganically and organically.

Companies must be wary of deal value for acquisitions and other investments that are affected by rising interest rates and higher cost of capital. Valuations will decrease, which means maintaining a healthy balance sheet and pivoting corporate strategies to adapt to market changes—particularly with respect to price, consumer behavior, and international externalities—will be essential for maximizing deal value.

3 Higher inflation will persist, albeit at lower rates

Inflation in Canada reached record high rates in 2022, driven by supply chain disruption, post COVID-19 stimulus affects, and labor shortages that continue to elevate costs. Although aggressive lending rate hikes will reduce inflation, businesses must think strategically about how they can be versatile in the highly volatile macro-economic landscape.



Passing on inflated prices to consumers may significantly reduce volumes. With inflation expected to subside, securing decreased cost of goods and holding the line on prices may create an advantage over competitors. Assessing price elasticity and market pricing is therefore key to inform customer pricing strategies.

With many commodity prices falling back to near-normal (or new normal) levels, there may be opportunities to negotiate cheaper prices for supply. Leveraging analytics and market information can be used to evaluate current supply costs and identify strategies to get ahead of the market and optimize profits.

4 Supply chain irregularities will continue to be the norm

Throughout 2022, we saw several macro-economic events that led to supply constraints and abnormally high commodity prices. The international conflict in Russia and Ukraine, import and export bans across the globe, and COVID-19-induced labor shortages have all resulted in volatile prices and supply of goods. With many of these disruptive factors persisting through 2023, companies must adapt to a status quo of irregular and often unreliable supply chains.

During uncertain times, businesses must adapt and limit the financial risks associated with their supply chains. Although stockpiling may secure inventory, it is a costly strategy that may not be feasible during an economic downturn. Businesses should strive to stay lean in their inventory and effectively anticipate demand using analytical tools to optimize working capital and mitigate financial risks.

5 Digitization will become an even stronger imperative for growth

The acceleration of digitization across the globe has been a channel for innovation and economic growth, increasing production with significant cost saving potential. Since technological advancement often require high capital expenditures, companies need to carefully assess the impact of digital initiatives on their process efficiencies, culture, and balance sheet before developing and executing a digital strategy.

Optimizing process flow starts by assessing current state efficiencies—all the way from production processes to data entry. Ask key questions such as, are there redundancies in current processes? How much time and labour can automation save? How will digitization improve performance? Automation and AI can expedite processes and eliminate manual and redundant tasks that require human intervention with higher likelihood of errors.

6 Data will be increasingly leveraged to predict and navigate uncertainty

The economic landscape of 2023 brings fear of spontaneous externalities affecting performance. As we've seen with international conflict and unpredicted interest rates hikes, the market landscape can change on a dime. Inability to adapt will cause businesses to shutter or to suffer detrimentally. In this landscape, it is essential to constantly monitor internal and external changes and have tools designed to make data-driven solutions and fact-based timely decisions.

Executive reporting can often be a burdensome process, requiring time-consuming data aggregation and manual intervention. Automating systems and developing analytical tools can provide business leaders with the insights they need to monitor performance and identify any issues that require attention in a timely manner.

7 Cybersecurity will remain critical as technology advances

The accelerating technological adoption across the globe has correlated with increased security breaches, data leakages, and fraud. With digital transformation there is associated risks of cyber threats that can be detrimental to firms if not controlled. Loss of reputation, exposed sensitive information, and IT destruction are all severe and expensive

threats that occur on an ongoing basis. Prioritizing cybersecurity is essential to mitigating these risks and setting a company up for success in their digital journey.

When introducing new technology, or refining existing technology, it is important to develop a cybersecurity strategy that is monitored on an ongoing basis. Any technology implementation should include a well-structured mitigation plan in the event of a cyber attack. Developing a breach response playbook that addresses which steps to take and which vendor to engage will build resilience and limit the damage of the attack.

8 M&A activity will continue despite downturn

Despite rising interest rates and economic uncertainty, there is observed liquidity in the market and the willingness to make deals. Although several factors may continue to slow down M&A activity, much like the first nine months of 2022, effective strategies to optimize deal value for buyers and sellers will lead to a positive thread of M&A transactions. There will be opportunities to overcome challenges through M&A, better positioning people and businesses throughout this year.

Consider pre-divestiture performance enhancement opportunities to gain a preferable valuation and purchase price. While value is created throughout the organization's lifespan, current market value is determined by investor sentiment on medium and long-term value drivers of the business and industry. Identifying value drivers that will increase the value of the business in the short, medium, and long-term and aligning existing and new strategic initiatives are therefore key to accelerate value creation in the business.

