

Commentary-Dave Pasolli-Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

**2026 Western Wood Truss Association Conference and AGM
April 9, 2026
River Cree Resort and Casino**

We are going back to the River Cree Resort and Casino in 2026. If you don't have your invitation, it is on the [Western wood truss association - Welcome](#) website. There is a limited number of guest rooms at the group rate and they must be booked directly with the hotel before **March 9**. Please get your registration to me no later than April 1 so that I can arrange the food.

[River Cree Resort And Casino](#)

As per usual there is no cost to attend the meeting but if you wish to stay for dinner after there is a cost of \$125 per person. Your company will be invoiced after the meeting. For Preferred suppliers there is an opportunity to sponsor the wine for dinner on the registration form.



We have a great lineup of keynote speakers including:

Christa Hill, CEO and Co-Founder of Tacit Edge.

If you are regular listeners of 770 radio in Calgary, you have most likely heard her on the Wed. morning show talking about AI in plain language.

[Tacit Edge | Training and Certifying Leaders in AI](#)



Tacit Edge Session Description (high-level)

AI in 2026 (plain language): what has changed, what is hype, what is real, and what leaders in operations-driven businesses should be paying attention to now.

Lift the floor, then raise the ceiling: productivity wins (finite bucket) vs. growth wins (bigger strategic upside)

Industry-specific opportunities (wood truss, manufacturing, construction supply chain):

- quoting, tendering, and estimating efficiency (high-cost repetitive work)
- production scheduling and capacity planning
- waste optimization and material planning (including commodity price volatility context)
- sales enablement and clearer quote storytelling

Live demonstration: how modern AI tools can accelerate analysis, quoting workflows, internal knowledge retrieval, and decision support using a laptop, with clear boundaries around privacy and responsible use

Guided Q&A: audience problems and practical next steps for member companies

Optional follow-on pathway: option to attend a virtual “hands-on” session after the event for members who want to work along on their own devices

- “**Illustrative case study of an AI-enabled business assistant** (demonstration only; no client data used).”

Mike Schmidt

Mike is a trusted advisor to a broad range of land developers, construction firms, homebuilders, and manufacturing companies throughout Canada and the United States and has led and facilitated the growth of several companies to become dominant players in their respective fields.

Some of you may have run into Mike during his time in Alberta.



A Race to the Middle

The landscape is changing quickly. Manufacturing technology, construction science, product engineering, market cycles, labour demographics, and supply chains - there was a time when only one or two of these market factors were on your radar. Today, it seems as though they're all in play and changing rapidly. Where are we going, what's your stake, and how will you proceed? This session will take stock of where we are, how the industry is evolving, and provide a few practical concepts that will help you navigate the uncharted waters that lie ahead.

Auto Construct's principal consultant, Mike Schmidt, is a subject matter expert in Offsite Construction and speaks regularly on the topic at trade shows across the country. He's a licensed Tool & Die Maker, holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration, and is a recently published author - commissioned in 2025 to write a critical industry report for the Canadian Wood Council titled "A Practical Path Forward for Offsite Manufacturing".

[A-Practical-Path-Forward-for-Offsite-Manufacturing.pdf](#)

Don't forget it will be my last Annual General Meeting and I would like to see a big turnout.

STANDATA Update

Well, the time has finally come that STANDATA 23-BCB-002R1 is being archived Feb 28, 2026. This is basically the exemption for 1-2 family dwellings and now all design for roof trusses in Part 9 buildings will fall under [23-BCI-015R1 Design of wood trusses for roof assemblies in Part 9 buildings.](#)

There will still no doubt be some confusion as this is implemented but WWTA members should have been having discussions with your customers about the changes over the last several months. There has also been discussion with homebuilders through BILD Alberta.

I have started to see some bulletins from several jurisdictions that do have some discrepancies between jurisdictions, but Municipal Affairs is committed to create consistency throughout the province, so we may have some specific issues to work out.

One of the issues that I do see is when you are required to supply the authenticated truss profiles. For instance, Calgary is implementing a process where builders may apply for a building permit before roof truss engineering is finalized, as long as, they are provided before framing above the main floor subfloor.

I feel this condition will be dependent on the builders updating their application in a timely manner, if the builders are not meeting the requirements, I could see that the City may reexamine this process.

