

Commentary-Dave Pasolli-Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

The Alberta Building Code and Quality Control

We have been talking about QC requirements and how they relate to the building code cycle for a couple of years now. With the National Building Code (2023 Alberta Edition) now published and coming into effect May 1, 2023, I thought I would review again.

Keep in mind that the basis for this code was the NBCC 2020 which was published in 2020. So, most of the information came as no surprise. I will also limit this discussion to Part 9 Housing and Small Buildings.

Let’s go down the rabbit hole of what is our building code.

2023 NBC (AE)

9.23.14.11. Roof Trusses

1) Wood roof trusses shall be designed in accordance with good engineering practice such as that described in TPIC 2019, “Truss Design Procedures and Specifications for Light Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses.”

2) The joint connections used in trusses described in Sentence (1) shall be designed in conformance with the requirements in Subsection 4.3.1. (See Note A-9.23.14.11.(2).)

3) All member bracing shall be installed as per the truss design drawings, and continuous lateral bracing shall be adequately anchored to the roof and ceiling diaphragms at intervals no greater than 6.10 m o.c.

In 1.3.1.2 of Division B

Issuing Agency	Document Number	Title of Document	Code Reference
TPIC	2019	Truss Design Procedures and Specifications for Light Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses	9.23.14.11(1)

So, this is where the change occurs. The new code refers to TPIC 2019 whereas the previous code referenced TPIC 2014. Changing “should to shall”.

TPIC 2014 Section 8

8.1 General

(1) Minimum quality manufacturing criteria including tolerances to allow for manufacturing variances can be found in Appendix G.

(2) All fabricators **should** have a recognized quality control program that complies with the requirements of CWTA, “National Quality Standard for Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses.”

TPIC 2019 Section 8

8.1 General

The minimum quality manufacturing criteria including tolerances to allow for manufacturing variances shall be in accordance with Appendix G.

8.2 Quality control program

All fabricators **shall** have a recognized quality control program that complies with the requirements of CWTA, “National Quality Standard for Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses.”

8.3 Fingerjoined lumber

When fabricating trusses using fingerjoined lumber graded per NLGA SPS 1 or NLGA SPS 4 fabricators shall conform to Annex A of CWTA, “National Quality Standard for Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses.”

Now if you ask any Authority Having Jurisdiction about requirements of TPIC you will most likely get a blank stare. In fact, when I brought up the subject with Alberta Municipal Affairs about giving guidance to municipalities about this requirement, they indicated that it may be a bit of a stretch for any regulatory authority to base their acceptance on this requirement being mandatory in their processes.

Of course, we all know that requirements can vary from AHJ’s in what they deem to be requirements in their jurisdictions.

Just like the speed limit on a highway, you only run into problems speeding when the speed limit is enforced. You are taking a gamble if you choose to ignore the regulations.

It will be much clearer to AHJ's in the next code cycle (2025) when the code itself will make a specific requirement in 9.23.14.11 that trusses be manufactured to the CSA S349:20 standard.

However, as a truss fabricator you are expected to comply with the TPIC design procedures and specifications that are referenced in the current code. It would be a mistake to think that as a manufacturer you could ignore any section of the TPIC document.

Consider if you were to use your own design methodology to design trusses, you would certainly be on your own and at risk of liability.

CWTA National Quality Standard For Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses

This is what is referenced in TPIC 8.2 and can be found on the CWTA website:

[STANDARDS - CWTA](#)

The CWTA published this standard in 2013 in an effort to create some consistency across the country when it comes to quality control. This CWTA standard is NOT a standard that was written or developed by CSA or any other organization that can create standards in Canada under the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).

The SCC would consider the CWTA standard more of a voluntary standard that organizations choose to follow in order to meet customer and industry demands.

By following industry standards, you mitigate legal risk to your business when selling your products.

A standard is distinct from a regulation. A regulation is a statutory instrument made by exercising a legislative power conferred by an Act of Parliament. Regulations can have binding legal effects. **If a voluntary standard (like this one) is referenced in a regulation, it becomes mandatory.**

So, the conclusion would be that even though the CWTA standard is a voluntary standard because it is contained in TPIC which is a referenced standard in the building code it would be mandatory.

It will be much clearer in the next building code cycle when the CSA S349:20 standard is referenced directly in NBC 2025 for AHJ's to make the connection and enforce the requirements.

The CWTA standard is quite broad providing guidance to what a truss plant should do to implement a quality management system. It is not specific on how the plant should meet the requirements. It is expected that a plant will develop its own policies and procedures to meet the intent of the standard.