9 Talent and workplace issues will persist

Over the past two years, many workers moved away from high touch roles in factories, healthcare, retail, and others, putting pressure on production capacity and overall sales. In combination with an aging population, today's employment landscape continues to create severe challenges to access, retain, and afford quality talent.

Talent acquisition is costly, which is why a proactive approach to improving employee retention will be key. Increases in compensation may seem like the best channel to satisfy top talent, however, it's becoming more common for employees to value culture, work-life-balance, and non-monetary benefits above all else. Enhancing HR strategy by implementing feedback sessions, team building exercises, and incentive plans is extremely important for retaining top talent in the current economic landscape.

10 Companies will face increasing pressure to make ESG commitments

More and more consumers are actively supporting companies that prioritize ESG initiatives, and this trend will continue to grow in 2023. Investing in sustainable initiatives gives businesses an opportunity to differentiate themselves in the market and attract more customers.

More than ever before, employees are looking for organizations that focus on ESG factors. With talent retention becoming increasingly difficult, implementing or strengthening existing ESG practices can lower both the risk of losing top talent and overall talent acquisition costs.

As we enter a period in which ESG is becoming a top priority for society, new governmental regulations may pose a risk to business models and operations. To mitigate this risk, organizations need to anticipate changes on an ongoing basis and put in place the necessary plans to address issues.

So, fill out your Life Cycle Analysis Survey from Peter Moonen of the Canadian Wood Council.

If you have an idea for a commentary or would like to submit your own commentary for a future newsletter please let me know at dave@wwta.ab.ca

Economic Update

In Alberta, urban housing starts totaled 2,010 in January 2023, a year-over-year increase of 16.5%. Canadian housing starts remained unchanged over the same period. While Edmonton was down 37.5% compared to last January, Calgary had a good month with a 131% increase. Total starts in Alberta were down slightly from 2119 in December of 2022.

Housing Starts Alberta						
	Jan-23	Jan-22	% Change	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	% Change
Alberta	2010	1725	16.52%	2010	1725	16.52%
Edmonton	568	909	-37.51%	568	909	-37.51%
Calgary	1295	561	130.84%	1295	561	130.84%
Red Deer	14	35	-60.00%	14	35	-60.00%
Grande Prairie	3	2	50.00%	3	2	50.00%
Lethbridge	13	155	-91.61%	13	155	-91.61%
Wood Buffalo	5	3	66.67%	5	3	66.67%
Canada	13389	13388	0.01%	13389	13388	0.01%

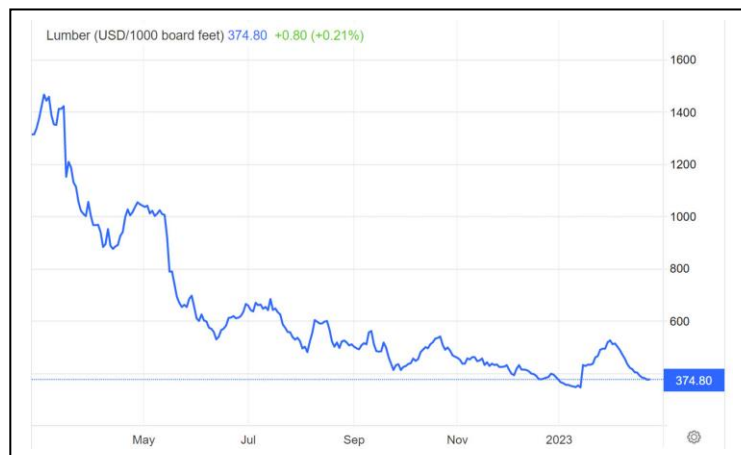
Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta February 2023

The standalone monthly seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of total housing starts for all areas in Canada declined 13% in January (215,365 units) compared to December (248,296 units) according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

“Both the Monthly SAAR and the six-month trend of housing starts declined nationally in the first month of 2023, with SAAR of housing starts hitting its lowest level since September 2020. Among Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, Montreal was the only market with increases in total SAAR housing starts in January, up 36%. Toronto declined 52% while Vancouver declined 14%, which contributed to the overall monthly decline in SAAR housing starts for Canada,” said Aled ab Iorwerth, CMHC's Deputy Chief Economist.

