

Commentary-Dave Pasolli-Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

**Canfor Corporation announces the closure of its Plateau and Fort St. John operations in B.C.**

Following what they say is a thorough review of operating conditions, including the persistent challenge accessing economic fibre, ongoing financial losses, weak lumber markets and increased US tariffs, Canfor Corporation announced the closure of its Plateau and Fort St. John operations located in northern British Columbia. These closures will impact approximately 500 employees and will remove 670 million board feet of annual production capacity from their BC operations.

Don Kayne, President and CEO made the following statement:

“The operating challenges we face have been further exacerbated by increases in the punitive US tariffs announced on August 13th – tariffs that are expected to more than double again next year. Continuing to operate under these conditions would prolong the punishing anti-dumping duties and put additional operations at risk. As a result, we are making the incredibly difficult decision to close our operations in Vanderhoof and Fort St. John.”



In August, the US Department of Commerce nearly doubled [duties](#) on softwood lumber. Its fifth administrative review of the duties increased the rate to just over 14.5% from just over 8%.

“With the dramatic reduction in available timber supply, we will explore opportunities to divest some of our northern BC tenure, which may help support other BC forest companies facing the same significant challenges in accessing economic fibre.”

“Finally, we will continue to do all we can to advocate for changes that will allow our industry in BC to once again be able to thrive in the future.”

They become the second and third sawmills that Canfor has closed this year and the fourth since the start of 2023, which narrows some of the options for workers looking to transition to new jobs.

Canfor also announced that a previously announced plan to invest in the revitalization of its Houston, B.C. mill, which it previously shut down, has been shelved. The Polar sawmill in Bear Lake, north of Prince George has also been shut down.

"Unfortunately, while our province has a sufficient supply of timber available for harvest as confirmed by the Allowable Annual Cut set by BC's Chief Forester, the actual harvest level has declined dramatically in recent years.

"In 2023 the actual harvest was 42 percent lower than the allowable cut, a level not seen since the 1960s. While this decline is partly the result of natural disturbances – beetle infestations and wildfire particularly - it is also the result of the cumulative impact of policy changes and increased regulatory complexity.

"These choices and changes have hampered our ability to consistently access enough economic fibre to support our manufacturing facilities and forced the closure or curtailment of many forest sector operations, including our Polar sawmill."

In prioritizing conservation and other environmental objectives, the provincial government has downplayed the importance of sustaining an economically viable industry.

The forest products sector has long served as both B.C.'s leading source of exports and a foundation for jobs and other economic activity across the province.

The economic health of all of the interrelated parts of the forest industry – logging contractors, wood products manufacturers, and pulp and paper companies – matters to the B.C. construction sector, particularly given forestry's still-substantial economic footprint.

In reviewing trends affecting forestry over the past decade, the magnitude of the drop in timber harvesting in B.C. is shocking. Much of this reflects fallout from the pine beetle infestation that devastated the lodgepole pine forest in the B.C. Interior in the early-to-mid-2000s. The beetle destroyed a sizable fraction of the previously accessible fibre supply in the affected areas. In addition, severe summer wildfire seasons over the past few years have added to the downward pressure on the timber supply.



However, government policy has also contributed to the sharp decline in timber harvesting which, in turn, has reduced the supply of logs and other raw materials needed by lumber manufacturers and pulp and paper mills in B.C. As a consequence, not only has the upstream logging industry been badly hurt by curtailed harvesting – the commercial viability of the wood products and pulp and paper segments of the larger industry has also been put at risk by a mix of “natural” and “policy-driven” developments.

The following summarizes what’s happened to forestry in B.C. since the mid-2010s. It makes for painful reading.

Massive declines in the annual timber harvest – from 70 million cubic metres in 2012-14 to roughly 40 million cubic metres by 2022. Harvesting on “public lands” – Crown-owned lands which account for the vast majority of all forested land in the province – has plunged from 60 million cubic metres in 2018 to 35 million cubic metres last year.

Meanwhile, actual volumes of timber harvested from public lands have fallen well below the volumes officially approved by the Ministry of Forests. In 2023, the harvest was 40 per cent lower than the annual allowable cut (AAC) set by the government, according to tracking by the B.C. Council of Forest Industries.