For example, it states that “lumber and plates shall be stored in a way to protect against the elements”. A plant needs to demonstrate through policy and practice how it meets this requirement.

Currently the CWTA has no way to enforce or certify that plants are meeting this standard. It is not up to the CWTA to determine if the standard is mandatory by an AHJ or if any plant meets the standard. Only the regulatory body determines if it is mandatory.

When the CSA S349:20 is referenced, it is very specific that plants be certified by a Certifying Body that is accredited. That is why the CWTA is working towards developing a Certifying Body that is accredited to audit truss plants quality management systems in anticipation of this standard.

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 2910 in January 2024, a year-over-year increase of 47.87%. Canadian housing starts increased by 12.54% over the same period. Edmonton had a strong month with a 20.25% increase compared to January 2023, and Calgary was up by 50.66%. Housing starts in Alberta were down 16.1% from 3491 the previous month of December 2023.

Housing Starts Alberta						
	Jan-24	Jan-23	% Change	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	% Change
Alberta	2910	1968	47.87%	2910	1968	47.87%
Edmonton	683	568	20.25%	683	568	20.25%
Calgary	1951	1295	50.66%	1951	1295	50.66%
Red Deer	11	19	-42.11%	11	19	-42.11%
Grande Prairie	12	3	300.00%	12	3	300.00%
Lethbridge	103	12	758.33%	103	12	758.33%
Wood Buffalo	0	5	-100.00%	0	5	-100.00%
Whitehorse*	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!
Canada	14878	13220	12.54%	14878	13220	12.54%

*Whitehorse Starts are for the quarter, statistics are not available monthly.

[chba-unveils-new-homes-sector-transition-strategy](https://www.chba.ca/unveils-new-homes-sector-transition-strategy)

Housing Starts by Dwelling Type (Centres 10K+)

	JAN-24	JAN-23	YTD-24	YTD-23
Total	2,910	1,968	2,910	1,968
Single	809	539	809	539
Semi-detached	213	141	213	141
Row	386	314	386	314
Apartment	1,502	974	1,502	974

[Calgary Housing Starts Hit Record But Demand is Higher](#)

Housing Prices

Benchmark resale home prices in Alberta rose for the 14th consecutive month, hitting a new high of \$496K in January. Meanwhile, national prices dipped for the 5th consecutive month to \$718K, approaching their March lows.

- **Calgary** has been the outlier since the Bank of Canada started cranking up its policy rate in March 2022. It is the only large city over one million people where prices have actually increased since rates started going up. Calgary benchmark home prices rose 10% year-over-year (y/y) to \$569,400 in January.
- **Edmonton** housing prices are also creeping higher, but have lagged Calgary—up 2.7% y/y to \$378,900. As a result, the Calgary-Edmonton gap has continued to widen. A stronger starting point on inventories—particularly apartments (where benchmark prices are still below 2007 levels)—has helped the city absorb new migrants. Still, its [rental vacancy rate](#) fell to 2.4% last year vs. 1.4% in Calgary.
- **Elsewhere** in the province, we don't have benchmark prices (which control for quality and improve comparisons), but average sale prices are up in the other nine regions tracked by the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) relative to January 2023 with the exception of Grande Prairie (which was flat).

The months of supply of homes declined to 2.4 (i.e. average months on market), well below the ten-year average of 5.3. That's getting close to February 2022, but not quite at the ultra tight market in 2006 when months supply sank to an unbelievable 1.2 in the spring! Alberta supply is lower than any other province, with Canada sitting at 3.7 months.

US Housing Starts Decline

The US Census Bureau reported that privately-owned housing starts in January were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of 1,331,000. This is 14.8% below the revised December estimate of 1,562,000 and 0.7% below the January 2023 rate of 1,340,000. Single-family housing starts were at a rate of 1,004,000; this is 4.7% below the revised December figure of 1,054,000. The rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 314,000.

Lumber



Lumber prices stabilized around the \$550 per thousand feet benchmark amid prospects of increased supply and subdued demand.

The latest data from top producer Canada showed that lumber production edged down by 0.1% month-over-month in November but rose by 2.4% on an annual basis, indicating a resilient upward trend in the sector over the longer term. Additionally, Canadian sawmills shipped 4,271.3 thousand cubic meters of lumber in November, representing a 1.3% decrease from October but a 7.9% increase from November 2022.

On the monetary policy front, the Federal Reserve is expected to maintain interest rates at current levels at least until June, as policymakers weigh signs of weakening consumer spending against still-high inflation and a strong labor market.