For January 2023, the 3,411 home sales throughout the province mark a 34% decrease year-over-year. New listings are down a milder 9% year-over-year, while inventory has increased by 3% year-over-year. Months of supply are now rising rapidly, increasing 55% compared to this same time last year.

Chicago lumber futures bottomed below the \$400 USD per thousand feet mark as persistent fears of a demand-sapping global recession prompted some profit-taking after a massive rally drove prices to an over three-month high in early February. Still, fundamentals in the lumber complex continued to be supported by tight supplies and prospects of a rebound in home construction. Last year, a sharp drop in prices and sluggish demand forced North American producers to curb output, leaving inventories low and sparking concerns about a supply shortage during the construction season this spring and early summer. At the same time, US homebuilder sentiment showed signs of bottoming out, rising for the second consecutive month in February, mainly due to lower mortgage rates. Still, the benchmark remains down roughly 70% since its May 2021 peak of around \$1,700, when supply chain issues compounded strong demand.



Analysts at Raymond James expect a turnaround in the lumber market in the coming months [as the busy homebuilding season heats up](#). That, combined with lean inventories means lumber prices could rally back above \$500 per thousand board feet.

"Combining this confirmation of [significant pent-up housing demand](#), [a positive inflection in production](#) plans among homebuilders, and a parade of recent capacity curtailments from Canadian lumber producers - we believe the seasonal low for cash lumber prices has already been made," Buck Horne said.

Conversations had between Horne and industry contacts "suggest that available lumber inventory for quick delivery remains extremely lean in the supply chain," according to the note.

That means if [the strong homebuilders confidence seen in January](#) proves sustainable, "many lumber suppliers could be caught flat-footed," Horne said, adding that such a scenario would set the stage for another seasonal rally in lumber prices.

Canada strikes cautious, wait-and-see approach on Biden's latest Buy American gambit

Biden announced expanded rules during state of the union speech.

British Columbia's lumber industry is anxiously parsing U.S. President Joe Biden's latest Buy American language to better understand the implications for Canadian exporters.

The B.C. Lumber Trade Council says it's "concerning" that Biden says he wants to restrict the use of foreign lumber in federally-funded infrastructure projects.

Biden announced the expanded rules during Tuesday's state of the union speech on Capitol Hill.

"Buy American has been the law of the land since 1933. But for too long, past administrations have found ways to get around it. Not anymore," he said.

"Tonight, I'm also announcing new standards to require all construction materials used in federal infrastructure projects to be made in America. American-made lumber, glass, drywall, fibre optic cables. And on my watch, American roads, American bridges, and American highways will be made with American products."

Council president Linda Coady says the U.S. was only able to produce about 70 per cent of its overall lumber demand in 2021, a gap she says was largely filled by imports from Canada.

- [Canfor shuts down operations in Chetwynd and Houston, B.C., affecting 490 jobs](#)

Canadian producers have long been at the centre of a decades-long trade dispute with the U.S. over anti-dumping duties it imposes on softwood lumber from north of the border.

"This is concerning, and we are seeking to better understand what this means for Canadian producers," Coady said of Biden's announcement.

"Our focus remains on working on both sides of the border to maximize the opportunity Canada has in providing the sustainably produced, low-carbon lumber products we know American homebuilders, consumers and construction workers want and need."

- [Why are B.C. mills closing and forestry jobs disappearing? Many blame a beetle](#)
- [Mill closures threaten to punch holes in the fabric of rural B.C. towns](#)

Jobs Added in January

Employment in Alberta in January 2023* increased by 0.9% or about 20,700 positions compared to December 2022—the fourth monthly increase in a row.

However, because growth in the number of people searching for work in the province grew at a faster rate than total employment, Alberta's unemployment rate in January rose to 6.0% from 5.6%** in December.

The national economy added about 150,000 jobs for a monthly increase of 0.8%. This was the fifth consecutive uptick.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged from the month before at 5.0%.

Compared to January 2022, employment in Alberta was 0.9% higher (+99,400 positions) and by 0.8% (+746,300) nationally.

Pumping power: Alberta sets annual oil production record

Alberta's crude oil production totalled just under 1.4 billion barrels last year or about 3.73 million barrels per day.

Last year's output breaks the previous record set in 2021 and is almost double the amount of oil produced in 2010.

The expected completion of the [Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project](#) later this year will enable additional growth in Alberta's annual oil production by adding over 500,000 barrels per day of egress capacity.

Quality Control

Internal Inspections

In preparation for certifying to CSA S349:20 this is the second article on the requirements for compliance dealing with internal truss inspections.