IMPORTANT

The AJH's seem to be pretty clear that the roof truss layout does not need to be authenticated provided that:

Roof Truss Profiles are authenticated, and details describing how the trusses are interconnected (load paths, bracing, and connections) are included in a separate document.

As I mentioned in the January newsletter, don't get the Building Code requirements or STANDATA confused with APPEGA requirements for their members when authentication documents.

Specific topics of note are scope of responsibility, authentication, and validation as outlined in APEGA's *Ethical Practice* guideline, as well as obligations for thorough review prior to authentication and reliance on work product of non-professionals, as described in APEGA's *Relying on the Work of Others and Outsourcing* practice standard.

It would be reasonable to expect a high level of accountability and scrutiny placed on industry engineers from their regulatory body based on the development of the STANDATA. See the January Newsletter for more information.



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

Housing Starts

Alberta, urban housing starts totaled 3341 in January 2026, a year-over-year decrease of less than 1%. Canadian housing starts were flat over the same period. Edmonton was down 19% from last January, while Calgary was up by 26.5% from a last year. Housing starts in Alberta were up slightly from 3256 the previous month of December.

Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta February 2026

Housing Starts Alberta						
	Jan-26	Jan-25	% Change	YTD 2026	YTD 2025	% Change
Alberta	3341	3317	0.72%	3341	3317	0.72%
Edmonton	982	1211	-18.91%	982	1211	-18.91%
Calgary	2060	1629	26.46%	2060	1629	26.46%
Red Deer	9	28	-67.86%	9	28	-67.86%
Grande Prairie	149	88	69.32%	149	88	69.32%
Lethbridge	16	125	-87.20%	16	125	-87.20%
Wood Buffalo	2	0	#DIV/0!	2	0	#DIV/0!
Whitehorse*	28	125	-77.60%	118	167	-29.34%
Canada	16088	15957	0.82%	16088	15957	0.82%

*Whitehorse Starts are for the quarter, statistics are not available monthly. YTD are for 2025 and 2024

Housing Starts by Dwelling Type (Centres 10K+)

	JAN-26	JAN-25	YTD-26	YTD-25
Total	3,341	3,317	3,341	3,317
Single	697	972	697	972
Semi-detached	246	249	246	249
Row	511	606	511	606
Apartment	1,887	1,490	1,887	1,490

Off to a good start: New home construction in January

Rob Roach, ATB ECONOMICS | February 18, 2026

We are not expecting the record-setting levels seen last year, but our [forecast](#) is for relatively strong housing starts in Alberta in 2026. It's early days, but the numbers from January support this.

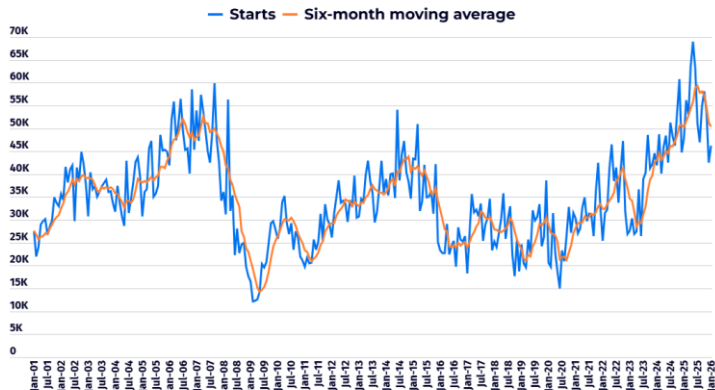
At 46,143 (seasonally adjusted annual rate), housing starts this January were the third highest on record for the first month of the year.

As the chart below shows, starts in Alberta have come down from their peak set last year with the six-month moving average trending lower, but this is in keeping with the construction sector pulling back in the face of slower population growth and rising inventory.

Notwithstanding month-to-month volatility, we expect housing starts in the province to average around 45,000 this year compared to 55,000 in 2025. Although lower than the previous two years, this will still be 33% higher than the ten-year average.

Monthly housing starts in Alberta

Seasonally adjusted annual rate



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and ATB Economics

ATB Economics

About 97% of the starts in January were in centres of 10,000 or more residents. Of these, the majority were multi-family projects at 73% of the total.

The Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) had more starts than Edmonton at 56% of the January total versus 31% in the Edmonton CMA. In both, about 80% of the new construction was multi-family.