It is discouraging to see that B.C. has become the highest-cost lumber producing region in North America.

The leading B.C.-based forest companies increasingly have been investing and seeking to expand their business footprints elsewhere – in other provinces (good for Alberta), the U.S., and even Sweden.

What role has the B.C. government played in the forest industry’s unprecedented troubles? Essentially, the province has prioritized conservation values and other environmental objectives and downplayed the importance of sustaining an economically viable and competitive forest industry. Since 2017, the government has made a series of policy and regulatory decisions that have had the effect of slashing timber harvesting. In turn, this inevitably has led to a smaller fibre supply and higher raw materials costs for B.C. wood products manufacturers as well as pulp and paper mills, setting the stage for the cascade of mill closures.

Specifically, B.C. government policies that have contributed to the economic crisis afflicting forestry include sweeping deferrals of logging in “old growth” forests; the continued expansion of parks and protected areas; measures to safeguard the habitat of the mountain caribou; and various legislative changes (Bills 23, 28 and 41) affecting forest landscape planning, the issuance of cutting permits, and other aspects of forestry operations. Late last year, the government published a draft Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework intended to shape future forest policy decisions. The proposed framework, if adopted, is likely to pave the way for a further dramatic decline in harvesting levels, additional mill closures, and higher day-to-day operating costs.

[B.C.'s draft Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

It is not that all of the steps taken by the province were ill-considered or unnecessary. Rather, the issue is the cumulative impact of a series of often far-reaching policy changes on an industry that is still a major source of export earnings and serves as the economic mainstay of dozens of communities in every region of the province.

Ultimately, provincial policymakers have overlooked the commercial needs and economic benefits that flow from the presence of a significant, globally competitive B.C. forest products industry.

Unfortunately, this is another case of the phrase, unintended consequences, that is often used when governments get too involved in industry. There may be hope though as the Premier of B.C. may be hurling the provincial carbon tax straight under the wheels of his campaign re-election bus. Perhaps not all their policies are written in stone.

[Brink submits bid to acquire four Canfor sawmills in Northern B.C. - Wood BusinessWood Business](#)



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](mailto:dave@wwta.ab.ca)

## Economic Update

### Housing Starts

In Alberta, urban housing starts totaled 4040 in August 2024, a year-over-year increase of 18%. Canadian housing starts decreased by 13% over the same period. Edmonton had another strong month with a 27% increase compared to August 2023, and Calgary was even. Housing starts in Alberta were down slightly from 4352 the previous month of July 2024.

Housing Starts Alberta						
	Aug-24	Aug-23	% Change	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	% Change
Alberta	4040	3411	18.44%	29901	20797	43.78%
Edmonton	1868	1471	26.99%	11924	8015	48.77%
Calgary	1675	1680	-0.30%	15324	11407	34.34%
Red Deer	6	18	-66.67%	300	123	143.90%
Grande Prairie	7	19	-63.16%	129	63	104.76%
Lethbridge	273	7	3800.00%	577	116	397.41%
Wood Buffalo	2	2	0.00%	15	21	-28.57%
Whitehorse*	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!
Canada	16857	19375	-13.00%	149680	143059	4.63%

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

### Housing Starts by Dwelling Type (Centres 10K+)

	AUG-24	AUG-23	YTD-24	YTD-23
Total	4,040	3,411	29,901	20,797
Single	1,452	1,115	9,870	7,393
Semi-detached	350	247	2,528	1,797
Row	587	581	4,035	3,411
Apartment	1,651	1,468	13,468	8,196

## **Residential renaissance: Construction intentions in Alberta through July**

Permit statistics ([the latest of which were released today by Statistics Canada](#)) provide a peak into where spending on the construction of residential and non-residential buildings is headed.

They can, however, be very volatile on a month-over-month basis with a major project or two causing large spikes. For this reason, we focus on the year-to-date (YTD) trends (in this instance, the period from January to July).

When we do this, we find that the real\* YTD value of permits for residential buildings in Alberta was a solid 33% higher this year than last year. The increase comes after a YTD decline of 12% in 2023 and 4% in 2022.

The YTD value of multi-dwelling projects was up by 39% compared to 28% for single-dwelling units.

The strong performance in the residential sector has not been matched by non-residential construction intentions which were down slightly by 1% YTD.