[Teamsters Canada warns rail strike looms over pay, hours at CN, CPKC - FreightWaves](#)

Interfor Reduces BC Lumber Production

Interfor has announced that it will temporarily reduce lumber production at its British Columbia operations by approximately 30 million board feet in the first quarter of 2024.

In a statement, the company said these curtailments are due to a combination of weak market conditions, low log inventory levels and unseasonably warm weather that continues to negatively impact log deliveries across many areas of B.C.

Interfor said it will continue to monitor market conditions across all of its operations and adjust its production plans accordingly.

Fibre access feeds concern as B.C. forestry firm posts US\$153M loss

West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd. president and CEO Sean McLaren told investors that the complexity of the operating environment in B.C. continues to take a toll on sawmilling capacity in the province.

“Rapid policy change and uncertainty regarding decision-making on the land base have constrained available timber supply, resulting in a lack of access to economically viable fibre,” he said.

The B.C.-based company reported its fourth-quarter results this week, posting a loss of US\$153 million compared with a US\$94 million loss a year earlier.

So far this year, the company has announced the permanent closure of its Fraser Lake, B.C. sawmill and its sawmill in Maxville, Fla., as well as the indefinite curtailment of its Huttig, Ark. sawmill.

The decision to close Fraser Lake after having reduced its capacity in 2022 reflects these realities, McLaren said, warning of further contraction in the B.C. forest sector without “significant policy change.”

Also causing challenges in Western Canada this winter was unusually warm weather, said McLaren. The weather has hampered logging activities, affecting inventories at some mills, and could constrain West Fraser’s ability to manufacture and ship lumber.

It’s hard to predict what the impact of this will be, he said, but the company is flagging it as a potential risk for the second quarter.

“In our view, challenges to meaningful supply additions in the North American lumber industry will persist for the foreseeable future,” he said. “And as such, we remain optimistic about our portfolio of assets, our capital allocation strategy and our long-term prospects for our lumber business.”

“We have now been through a 10-year period in which total North American lumber supply has been essentially flat, with shrinking supply in British Columbia, offsetting the gains in the U.S. south. And this has occurred during a number of strong up years for lumber demand and pricing,” he said.

Canada ‘extremely disappointed’ at U.S. softwood lumber duties: Minister Ng

Canadian Trade Minister Mary Ng has voiced Canada’s extreme disappointment in response to the U.S. Department of Commerce’s [preliminary decision to raise duties](#) on certain Canadian softwood lumber products from 8.05 per cent to an estimated 13.86 per cent.

In her statement, Ng labeled the move as “entirely unwarranted” and highlighted the existing unjustifiable harm caused by U.S. duties on softwood lumber to consumers and producers on both sides of the border. She expressed concerns that increased duties would further detrimentally impact the Canadian softwood lumber industry, workers, and communities while making housing less affordable for Americans.

Canada reaffirmed its commitment to defending its interests, pledging to collaborate with provinces, territories, and industry stakeholders to explore all available avenues, including litigation under NAFTA, CUSMA, the U.S. Court of International Trade, and the WTO.

Ng expressed confidence that ending these “unfair U.S. duties” would be mutually beneficial for both countries. Canada remains open to working with the United States towards a negotiated solution that fosters predictable cross-border trade in softwood lumber.

The U.S. Department of Commerce initiated the fifth administrative reviews of its softwood lumber anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders on March 14, 2023. The preliminary results, issued on February 1, 2024, are yet to take effect, with final results expected in the summer of 2024.

Canada’s inflation rate moves below 3%

Canada’s annual inflation rate dropped from 3.4% to 2.9% last month, back within the Bank of Canada’s 1-3% inflation control range—and well below the consensus forecast of 3.3%.

Shelter has replaced food as the new trouble area, and prices remain elevated. Rents rose 7.9% y/y, a minor pickup from December. Mortgage interest costs, which are directly impacted by Bank of Canada policy, rose 27% y/y. That puts annual inflation excluding mortgage costs at 2%. Fortunately, mortgage interest costs will continue to dissipate as an inflation driver over time as the Bank looks to lower rates later this year.

There is no question this is a welcome report for the Bank of Canada with core and headline inflation showing improvements. But the Bank is in a cautious stance and will look for more evidence that this pattern continues. A hold next month is a pretty safe bet. We still think June is the earliest the Bank will cut. A few lingering concerns will keep the Bank patient: elevated inflation expectations, persistent wage growth and core inflation still above 3%.