Housing Market Outlook 2026-CMHC

- Canada's economy is expected to grow slowly in 2026, as the following factors weigh on demand: geopolitical and trade uncertainty, significantly lower population growth, soft labour markets and modest income growth. Growth is projected to improve slowly in 2027 and 2028.
- Housing demand is projected to gain momentum while sales stay below historical averages and prices show only modest gains after falling in 2025.
- New home construction is set to decline through 2028 as developers face high costs, weaker demand and more unsold homes. Condominium starts will be especially weak. Rental projects will continue to drive new supply but will moderate over the forecast period.
- Rental markets are moving toward balance from an overall national perspective as new supply eases pressure and rent growth slows, giving renters more flexibility before buying a home.
- Regional housing markets vary significantly. Construction and home sales in Ontario and British Columbia will be weaker than their 10-year averages while, in the Prairies and Quebec, they will remain above their historical averages. Ontario is the only region expected to see price declines in 2026.

The Prairies are entering a period of near-term economic slowdown

The Prairies are entering a period of slower economic growth as the rapid labour force and population gains from 2022 – 2024 begin to ease. Slower international migration through 2027 is expected to contribute to this moderation. Regional gross domestic product (GDP) growth will slow, and labour market conditions remain uneven across the Prairies. Public sector hiring has supported job growth in Manitoba and parts of Saskatchewan, particularly in Regina. However, higher levels of part-time employment and youth unemployment continue to weigh on overall labour market conditions.

Trade disruptions and agricultural tariffs remain key risks, especially for Manitoba. Alberta and Saskatchewan face limited exposure to U.S. tariffs because most of their primary exports comply with the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). In contrast, Manitoba is more vulnerable. A significant portion of Manitoba's agricultural exports is directed to the U.S. and China, leaving the province more exposed to external shocks. U.S. tariffs have likely weakened confidence and activity in Manitoba's U.S.-reliant industries.

Housing starts to ease as developers remain cautious amid changing market conditions

Housing starts across the Prairies will stabilize from recent surges, despite continued strength in ground-oriented units in all CMAs except Regina. While purpose-built rental construction remains elevated, it is expected to moderate as vacancy rates rise and leasing conditions change. Ground-oriented housing continues to account for a significant share of new starts across markets, but apartment share is gaining momentum, particularly in Calgary and Edmonton. However, increased construction in recent years, combined with slowing population growth, rising costs and increasing rental vacancies is reducing developer risk appetite in Calgary. As a result, developers are focusing on completing existing projects rather than starting a new one. Uncertainty around the potential repeal of citywide upzoning is also delaying new project starts in Calgary.

Calgary

- Consistent with our [Housing Market Outlook summer 2025 update](#), Calgary's housing market will moderate after a period of rapid expansion. Ground-oriented starts will decline slightly, while apartment construction — especially condominiums — will slow slightly more.
- In the resale market, demand is forecast to remain steady with sales resembling 2025 levels. However, reduced affordability and a limited supply of lower-priced homes will slow sales. Average prices will rise marginally.
- The rental market is expected to continue softening as a record number of purpose-built rental completions enter the market. Vacancy rates are projected to increase, slowing rent growth.

Total housing starts in Calgary will remain high in 2026 but will ease from the recent surge. Ground-oriented starts are projected to decline modestly, while condominium apartments construction is expected to slow more noticeably.

Developers will proceed cautiously, prioritizing the completion of existing projects as inventories rise. Economic uncertainty, and potential changes to land use approvals, as the policy environment around blanket rezoning evolves, will also influence their decisions. Purpose-built rental construction will likely remain high in the near term but is expected to moderate over time as vacancy rates rise and lease-up periods lengthen.

Calgary's resale market will moderate further over the forecast period due to cautious buyer behaviour amid economic uncertainty, and limited supply of lower-priced homes. The spring market will remain active, supported by more affordable options in the multi-unit segment, lower borrowing costs and slightly positive consumer confidence.

New listings have reached over 10-year highs and are expected to remain elevated as sellers take advantage of strong prices and previously hesitant homeowners return to the market. However, most new listings will be concentrated at higher price points. Average prices will grow modestly, driven by sustained demand and a larger share of higher-priced homes. Most of the price gains will come from detached homes, while condominium prices will stay flat or decline slightly.