It was the largest component of the non-residential sector—commercial buildings—that was responsible for the overall pullback with its YTD permit value down by 11%. The industrial component, meanwhile, grew by 36% and the institutional and governmental component by 6%.

The growth in residential permit value reflects the construction sector's efforts to keep up with the demand generated by Alberta's strong population growth. We can also see this in the statistics on the number of dwelling units created which show a YTD increase in 2024 of 27% for single-dwelling units and 48% for multi-dwelling units. Another data point highlighting the surge in residential construction is the fact that [housing starts in Alberta](#) hit a nine-year high in July.

On the non-residential side, high borrowing costs and flagging consumer spending are likely weighing on the new construction intentions of commercial operators.

[\*\*Edmonton new homes activity ramps up amid strong demand for housing | Edmonton Journal\*\*](#)

[\*\*Housing starts in Calgary on track to set new record | Calgary Herald\*\*](#)

[\*\*The Daily — New Housing Price Index, August 2024 \(statcan.gc.ca\)\*\*](#)

## Canadian Housing starts for August 2024

Ottawa, September 17, 2024

The six-month trend in housing starts decreased 2.9% from 255,794 units in July to 248,480 units in August. The trend measure is a six-month moving average of the seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of total housing starts for all areas in Canada.

The total monthly SAAR of housing starts for all areas in Canada decreased 22% in August (217,405 units) compared to July (279,804 units), according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

In Canada's urban centres with a population of 10,000 or greater, there have been 149,922 actual housing starts year-to-date (January – August) in 2024. This compares to 143,229 for the same period in 2023, meaning actual housing starts are currently 5% higher this year.

### Quote:

*“Growth in actual year-to-date housing starts has been driven by both higher multi-unit and single-detached units in Alberta, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. By contrast, year-to-date starts in Ontario and British Columbia have decreased across all housing types. As the housing shortage continues, higher levels of construction are needed to restore affordability in Canada’s urban centres.”* said Bob Dugan, CMHC’s Chief Economist.

- The monthly SAAR of total urban (centres 10,000 population and over) housing starts was 24% lower (199,478 units). Multi-unit urban starts decreased 29% (154,290 units), while single-detached urban starts increased 3% (45,188 units).
- The rural starts monthly SAAR estimate was 17,927 units.
- Actual year-to-date housing starts between January and August 2024 are up 39% in Montreal from the same period last year, showing some recovery from historically low new home construction in 2023.
- In Vancouver, actual starts are down 20% in 2024 compared to 2023, but it’s important to note 2023 was a record high year.
- In Toronto, actual year-to-date housing starts are down 14% from 2023, which was also a high year for housing starts by historical standards.

## On target: Inflation down to 2% in August

Rob Roach, ATB ECONOMICS | September 17, 2024

Today’s Consumer Price Index (CPI) report shows that the national inflation rate\* decreased for the third reading in a row, going from 2.5% in July to 2.0% in August. Inflation has been within the Bank of Canada’s target range of 1% to 3% since January.

Shelter costs were the main driver of year-over-year price growth in August with the inflation rate excluding the shelter components coming in at just 0.5%.

Core inflation also cooperated in August, with both of the Bank of Canada’s “preferred” measures of core inflation (CPI-median and CPI-trim) falling in August. The median measure edged down 0.1 percentage points to 2.3%, and the trim down 0.3 points to 2.4%.

The slower rate of price growth is a welcome reprieve for consumers, but the cumulative impact of elevated inflation has not gone away with prices 13.5% higher than three years ago. A more typical rate of cumulative price growth over a three-year period would be around 5 or 6%.

Barring an unexpected change in the downward trajectory of the national inflation rate, our call is for two more 25-basis point interest rate cuts this year (one on October 23 and one on December 11) and four more next year, bringing the policy rate down to 2.75%.

The inflation rate in Alberta dropped from 2.7% in July to 2.0% in August—matching the national average and the lowest since June 2023.

The breakdown for the two largest centres in Alberta shows Calgary’s inflation rate at 2.3% vs. 1.7% in Edmonton in August, with Calgary recording faster growth in shelter costs.