Closer to home, **Alberta** started the year with a 3.4% y/y inflation rate in January, rising above the national rate for the first time since August 2023 due to higher energy costs (+7.8% y/y vs. -2.7% nationally). Electricity prices more than doubled from the same time last year, as January 2023 prices were lowered by rebates, which are no longer in effect. Compared to December, electricity prices were down slightly (-2.7%) and 30% below their August 2023 peak. Gasoline prices fell 3.3% y/y, just below the 4.0% national decline, despite the partial reinstatement of fuel tax in January. Rents remain a big driver, rising 10.9% y/y. Excluding food and energy prices, consumer prices rose 2.8% y/y, below the 3.1% national increase.

Employment in Alberta

Employment in **Alberta** picked up steam in January, rising 10,100 following a 5,000 increase in December. The service sector was responsible for the January uptick, with a notable increase in transportation, finance/insurance/real estate, and educational services, offsetting declines in the goods sector (particularly construction). All the new jobs added were full-time, offsetting part-time losses.

Year-over-year employment growth in December stood at 3.5%—well ahead of the 1.7% national gain. Employment outpaced the labour force, nudging the unemployment rate down 0.1 points to 6.2%.

Another record-setting year for oil production in Alberta

Oil production in Alberta rose to 3.82 million barrels per day in 2023 to set a new annual record. The total number of barrels produced last year was just shy of 1.4 billion. The annual increase came despite significant wildfire activity and maintenance in the spring and summer.

With the exception of 2016 (forest fires) and 2020 (price crash and pandemic), Alberta has produced more oil every year since at least 2011.

With production ramping up, the completion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project later this year (currently slated to come online in the second quarter) will provide much needed additional egress capacity of 590,000 barrels per day and support even stronger oil sands production.

Quality Control

Do Trusses Have a Best Before Date?

It is not uncommon for a truss company to have a set of trusses in their yard that for some reason has been sitting there for a while exposed to the weather.

A truss company should have a policy of how it deals with these orders including:

- How the customer is charged including storage costs,
- How to communicate with the customer about the status of the trusses,
- What measures the company does to protect the trusses, such as covering them,
- How the trusses are evaluated and costs to rebuild trusses that are acceptable,
- How trusses from canceled orders are destroyed or disposed of.

The most common issue with these trusses that have been exposed is the embedment of the metal connector plates.



Examples of trusses that have been sitting in a yard and the plates have withdrawn making the teeth ineffective.

TPIC G 4.1.6 Tooth embedment gap tells us that teeth with an embedment gap of less than 1/32" shall be considered effective and if the gap is between 1/32" and 1/16" they are considered 60% effective. A gap exceeding 1/16" is considered ineffective.

So, if there is a gap between 1/32" and 1/16" it may be possible to do a calculation to determine if the minimum tooth count is met. However, that is probably unlikely unless all the plates you installed were larger than the design specified. If the gap is over 1/16" the truss would not pass.

The next question that generally come up are “Can we just run this truss through the finishing roller and get full embedment again? Does TPIC G 4.1.3 apply?”

TPIC G 4.1.3 Partially effective teeth states that when a metal connector plate is installed in the connection area of lumber which contains tooth holes from a previously installed plate and where the wood is otherwise undamaged, metal connector plate teeth shall be considered 50% effective.

This is talking about when you replace a plate that has been removed with a larger plate, so no it does not apply to this situation.

There is a difference between plates that were not fully embedded during fabrication and plates that were fully embedded but have “backed out” or withdrawn from the wood because of weathering causing the lumber to swell and shrink.

If you were to repress these withdrawn plates the teeth will be going into the same holes which is different from considering them 50% effective like when you install a larger plate where one has been removed.

Imagine if you pulled a nail out of a piece of wood and then installed a new nail in the same hole that it came out of, it would not have the same resistance as the original nail.

Therefore, it is NOT considered reasonable to repress a truss that has had plates withdraw for any reason, including those that may exhibit plates that have “backed out” or withdrawn from the wood.

If you have trusses that have had plates withdrawn and the customer finally requires them, you may have to tell them that they must be rebuilt after you examine them. Better to error on the side of caution than have a structural issue later.

Often if the trusses have been properly bundled and kept off the ground it may only be the top truss that has this condition.

What if the customer never takes the trusses?

I know that there is a tendency to want to keep these trusses, perhaps someone else would like to purchase them.

Remember that your company has a reputation and if they go somewhere where they were not designed to go or have quality issues you still may be held responsible. This is a senior management decision.