Calgary's rental market will continue softening as a large volume of purpose-built rental units enter the market. Vacancies are projected to rise further as supply outpaces moderating demand from slower population growth. However, the pace of vacancy growth will slow as the market moves toward balance.

Average rents are likely to rise at a moderate pace over the forecast period, particularly for 2-bedroom units, supported by sustained demand and higher-priced new supply. Rental incentives will remain common in the near term as landlords face increased competition.

Edmonton

- Edmonton's resale market will see modest declines in 2026 from the recent highs we forecasted in our [Housing Market Outlook summer 2025 update](#). Average prices will increase marginally.
- Housing starts in Edmonton will decline moderately as inventories remain high in the near term, population growth slows and market conditions move toward balance.
- Rental market conditions will soften as new supply enters the market, pushing vacancy rates higher and moderating rent growth.

Edmonton's resale market will remain resilient, despite a modest decline in activity in 2026. The city's relative affordability compared to other CMAs, combined with lower borrowing costs, will continue to attract buyers, particularly first-time buyers. At the

same time, slower population growth and some upward pressure on unemployment will limit stronger price increases.

New listings will stay high, supported by greater supply of lower- and mid-priced homes. Buyers will continue to benefit from increased choice, particularly in the multi-unit segment. Average prices will rise modestly over the forecast period, with detached and semi-detached homes seeing moderate gains, while condominium prices will grow more slowly.

Housing starts in Edmonton will decline moderately from recent peaks over the forecast period. Edmonton's homeownership remains relatively affordable. As a result, ground-oriented housing will continue accounting for a large share of new starts, reflecting ongoing demand. Apartment construction, largely driven by purpose-built rental projects, is expected to remain stable in the near term.

Purpose-built rental construction is forecast to be supported by steady rental demand, relatively lower development costs and greater affordability. However, builders are likely to respond cautiously to rising inventories, slower population growth and a more competitive rental market.

The rental market will soften with rising vacancies and slower rent growth as more supply enters the market. More supply and slower population growth mean new units will take longer to lease and competition among landlords will increase. Average rents will rise with the addition of more expensive supply entering the market. Overall, rent growth will slow due to rising vacancy rates and more competition. Rental incentives are likely to continue, particularly in newer buildings and higher-priced segments.

Municipal efforts to increase zoning flexibility, speed up approvals and fund infrastructure for multi-unit developments are supporting construction activity. These measures are likely to improve market balance over the longer term.

[Housing Market Outlook 2026 | CMHC Full Report](#)

PBO projects Build Canada Homes will add 26,000 housing units, a fraction of those needed, over five years

Jordan Gowling December 2, 2025

The [Parliamentary Budget Office](#) projects Canada's new housing federal agency will [add 26,000 housing units](#) over the next five years.

This is a 2.1 per cent increase in housing completions relative to the PBO's baseline forecast and will only address 3.7 per cent of the units needed to close the housing gap, according to a report released on Tuesday.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) estimates [homebuilding must nearly double](#) to between 430,000 and 480,000 units per year over the next decade, to [restore affordability](#) to 2019 levels. The PBO estimates 290,000 units annually would be needed to close the supply gap.

[Build Canada Homes](#), a federal agency launched by Prime Minister Mark Carney in September, has a mandate to scale the [supply of affordable housing](#). The [federal budget](#) earmarked \$13 billion over the next five years for the new agency.

The PBO said the agency has been promised as a means to double the pace of housing construction, but no such plan has been presented to achieve this. Of the 26,000 housing units, the PBO estimates 13,000 will be affordable housing units available for low-income households.

[Read More](#)

In my opinion, the creation of BCH violates an important economic principle: “Deal with economic problems by eliminating their causes, not by creating new problems and market distortions.” BCH will badly distort a homebuilding industry that in general has served Canadians well through centuries of ups and downs in demand, interest rates, building costs, consumer tastes, technologies and immigration rates. No government bureaucracy can juggle all these variables as well as private firms and entrepreneurs can.

By any reasonable estimate the 500,000 target is utopian. Land and capital aren't such a big problem but there is a serious shortage of qualified construction workers. And it can't be solved by increased immigration, not in the short run, at least. New immigrants can help build houses but that takes time and they need somewhere to live as soon as they arrive. Belief that somehow prefabricated home construction will solve the labour shortage is equally utopian. Pre-fab technology has been around for a long time. Private entrepreneurs don't use it because it is too difficult and expensive.