[Output per job is down. And now jobs are down, too | Financial Post](#)

<https://economics.td.com/ca-falling-behind-standard-of-living-curve>

### **Chasing affordability: Home prices rising most in lower-cost markets**

Mark Parsons, ATB ECONOMICS | September 18, 2024

In a recent [report](#), we showed that differences in housing affordability were playing a major role in driving population movements within Canada, including record interprovincial migration into Alberta.

If Canadians are chasing more affordable housing, then you’d expect sales and prices to rise more in the less expensive markets.

New [data](#) from the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) show that the composite benchmark national resale home price fell slightly in August, and was down 4.2% from the same time last year.\* But that overall decline masks a great deal of variation across housing markets in Canada.

Prices in some of the most expensive markets—notably Toronto and Vancouver—are down on a year-over-year (y/y) basis. Meanwhile, some lower-cost markets have witnessed significant price gains (see chart).

Edmonton and Calgary benchmark prices continued to rise in August over the same time

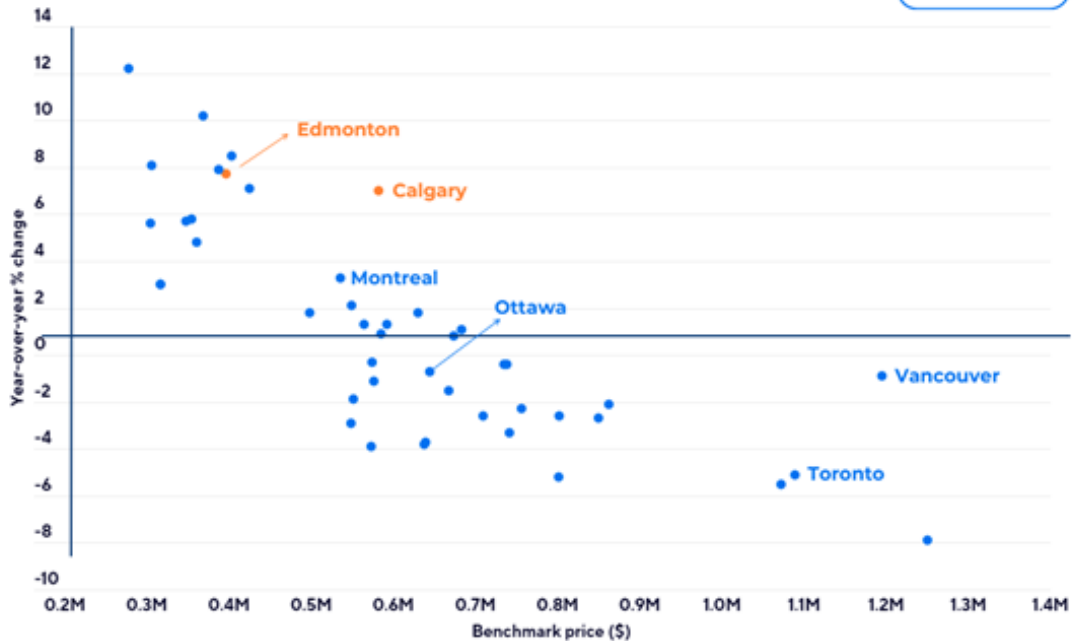


last year, hitting \$396.4K and \$581.2K, respectively. Yet prices in both markets remain well below the national benchmark price of \$717.4K.

**Home prices vs price growth by Canadian market, August 2024**

MLS® HPI Composite Benchmark Price, seasonally adjusted

ATB Economics



Source: Canadian Real Estate Association and ATB Economics

Closer to home, an inside-Alberta version of chasing affordability appears to be taking shape.

Consider the two largest markets in Alberta.\*\* Calgary prices took off over the last three years, even as interest rates crept higher, while Edmonton lagged. But Edmonton home prices have picked up, rising at a faster year-over-year pace in August than Calgary for the first time since February 2021.

The difference between Calgary and Edmonton benchmark home prices peaked at \$190K in May, closing slightly to \$186K last month.

A similar pattern holds for sales. Edmonton resale home sales (+22% y/y) have accelerated, while Calgary has pulled back (-14% y/y).

We don't have updated population numbers, but we know that Calgary led the province in population growth in 2023. The latest data on sales and hints from the Labour Force Survey (which attempts to estimate the 15+ population each month) suggests that Edmonton may pull ahead in population growth this year.