Health and Safety Toolbox

OHS Code Now Includes Hearing Fit-Testing

Effective March 31, 2023, the Government of Alberta implemented the following change to the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code: **employers are now required to ensure workers are properly fit-tested for the hearing protection they use and wear in the workplace.**

This change is intended to prevent noise-induced hearing loss.

Employers must now ensure any hearing protection devices used and worn by their workers:

- Meet the requirements of CSA Standard Z94.2-14 (R2019), *Hearing protection devices - Performance, selection, care, and use.*
- Are fit tested to each worker in accordance with the above CSA standard.

Note that the CSA standard doesn't specify a universal fit testing method. Instead, it requires that the manufacturer's specified method must be followed when fit testing a particular hearing protection device. If a manufacturer offers a choice of multiple fit testing methods for a device, employers can select any of those methods.

For the full bulletin on noise exposure and Part 16 of the OHS code go to:

[Change highlights :noise exposure](#)

The threshold for conducting a noise exposure assessment has also been reduced slightly from 85 decibels to 82 decibels.

I do think that in our industry there is a common practice to not do an actual exposure test, but to rather just implement a policy of hearing protection must be worn. This may be a good time to re-examine your policy.

What does it mean?

When this topic came up, I asked for some clarification from OHS through their "Ask and Expert" site. Actually, I was pretty impressed with the speed and the response I got on February 15, 2024, here it is:

Thank you for inquiring through Occupational Health and Safety's "Ask the Expert" function.

The OHS Code requires employers to ensure workers are fit tested for the hearing protection devices (HPDs) they use, in accordance with CSA Standard Z94.2-14 (R2019), Hearing Protection Devices – Performance, Selection, Care, and Use.

*An assessment of ear health and physical attributes **should** not be undertaken, prior to fit testing a worker for HPD. Different sizes or types of HPDs should be made available, to ensure the best fit for comfort as well as compatibility with other personal protective equipment worn by the worker*

The employer is required to train workers how to fit the hearing protection device (HDP) into or on/around the ear as per the manufacture specification AND the CSA Standards

In addition to training on how to use and wear and correctly fit the HDP, all workers are now required to be Fit Tested.

The CSA standard itself does not prescribe a fit testing method.

The CSA Standard uses the terms 'subjective' and 'objective'; however, the terms 'quantitative' and 'qualitative' are more commonly understood when describing fit testing. There are quantitative and qualitative methods for checking the fit, to ensure the HPD is properly fitted to workers. The CSA standard does not specify whether an employer must use a qualitative or quantitative method for fit testing, allowing employers flexibility to determine what is most suitable for their workplace and equipment.

- **Quantitative methods** are preferred and are the gold standard, that requires specialized testing equipment known as field attenuation estimation systems (FAES). The most common quantitative methods are real-ear attenuation at threshold (REAT) or the field -microphone-in real-ear (F-MIRE). Employers may purchase the equipment for in-house quantitative testing, or they could retain external service providers to perform testing.
- **Qualitative methods** are simpler to perform as they do not require specialized equipment and instead rely on the worker's sense of hearing. As such, qualitative methods might be more practical for some work sites.

Employers will need to determine which method will be used. Below is one example of a qualitative method that an employer could use.

Tips to check the fit of foam ear plugs:

- *Use your fingertips to feel if the ear plugs are fully inserted into the ear canal, use a mirror to check, or have a coworker visually confirm.*
- *Cup hands tightly over your ears. If sounds are much more muffled with your hands in place, the earplugs may not be sealing properly.*
- *Talk out loud. Your voice should sound hollow, as if you are talking in a barrel.*

- *Listen for noises around you. Noises should not be as loud as they were before inserting the ear plugs.*

Tips to check the fit of earmuffs:

- *Read the manufacturer's instructions on how to don the earmuffs.*
- *Make sure the earmuffs cover the whole ear, and do not have anything in between that prevents a good seal between the earmuff and the ear (for example, prescription eyewear).*
- *Listen for noises around you. Noises should sound muffled and not be as loud as they were before putting on the earmuffs.*

AB OHS Code, Part 16, Noise:

Hearing protection

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An employer must ensure that hearing protection devices used and worn by workers at a work site or work area

- (a) meet the requirements of CSA Standard Z94.2-14 (R2019), Hearing protection devices — Performance, selection, care, and use, and*
- (b) are fit tested in accordance with CSA Standard Z94.2-14 (R2019), Hearing protection devices — Performance, selection, care, and use.*