Government agencies like BCH have poor records as producers of services. They are always unionized, which means their labour costs are higher than in the private sector. And political forces that influence the location of production facilities, the technologies used, who gets hired, the choice of building materials and so on decrease the efficiency of their operations. Is anyone willing to bet on when the first BCH house will be sold, what it will cost and when the agency will suffer its first scandal?

In **Toronto** as of January 2026, there are 20,557 unsold new homes in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). This inventory represents approximately **26 months of supply** at current sales rates; the highest level ever recorded for the region. Only 269 new homes were sold in January 2026, which is 80% below the 10-year average for that month.

2 New Office Conversion Projects Will Bring 128 Affordable Homes to Downtown Calgary

The estimated costs for the 2 projects are \$55.3 million with \$10.3 million provided through the Housing Accelerator Fund. They will create a total of 128 studio and one-bedroom units. Simple math tells me this is \$432,000 per unit. A quick look on MLS shows that there are currently 1,752 homes on the market in Calgary for less than this amount.

[Death of the Canadian Starter Home](#)

US Housing

On Feb 18, the US Census Bureau reported that privately owned **housing starts** were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of 1,404,000 in December 2025, a 6.2% increase from November's revised 1,322,000 but 7.3% below the December 2024 level of 1,514,000. Single-family starts were at a rate of 981,000, a 4.1% increase from November's revised 942,000. The rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 402,000.

An estimated 1,358,700 housing units were started in 2025, 0.6% below 1,367,100 units in 2024.

Building permits, a forward-looking measure, were at a rate of 1,488,000 in December, 4.3% above November's revised 1,388,000 but 2.2% below the December 2024 level of 1,480,000. Single-family authorizations were at a rate of 881,000, a 1.7% decline from November's revised 896,000. Authorizations of units in buildings with five units or more were at a rate of 515,000.

An estimated 1,425,200 housing units were authorized by building permits in 2025, down 3.6% from 1,478,000 units in 2024.

Lumber

Lumber futures fell toward \$580 per thousand board feet, their lowest level in five weeks, as weakening residential construction demand met heavy seasonal inventories and aggressive dealer discounting. US housing starts for December printed at a 1.404 million SAAR, while full-year 2025 activity was essentially flat versus 2024. At the same time, single-family starts are down roughly 7% year on year and single-family units under construction have dropped 8.4%, reducing near-term framing lumber consumption. In Canada, January home sales declined 5.8%, reinforcing softer North American demand conditions. On the supply side, winter storms slowed jobsite activity more than mill production, leaving distributors and secondary sellers with elevated yard inventories that have been cleared at discounted prices, in some cases below replacement cost. The

combination of slower construction drawdowns and persistent supply has widened basis levels, accelerated destocking across key hubs.



MSR Special Report

I was reading the CEWP newsletter a couple of weeks ago and there was a red flag raised on MSR lumber availability, so I asked Brandon Condratow to dive a little deeper for our members.

Over the last 18 months, the landscape for MSR lumber has shifted significantly, and we anticipate further changes throughout the coming year. While the industry has grown somewhat desensitized to reports of Western Canadian mill curtailments and closures, the cumulative volume removed from the market remains substantial. One major producer recently indicated their current output is roughly half of what it was just two years ago. With Countervailing and Anti-Dumping duties in full effect, most Western Canadian mills are facing assessments between 27% and 47% on U.S. shipments, tiered on top of existing tariffs. Although a slight reduction in these duties should be expected in late 2026, it remains more as a "wait-and-see" scenario rather than a certainty. Given these pressures, we shouldn't be surprised to see further production exits via curtailments or permanent closures as our year progresses.