With home price differentials still wide, we expect that chasing affordability forces will continue to drive population movements and housing activity in Canada. Though

[inflation has cooled](#), affordability remains a concern after four years of rapid price increases, higher interest rates, and a softening labour market.

[Federal Reserve cuts interest rate by 50 basis points | Financial Post](#)

## Lumber

Lumber prices held above \$510 per thousand board feet, trading close to the four-week high of \$516 touched on September 17th amid improved demand prospects for building materials. The Federal Reserve delivered an aggressive 50bps rate cut, the first reduction since 2020, raising hopes of lower mortgage rates and stronger housing demand. Consistently, lower bond yields through early September drove the average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage fell to 6.09%, its lowest since early February 2023. The lower borrowing costs bolstered housing demand, as building permits in the US rose 4.9% in August to a five-month high of 1.475 million on an annualized basis, exceeding expectations. Housing starts also surged 9.6%, reaching 1.356 million units, marking the strongest increase in six months.



[US Housing Starts, Building Permits, and Completions Climb in August](#)

[The Daily — Sawmills, June 2024 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)

[Canada takes US to court over its near-doubling softwood lumber duties - Today in BC](#)

[Tolko Industries Begins Two-Week Shutdown at Its Armstrong, BC, Sawmill - Forest Economic Advisors, LLC \(getfea.com\)](#)

## Quality Control

### Continual Improvement in Your Quality Control Program

This month instead of focusing on tolerances and defects I would like to talk about the importance of continual improvement in your program.

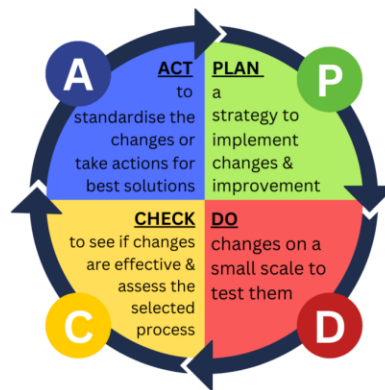
In our industry, quality control (QC) is vital to ensure that products meet established standards and customer expectations. Effective quality control not only enhances product reliability and safety but also minimizes waste, reduces costs, and increases customer satisfaction. However, maintaining high-quality standards requires more than a static approach—it demands **continual improvement**.

Continual improvement in quality control involves consistently refining processes, reducing defects, and seeking new ways to enhance the quality of products. By embedding continual improvement into the core of quality control efforts, your company can remain competitive, adaptable, and efficient in an ever-changing industry.

### What is Continual Improvement in Quality Control?

Continual improvement in quality control refers to the ongoing effort to enhance processes, identify and eliminate defects, and boost product quality. It involves regularly assessing current practices, identifying opportunities for enhancement, and implementing changes that lead to improved outcomes.

The **Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA)** cycle is a widely used framework for continual improvement in quality control, emphasizing a methodical approach to problem-solving and refinement. By following this cycle, manufacturers plan improvements, implement them, measure their effectiveness, and then standardize successful changes.



### Why is Continual Improvement Important in Quality Control?

#### 1. Reduced Defects and Rework

One of the key objectives of continual improvement in quality control is to reduce the number of defects in the manufacturing process. Even minor defects can lead to costly rework, delays in delivery, or, worse, structural failures. Defects not only waste resources but also damage a company's reputation and erode customer trust.

By continually analyzing production processes and testing procedures, companies can identify the root causes of defects and implement corrective actions to eliminate or reduce their occurrence.

This is where your internal truss inspections can provide valuable information. By conducting regular inspections of all production lines and collecting data on defect patterns, companies can take preventive measures to ensure that defects are detected and corrected early in the process, minimizing the need for rework and reducing costs.

JUNE		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	ZONE A							CLOSED
	ZONE B							CLOSED
2 - 8	ZONE A	CLOSED	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	CLOSED
	ZONE B	CLOSED	Fail					CLOSED
9 - 15	ZONE A	CLOSED	Fail					
	ZONE B	CLOSED	Fail					
16 - 22	ZONE A	CLOSED	Pass					
	ZONE B	CLOSED	Pass					
23 - 29	ZONE A	CLOSED	Fail					
	ZONE B	CLOSED	ZONE II					
30	ZONE A	CLOSED						
	ZONE B	CLOSED						
JULY		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 - 6	ZONE A							

*Summary of internal inspections indicating failures and corrections.*

## 2. Enhanced Product Quality and Consistency

Product quality is one of the main competitive differentiators in manufacturing. Customers expect consistent, high-quality products that meet or exceed their expectations. Continual improvement in quality control ensures that a company consistently delivers products that align with its quality standards, leading to greater customer satisfaction and loyalty.