Internal inspections account for **40%** of the total audit score, so it is important that they be completed accurately.

Internal inspections are important because it is obviously impossible for an auditor to review a large sample of your truss production, therefore there has to be a system in place to inspect a larger sample of trusses on a daily basis.

Previously, the WWTAA Alberta standard called for internal inspections to be done on one truss from each set-up location **per day**, so if your plant had 5 set-up locations you would require 5 inspections per day. You would be scored on how many inspections you completed and given that percentage for your audit. If you only completed 50% of the required inspections your would receive half of the total points available.

CSA S349:20 requires **3 inspections per set-up per week**, including all shifts. So at first glance it appears that less inspections would have to be done in a 5 day week. However, the minimum requirement is going to be that 90% of the inspections have to be completed. So if you only complete 50% of the inspections you will fail the audit. In addition, if you only complete a minimum of 90% all the related questions for internal inspections will have a maximum of 90% of the allowable points.

So, it may be a good idea to do more than the minimum 3 per week in order to account for some inspections that may be missed.

You will also be required to keep an internal inspection summary sheet for each set-up to determine the number of inspections that should have been completed. This could simply be a spreadsheet with the set-ups on the X axis and the weeks on the Y axis. This sheet should indicate a reason if an inspection is not complete. The auditor will use this summary sheet to determine the number of inspections required in the audit period.

The inspections must include all the manufacturing and material variances prescribed in TPIC Appendix G including:

- Dimension tolerances
- Lumber grade
- Plate placement
- Plate selection
- Effective teeth

- Joint gaps

The inspections must also include an examination of both sides of the truss.

If you are using the WWTa inspection sheet it will be compliant, but it may be helpful to use an inspection form that has 3 trusses on the page instead of an individual sheet for each truss. If you want a form for 3 trusses just let me know. By using a form for 3 trusses it may help to ensure that the minimum number of inspections are conducted for each set up, if you make the inspection form specific to the set-up.

Included in your Q.C. manual you must also have a policy for filing the internal inspections including the summary sheets.

Important

When the auditor reviews the internal inspections they are not looking for whether the truss passes or not, but rather that the inspections are thorough and are finding any deficiencies. They will look at how deficiencies are addressed though.

An inspection form that is simply a series of check marks and looks the same every day, never finding any deficiencies may lead the auditor to conclude that the inspections are not being conducted properly. They are looking for items that are not compliant or when dimensions are out a little.



Inspecting both sides of the truss



Filling out an inspection form

FAQ of Internal Inspection Requirements

Certified manufactures are required to do internal truss inspections meeting the following minimum requirements:

3 trusses per operational set-up per week.

Example:

If the manufacture has 5 distinct set-up locations and they were all operational for the week there should be 15 truss inspections for the week.

Due to a holiday there was only 4 days of production in a week.

Example:

There still needs to be 3 trusses per set-up for the week. Only if the set-up was in-active for more than 4 days of the week do inspections for that set-up not have to be recorded.

If there are multiple shifts, there shall be 3 inspections per week for each set-up for the shift.

Example:

If there is a night shift that only produces trusses on 3 of the 5 set-up locations there should be 9 trusses inspected for that shift for the week.

There are 5 distinct set-up locations but there were only trusses manufactured on 4 of the set-up locations.

Example:

There should be 12 trusses inspected for the week. The inspection cover sheet should clearly document which set-ups had no production.

The plant has a floor truss set-up, but it only operated 1 day of the week.

Example:

There should be 3 floor trusses inspected for the week even if they are for the same job.

There is a long table that sometimes 1, 2, or more set-up locations.

Example:

The maximum number of possible set-up locations needs to be considered, if 2 set-ups are combined into 1 set-up location, decide which one will be used and mark the other as inactive.

Do the inspections all be done at the same time?

Inspections for the set-ups should be spread out over the week when possible. More than one inspection can not be done on the same truss type in the same job.

How is the number of internal inspections determined to be in compliance?

There needs to be a weekly or monthly summary inspection sheet that clearly indicates if inspections are complete and if not why.