So, what does this translate to for MSR availability within the truss industry? In short, **the pool of available fiber is shrinking**. While a true shortage is not currently a concern, the potential remains on the horizon. At present, supply continues to outpace demand; with the concentration of mills in our region, most MSR items can be sourced within a two-week window. However, this ease of access is a byproduct of the late-February seasonal lull. Feedback from the field suggests that building activity will begin to ramp

up significantly in the months ahead which could strain availability in short order. While supply leads demand for now, a valid concern is that the gap is narrower than it appears. One mill last week noted that while he has "on ground" stock he'd like to move, his inventory levels are at least 50% lower than they were at this time last year. When mills find their rhythm in a strengthening market, **MSR is a product that tends to disappear rapidly**, and ask levels adjust even faster. A \$20/m counter-offer available in the morning can vanish by the afternoon, replaced by a \$20/m price hike, effectively swinging the cost \$40/m for the truss manufacturer in a single day. While MSR remains a specialized fraction of a mill's total grade recovery, it is inherently more volatile than standard grades in both pricing and supply.

The Takeaway

Looking forward, our "crystal ball" suggests a continued decline in total MSR production and availability, an inherent by-product of the curtailments industry wide. While the first two months of 2026 have shown softer demand compared to early 2025, most truss manufacturers expect Q2 and Q3 volumes to rebound around last year's levels.

Most players are also carrying far leaner inventories than in previous years due to continued market uncertainty. However, this lean approach necessitates more frequent purchasing, which increases one's exposure to price volatility.

Every business is unique, but our approach to this market environment maintains consistent purchasing of high-traffic items and stabilize average costs. We are monitoring mill ask levels closely every day, but more importantly, we are tracking lead times. In this market, a protracted lead time can become more critical than a price; a "low" quote is useless if the wood isn't available for your production run. Conversely, if a mill shows heavy prompt availability, that is where the pricing flexibility lies and where we find value.

Our advice to our truss partners is to maintain a constant market dialogue for updates and news, as low regional inventory levels can be both a precursor and a trigger to rapid volatility.

Brandon Condratow

Canadian Engineered Wood Products

Direct: (403) 887-9817 | Cell: (403) 896-4559

Toll Free: 1-800-661-4876



Quality Control

Curling Plates

I can't believe I have never done an article on curling plates as it is one of the most common QC issues that truss plants come across. The result is a truss that has a kink in it rather than aligning straight.



When rolling metal connector plates onto wood trusses, the plate can curve toward the roller due to several mechanical and material factors during the pressing process.

Primary Causes of Plate Curvature

- **Differential Material Elongation:** As the metal plate passes through the rollers, the pressure compresses and stretches the metal. If the top surface (in contact with the roller) experiences more friction or localized compression than the bottom surface (the teeth embedding into the wood), the metal on that side elongates more, causing it to curve or "bow" toward the roller.
- **Roller Deflection:** Large-span rollers can sag or deflect in the middle under the high pressure required to embed plate teeth. This creates an uneven pressure distribution where the center of the plate receives less force than the edges, potentially leading to a barrel-shaped deformity or "camber".
- **Single-Pass Stress:** In a single-pass roller system, the plate is only pressed from one side. Without a secondary "finish-roller" pass or a secondary press after flipping the truss, the internal stresses from the first pass aren't neutralized, leaving the plate with a natural tendency to curve toward the direction of the initial force.

- **Thicker gauge plates** (like 16-gauge or high-strength 18-gauge) on bottom chord splices, the tendency to curve toward the roller is amplified by the increased mechanical resistance of the steel. This is a common challenge because splices require maximum tooth engagement to handle high tension loads, yet the thicker material is more susceptible to the physics of the rolling process.

Why Thicker Splice Plates Curve More

- **Greater Material Displacement:** Thick plates have more volume that must "move" as the teeth are pressed into the wood. The roller compresses the top surface of the steel while the teeth on the bottom side resist being pushed in. This creates a significant internal stress imbalance between the top and bottom of the plate, causing it to curl toward the source of the pressure (the roller).
- **Increased Rolling Force:** Heavier gauges require much higher downward pressure from the roller. This extra force can cause the roller itself to deflect slightly, or it can cause the lumber to compress more than expected. If the lumber compresses, the plate's edges may "wing up" as they follow the roller's path.
- **"Springback" Effect:** High-strength steel used for heavy-duty splices (like M18SHS) has more "memory" than standard 20-gauge steel. After the roller passes, the plate tries to return to its original shape, but the uneven stresses from the rolling pass leave it with a permanent bow.