By monitoring key performance indicators (KPIs) such as defect rates, process variability, and compliance with specifications, manufacturers can identify trends and make adjustments to maintain high levels of consistency.

## 3. Cost Reduction and Operational Efficiency

Continual improvement in quality control helps your company optimize their processes, leading to reduced costs and increased operational efficiency. High defect rates, material waste, and production inefficiencies all contribute to increased production costs.

By identifying inefficiencies in quality control processes, companies can streamline their operations, minimize scrap and rework, and reduce resource consumption. For example, if you keep statistics on the lumber waste due to defects you may be able to implement buying solutions to reduce waste and improve quality.



#### **4. Customer Satisfaction and Retention**

Customers expect products that are reliable, durable, and safe. When a company consistently delivers high-quality products, it builds trust and fosters long-term customer relationships. Continual improvement in quality control ensures that the manufacturing company stays aligned with customer expectations, adapting to changes in demand, regulatory requirements, or product specifications.

This is why it is important to keep track of all customer issues through good documentation. This responsiveness to customer feedback helps enhance customer satisfaction and can prevent more significant problems from emerging in the future.

#### **5. Prevention Compliance Issues**

In our industry, failure to meet quality standards can result in costly liability. These liabilities not only damage the company's financial standing but also harm its reputation and erode consumer trust.

Continual improvement in quality control helps prevent these issues by embedding rigorous monitoring, and corrective actions into the production process. By identifying risks and vulnerabilities early on, manufacturers can prevent defects from reaching customers, ensuring compliance with industry standards and avoiding the costs associated with product failures.

#### **6. Adaptability and Agility in a Changing Market**

The industry is constantly evolving, driven by factors such as technological advancements, changing customer demands, and regulatory updates. Manufacturers that adopt continual improvement in quality control can better adapt to these changes. By regularly reviewing and adjusting quality control processes, companies can remain agile and responsive to new market conditions, technologies, and customer requirements.

#### **7. Empowered Workforce and Engagement**

Involving employees in the continual improvement of quality control processes fosters a culture of engagement and empowerment. Front-line workers often have valuable insights into the day-to-day operations and may be the first to notice quality issues. By encouraging them to contribute suggestions for improvement and participate in problem-solving initiatives, companies can leverage their expertise to enhance product quality. In addition, when employees are actively involved in the continual improvement process, they take greater ownership of their roles, which can improve morale and productivity. This increased engagement often leads to a stronger commitment to maintaining high standards of quality across the organization.

Although it is not a requirement of the CSA S349:20 standard to have regular QC meetings, having these meetings does improve your program and can provide documented information to any person reviewing your program.

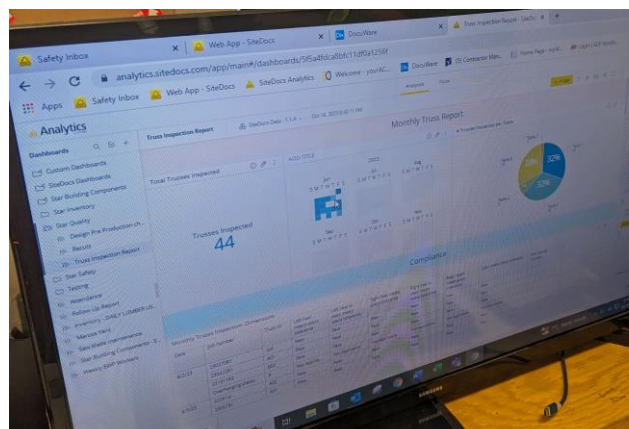


*Woodland Truss conducting a quality control meeting with all staff*

### **Key Tools and Techniques for Continual Improvement in Quality Control**

Manufacturing companies use a variety of tools and techniques to drive continual improvement in quality control, including:

- **Statistical Process Control (SPC):** Uses statistical methods to monitor and control production processes, helping to detect issues before they lead to defects.