Audit Instrument Questions

These are the questions that an auditor will be using to be in compliance with CSA S249:20

Questions		Instructions
2.1	Does the plant have records of internal inspections that meet or exceed the minimum sampling of three trusses per operational set-up per week for every shift?	Mandatory requirement. The auditor should review the recorded internal inspections and verify the required number of trusses are inspected. A minimum of 90% of the required truss inspections must be completed during the time period being audited and no consecutive audits should have less than 100%. No points are to be awarded to Element #2 if this does not occur. For audits with less than 100% of the required inspections, the score awarded to elements 2.2.a through 2.2.f is multiplied by the percentage of required inspections performed.
2.2a	Do internal inspections include a check on the overall truss dimensions per TPIC, Clause G.5.2? (0-15 points)	In reviewing internal inspections, the auditor should award points if dimensional tolerances are included. Points should be reduced if inspections are not completed as per 2.1 above. Example: 85% of the documented inspection information has the dimensional checks recorded and only 95% of the required inspections were performed per element 2.1. Therefore, the number of points awarded should be $15 \times 0.85 \times 0.95 = 12.1$
2.2b	Do internal inspections include a check on the lumber grade and species? (0-15 points)	The auditor should award points where lumber grade and quality are included. Points should be reduced if inspections are not completed as per 2.1 above.
2.2c	Do internal inspections include evaluation of plate placement?	The auditor should award points where plate placement checks are performed. Points should be reduced if inspections are not completed as per 2.1 above. See 2.2.a for example calculation.
2.2d	Do internal inspections include evaluation of plate size and	The auditor should award points where plate size and gauge checks are performed. Points should

	gauge? (0-15 points)	be reduced if inspections are not completed as per 2.1 above. See 2.2.a for example calculation.
2.2e	Do internal inspections include a determination of effective teeth? (0-15 points)	The auditor should award points where effective teeth checks are performed. Points should be reduced if inspections are not completed as per 2.1 above. See 2.2.a for example calculation.
2.2f	Do internal inspections include check of joint gap tolerance? (0-15 points)	The auditor should award points where joint gap tolerance checks are performed. Points should be reduced if inspections are not completed as per 2.1 above. See 2.2.a for example calculation.
2.3	Are the internal inspections done on trusses that represent the range of production? (5 points)	The auditor should review the internal inspections to confirm that the trusses inspected are assembled in all production set-up locations and that they represent typical truss production. Either all or no points should be awarded.
2.4	Does the manufacturer have a process to address non-conforming product in the internal inspection process? (5 points)	This should be confirmed either through documentation or interviewing how the manufacturer deals with non-conforming product discovered through the internal inspection process. Either all or no points should be awarded. Example: When reviewing internal inspections, the auditor should focus on trusses that do not meet tolerances and how the manufacturer evaluates and/or corrects the deficiency, including how other affected trusses were addressed. If no documentation exists, the auditor may award points based on the manufacturer providing examples of how they have corrected deficiencies.

For instructions of doing internal inspections check out module #106 Truss Inspections.

If you have any questions, please just send me an email.

Health and Safety Toolbox

This month I would like to focus on:

Workplace First Aiders and Legal Requirements

In Alberta, workplace first aiders need to be aware of legislation that might impact the services they provide.

Alberta OHS legislation establishes minimum standards for healthy and safe practices in Alberta workplaces. First aiders who meet the definition for a service provider in the OHS Act have obligations under Part 7 of the Act.

Section 48(2) of the OHS Act requires persons who attend to ill or injured workers at the workplace to disclose their reports at the request of a Director of Medical Services. This allows the director to ask for the first aid reports and requires the first aiders to provide them.

It is important for first aiders and their employers to know that:

- Employers and prime contractors are required to provide first aid services, supplies and equipment according to Section 178(1) [employers] or Section 178(2) [prime contractors] of the OHS Code. - The number of first aiders, their qualifications and training must comply with Schedule 2, Tables 5, 6, or 7 of the OHS Code. [numbers-of-first-aiders-and-types.pdf \(ualberta.ca\)](#)
- Employers must ensure work place first aiders successfully complete training from an approved first aid training agency. - The list of Government of Alberta approved first aid training agencies and courses is at [alberta.ca/first-aid-training.aspx](#)
- Employers are required to record all injuries and illnesses that occur at the work site. Section 183(2) of the OHS Code outlines record keeping requirements.
- Employers must manage first aid records in accordance with the Section 184 of the OHS Code.
- Employers must provide information about a product to a medical professional who requests that information in order to treat an injured worker in an emergency. Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) and product labels may provide a valuable source of information on first aid treatment.
- Employers must ensure that a means of transportation is available for taking injured or ill workers to a health care facility. Section 180 of the OHS Code identifies emergency transportation requirements.
- Employers must ensure that communication systems are in place to summon ambulance transport when needed and that services are readily available to the work site when travel conditions are normal.