Impact on Bottom Chord Splices

Bottom chord splices are critical because they are almost always in **pure tension**. If the plate curves and creates a gap (the "winging" effect):

- **Reduced Net Section:** Curvature can lead to uneven tooth embedment, reducing the effective "net section" of the steel that carries the tension load.
- **Gap Limits:** Industry standards (TPIC Appendix G) strictly limit gaps between the plate and the wood, usually to **1/32"**. A curved plate on a heavy splice often exceeds this, which can cause the joint to fail under load.

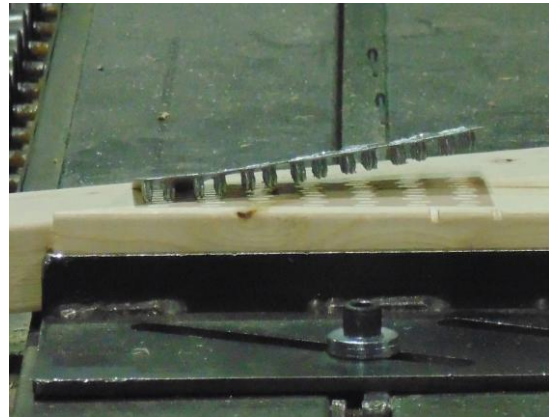
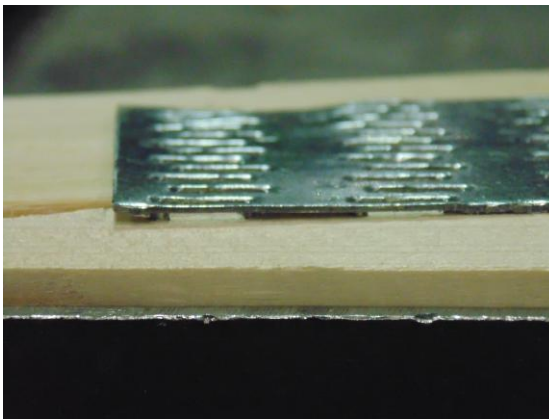
Corrective Measures

1. This phenomenon only occurs with roller presses, so of course, using a hydraulic press instead of a roller, which applies pressure vertically without the stretching forces that cause curling.
2. Prepressing the bottom chord can also be effective, particularly if you only plate one side and then plate the bottom side when pressing the truss. If you do this at least you can take action before the bottom chord is in the truss if it curls.

3. One of the most effective methods is to simply plating the bottom side only and then tack the top plate prior to the finishing roller. Although this may not conform to the 2 pass requirement for design, it is preferable to having a big bend in the truss. You must ensure that the plate is fully pressed after the finishing roller.

Why this sequence works

- **The "Sandwich" Effect:** With plates on both sides, the wood chord is trapped between two rigid steel membranes. Passing through the finishing roller, the pressure is distributed more evenly. The resistance from the bottom plate acts as a "die," ensuring the top plate stays flat rather than curling into the wood fibers.
 - **Reduced Wood Compression:** If you roll both plates at the same time on a single pass, the wood can "crush" slightly between the plates, allowing them both to bow inward. By doing them in stages, the wood has already been stabilized by the first plate, providing a firmer surface for the second plate to embed into.
4. Do not over press with the roller gantry. This is a 2-step process and there should be a slight gap before the finishing press. Tack the plate only from the side the roller is coming from.



5. Make sure your joints are tight. Although the gap in the tension member is 1/8" having a gap in the bottom chord splice can lead to the lumber shifting and curving the bottom chord.
6. In design try not to align top chord and bottom chord splices in the same area. This can lead to a natural break where the truss can kink during pressing, handling or shipping. This is especially likely to happen when you have a top chord splice or pitch break aligned with a bottom chord break like at a coffered ceiling.

7. The least practical method, but one that will always work is to plate one side and then flip the truss over to plate the opposite side. This may be a solution for a flat truss.

Health and Safety Toolbox

Protecting Your Hips: Staying Safe at the Truss Table

Building roof trusses is precision work that requires focus and physical stamina. However, many workers have noticed a recurring "pain in the hip".

Spending hours leaning against a **cold, hard steel table** at hip height can lead to more than just a bruise. It can cause nerve compression, bursitis, and chronic discomfort that follows you home after the shift.



Here is how we can protect our bodies while getting the job done.