*Quality analysis of internal inspections*

- **Root Cause Analysis (RCA):** A problem-solving approach used to identify the underlying causes of defects and implement corrective actions.
- **Total Quality Management (TQM):** A management approach that involves all employees in the continual improvement of quality.

### **Conclusion: A Key to Manufacturing Success**

Continual improvement in quality control is essential for truss manufacturing companies striving to deliver high-quality products, reduce operational costs, and stay competitive in a fast-paced market. It ensures that processes, systems, and products are continuously refined, leading to greater efficiency, customer satisfaction, and long-term growth.

By embedding a culture of continual improvement into quality control practices, manufacturers can build stronger, more resilient businesses. Whether through reducing defects, improving product consistency, or enhancing operational efficiency, continual improvement is the driving force behind success in the component manufacturing industry.

## Health and Safety Toolbox

### **The Little Things That Can Make a Big Difference Like Tying Your Shoes**

I have wide feet and high arches. I have also been prone to having ingrown toenails. So, finding a pair of safety shoes that are comfortable is a big issue for me, if I had to wear them all day, it would not be pleasant.

I have been tying my own shoes for 55 years but when I was recently at Westek Truss Systems a poster on lacing your shoes on their bulletin board caught my attention and changed my life.

[Shoe lacing techniques \(mistersafetyshoes.com\)](https://mistersafetyshoes.com)

This is a simple topic, but it may be a good one to go over at a safety meeting.

When it comes to something that you have to have on your feet all day it certainly makes sense to invest a little more and get some shoes that are comfortable from a reputable company.



If you consistently have problems with steel toes rubbing your toes and causing problems, there are some alternative answers. Look for safety footwear that has a wider style safety toe. Look for Asymmetrical or Oblique safety toes. These are special safety toes that come in true right and left shapes. Most safety toed footwear have the same safety toe on the right and left. Some select styles of [Carolina](#), Rocky and boots and shoes have Oblique Safety Toes.

Buying composite safety toes often can help eliminate toes from rubbing too. Composite toes carry the same safety ratings and do not conduct the winter cold through to your toes. And they are usually bigger to give you more room.

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

The Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta would like to welcome a new member.

**REMUDA**

Remuda Building Ltd.  
272179 Township Rd 241B  
Rock View County, Ab T1X 2E2  
(403) 651-4304

**BUILDEX Alberta Offers Something for Everyone  
October 23-24, 2024 BMO Centre Calgary**

Attending BUILDEX remains essential for anyone involved in the design, construction, and management of commercial and residential real estate. Over the course of two days, you'll gain the accredited education you need AND meet the right people – your next client, project partner, services provider or hire – to help drive your business forward.

[BUILDEX Alberta \(informaconnect.com\)](https://informaconnect.com)

**Alberta turns the spotlight on productivity**

Alberta's government is sponsoring the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy to host Canada's Productivity Summit on **Oct. 16 and 17** at the BMO Centre in Calgary. The two-day summit will bring together academia, business leaders, policymakers, leading commentators and influential voices with a range of insights and viewpoints to shine a light on Canada's productivity challenge and shape solutions.

“This is about collaborating on the challenges our economy faces. Higher productivity means better jobs, bigger paycheques, more opportunities and increased affordability. But, Canada's productivity growth has lagged our closest competitors. This summit will gather some of the best minds out there to better define this problem and propose solutions.”

*Nate Horner, President of Treasury Board and Finance*

[Canada's Productivity Summit](#)

### WWTA Online Training

With the provincial building codes now coming into force and referencing TPIC 2019 there have been several inquiries and sign-ups about our online training courses from outside of Alberta now that truss plants are starting to implement their QMS systems and determining that training of their workers is crucial to being in compliance.

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?

June 11, 2024

A precedent- setting win for the critically endangered spotted owl. A federal court ruled MP Steven Guilbeault broke the law in his delay to recommend emergency protections.

Apparently, all the reductions in logging to protect the owl has resulted in only 3 spotted owls left in B.C.

[Precedent-setting win for B.C.'s endangered spotted owl | Watch News Videos Online \(globalnews.ca\)](#)