Emergency Medical Aid Act

The Emergency Medical Aid Act is the name given to Alberta's "Good Samaritan" legislation, which may be applicable to voluntary first aid services rendered at a work site.

If applicable, the Emergency Medical Aid Act provides the following legal and liability protection:

A person is “not liable for damages for injuries to or the death of that person alleged to have been caused by an act or omission on his or her part in rendering the medical services or first aid assistance, unless it is established that the injuries or death were caused by gross negligence on his or her part.” (Section 2 (b) of the Emergency Medical Aid Act).

This legislation offers protection to first aiders providing voluntary emergency first aid assistance.

Workers’ Compensation Act

Section 37 of the Workers’ Compensation Act allows first aid records required to be kept under occupational health and safety legislation to be inspected by the Workers’ Compensation Board (WCB) or a designate of the Board, and by the injured worker (or his/her representative) to whom the records relate.

First aid treatment provided by work site first aiders for minor injuries does not need to be reported to WCB. However:

- Employers and workers must report any workplace incident to the WCB where the work injury disables or is likely to disable the worker beyond the day of the incident.
- Employers must also notify the WCB if the worker has medical aid treatment or other services provided by licensed medical practitioners.

The Alberta Government has a new format OHS eNews you can subscribe to with all kinds of good material at: <https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/>

News and Events

STANDATA Update

As reported in the January WWTA newsletter the WWTA submitted proposals at the request of Alberta Municipal Affairs for new STANDATAs 19-BCI-028 Metal-plate-connected wood trusses and 19-BCI-029 Engineered lumber components to replace the withdrawn 19-BCI-023 due to the confusion it was creating in the market.

The intent of our proposals was to provide clear guidance to building departments on the requirements for design that met the building code intent, while creating the least amount of disruption and cost for builders.

It was quite disappointing to learn that Alberta Municipal Affairs did not bring forward any of our suggestions for review to the [Building Sub-Council - Safety Codes Council](#) at their meeting on January 19th.

Instead they chose to present new drafts that continue to be vague and unclear and may lead AHJ's to the same conclusion that they had with the previously withdrawn STANDATA.

The WWTA issued a letter to Alberta Municipal Affairs once we saw their drafts, with our interpretation, but as of this date we have not had a response.

It is our feeling that the end result will be the requirement for professional involvement in the design of trusses, although we have no clarification of what exactly is required. There will most likely be professional involvement for engineered lumber components when the design falls outside the limitations of their CCMC evaluations as well.

If there are new requirements for professional involvement it is important that as an industry we take a uniform approach to providing the services required and get reasonably compensated for them. Far too often we have found ourselves providing services that we do not get paid for.

In addition to additional costs builders also have to understand the disruption that these requirements will have on the ability to supply their products. Our current supply chain for trusses is actually quite efficient and there is no doubt that adding the requirement for professional involvement will create a bottle neck in that chain.

WWTA Alberta Conference and Annual General Meeting- June 8th

Based on feedback we are taking a different approach to our annual get together this year and are going to hold the meeting in Canmore on June 8th. This will allow us to have a little fun while interacting with each other. You will be seeing an invitation shortly.



Three Sisters Mountains Canmore Alberta

Environmental Product Declaration Survey

I know that this survey went out from Peter Moonen of the Canadian Wood Council because I had some questions about it. There was some confusion about how to answer the questions, but I think that Peter was able to clear them up.

Since it will be embedded in future codes, and is already in many government procurement policies, I am hoping our members will see the importance of doing this. If nothing else, it will save them the time and money of producing their own EPDs, an expensive proposition.

If you have not completed the survey please look at getting it done. I don't want to be fielding calls from truss plants in the future about how they are supposed to comply with these requirements.

Wage Survey

I sent out the annual wage survey and am about to compile the results. If you have not submitted your information, please get it to me no later than March 3, so that you can be included. Remember, that only those that submit information will get the results.

The WWTA would like to welcome a new Preferred Supplier to our membership.

NORDIC STRUCTURES

Veronique Petit
521 Chemin Merrill
Chibougamau, Quebec
514-871-8526
1-866-817-3418
www.nordic.ca

WWTA Online Training

If you have not yet taken a look at the WWTA online training program I would encourage you to, as no doubt you will be hiring new workers in the near future and it is a good method to get them productive earlier and safer. If you want an overview of the program go to the WWTA website at: <http://www.wwta.ab.ca/truss-training-online.html>