AB OHS RESOURCES:

Change Highlights: Noise Exposure – Part 16 in the OHS Code
<https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/lh003>

Noise at the worksite:

<https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/hs003>

Noise: e-Learning Program:

<https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/el008>

Access to AB OHS Legislation:

<https://www.alberta.ca/ohs-act-regulation-code.aspx>

CSA Standards referenced in the OHS Code

<https://community.csagroup.org/login.jspa?referer=%252Findex.jspa>

How to Wear Soft Foam Earplugs

To get the best protection from your soft foam earplugs, remember to roll, pull, and hold when putting them in. Use clean hands to keep from getting dirt and germs into your ears!



1. Roll the earplug up into a small, thin "snake" with your fingers. You can use one or both hands.



2. Pull the top of your ear up and back with your opposite hand to straighten out your ear canal. The rolled-up earplug should slide right in.



3. Hold the earplug in with your finger until it expands to fill the ear canal. Your voice will sound muffled when the plug has made a good seal.

Check the fit when you're all done. Most of the foam body of the earplug should be within the ear canal. Try cupping your hands tightly over your ears. If sounds are much more muffled with your hands in place, the earplug may not be sealing properly. Take the earplug out and try again.

If you need or wish to get quantitative fit testing done there are several companies offering it in Alberta for around \$40.

If you have any other ideas for the Health and Safety section of the newsletter, please let me know. Thanks to Ryan Darker from Alberta Truss for suggesting this topic.

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

New Members of the Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

The WWTA would like to welcome 2 new members to our association.



Contact: Fletcher Deditch – Operations Manager
(403) 347-8000

[Lumber & Building Supplies Red Deer](http://www.lumberandbuilding.com) | [Executive Home Building Centre](http://www.executivehomebuilding.com)
hbcpro.ca



Contact: Darren L. Beazer
(403) 653-1556

WWTA Alberta Conference and Annual General Meeting

Our 2024 Conference and Annual General Meeting is going to be held April 11, 2024 and the River Cree Resort and Casino.

I have sent out the registration forms to managers, so if you have not seen it, please let me know. It is also on our website www.wwta.ab.ca

Guest rooms are available at a group rate, but you must book your room prior to **March 8** to get the group rate of \$189. The block only has a limited number of rooms guaranteed, so once the block is full there may not be rooms available.

I require your registration forms for the meeting by **March 29th** so that I can make sure we have enough to eat.

In the morning beginning at 10:00 we will be doing a workshop-Ensuring that your Quality Management System meets the CSA S349:20.

In the afternoon the theme of the meeting will revolve around AI and Robotics with presentations from the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (AMII) and RoBim Technologies.

[Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute | AI for good and for all \(amii.ca\)](https://amii.ca)

[Robotics + Construction | RoBIM \(robimtech.com\)](https://robimtech.com)

Wage Survey

After several nudges to remind you, I have received the wage survey information and will be compiling and sending out results to those that contributed shortly.

Benefit Partners

Find Out How Membership in the WWTAA Can Help Your Company Save Thousands!

Benefit Partners has aligned and developed a strategic partnership with Schooley Mitchell. Introducing an innovative, two-pronged **cost savings program**, focusing on benefits and business, without reduction or loss of quality.

consider.peoplecorporation.com/cost-savings-plan/

Alberta Building Code

Although there is no news on the STANDATA I have confirmed from Municipal Affairs that there will be no new STANDATA published for the NBC-2019 AE. They are currently reviewing the application to the NBC-2023 AE.

I did make an inquiry with APEGA regarding the schedules for professional involvement in the new NBC-2023 and received the following response:

Hi Dave,

Same user guide that we released last year, we will be updating it in the next little while to ensure the references are current, but the changes are all minor.

https://www.apega.ca/docs/default-source/pdfs/standards-guidelines/aaa-apega-nationalbuildingcodeschedulesuserguide_final.pdf?sfvrsn=5312af63_7

WWTA Online Training

Due to the new building code and in anticipation of the CSA S349:20 being referenced in the 2025 NBCC I am starting to see some interest from the rest of Canada in our online training platform.

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>

Did You Know?

[CHBA unveils new homes Sector Transition Strategy](#)

[Federal government announces \\$175M to build affordable housing in Edmonton | CBC News](#)

[Banff receives 4.6 million in federal housing cash](#)

Quote of the Month

**“The bureaucracy is expanding to meet the needs of the expanding bureaucracy.”
-Oscar Wilde**