The Risks of the "Lean"

When you lean your weight against the edge of a metal table, you are applying concentrated pressure to the **greater trochanter** (the bony part of your outer hip) and the surrounding soft tissue. Constant contact can lead to:

- **Hip Bursitis:** Inflammation of the fluid-filled sacs that cushion your hip joint.
- **Meralgia Paresthetica:** A fancy term for "numbness or tingling" caused by pressure on the nerves in your thigh.
- **Reduced Circulation:** Leaning against a cold surface can constrict blood flow, making muscles stiff and more prone to strain.

Solutions for the Shop Floor

1. Pad the Source (probably not practical depending on your equipment)

The most effective fix is to soften the point of contact.

- **Table Edge Guarding:** Installing high-density foam or rubber stripping along the edge of the truss table significantly reduces "point pressure."
- **Magnetic Padding:** If permanent padding isn't an option, use magnetic foam pads that can be moved along the rail as you work.

2. Personal Protective Gear

If the table can't be modified, modify your gear:

- **Work Aprons with Hip Padding:** Some heavy-duty shop aprons come with reinforced hip sections.
- **Leather Hip Pads** made for tool belts.
- **Gel Inserts:** Some workers have found success using "tactical" or "industrial" hip pads that slide into work pant pockets.



3. Change Your Stance

- **The "Kickstand" Method:** Avoid leaning with both hips squared to the table. Keep one foot slightly forward to shift your weight onto your legs rather than your pelvis.

4. Beat the Cold

- Cold metal leeches heat from your body, making tissues more brittle. If the shop is cold, ensure you have a moisture-wicking base layer. Keeping the muscles warm prevents the "deep ache" that often sets in by lunchtime.

Listen to Your Body

If you start feeling **sharp pains, persistent numbness, or a "clicking" sensation** in your hip, don't just "tough it out." These are early warning signs of an overuse injury. Mention it to your supervisor so we can look into ergonomic adjustments for your station.

Safety Tip: A quick 30-second stretch of the hip flexors every hour can do wonders for keeping your lower back and hips aligned.



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

WWTA AGM and Conference April 9.

The registration form is on the [Western wood truss association - Welcome](#) page, please get it into me as soon as possible. The block of hotel rooms at the WWTA rate are only guaranteed before March 9.

It's Wage Survey Time

The annual wage survey was sent out recently. Please send the completed form back prior to February 28, 2026.

If you choose not to participate you will not be eligible to receive the results.

If you have not received the form, please e-mail me for it.

STANDATA Implementation

We had a virtual meeting on Feb. 26 to discuss what was being seen from AHJ's in the province and APEGA's oversight of their members.

Here is the link from APEGA bulletin regarding the STANDATA [Clarified Standards Support Safety in Truss Design | APEGA](#)

If your customers are getting requests that seem to beyond the requirements of the STANDATA it should be brought to the attention of Municipal Affairs through the following e-mail safety.services@gov.ab.ca

You can include me in the conversation as well, so that I can keep track and follow-up with Paul Chang.

Make sure you communicate with your customers on what you are going to normally supply for the requirement and what is not included.

Federal Productivity Super Deduction Now Available for Wood Manufacturers

For wood manufacturers, the **Productivity Super-Deduction (PSD)** provides significant immediate tax savings for modernising facilities and expanding production capacity. This application is particularly relevant as the sector faces external pressures like **25% to 50% U.S. tariffs** on wood cabinetry and furniture.

How the Productivity Super Deduction Works (Federal)

The Productivity Super Deduction consists of:

- 100% first-year write-off for new manufacturing/processing buildings (acquired Nov 4, 2025+, used before 2030)
- Accelerated depreciation for machinery, equipment, clean energy systems, zero-emission vehicles, patents, data infrastructure, and AI systems
- Phase-out: 75% (2030-31), 55% (2032-33), then eliminated
- Impact: Saves approximately \$25,000 per \$100,000 spent at combined federal/provincial tax rates, reducing Canada's marginal effective tax rate (METR) from 15.6% to 13.2%

This is a tax deduction, not a grant—it reduces taxable income and must be claimed at tax filing time.

Why Wall Panel Producers Likely Qualify

Wood wall panel production involves manufacturing and processing activities that CRA explicitly recognizes: cutting, sawing, gluing/bonding, pressing, assembly, finishing, and fabrication of engineered wood components. Wall panels are sold to builders and contractors (satisfying the "for sale" requirement), and the transformation from raw/semi-finished materials to finished building components is clear manufacturing activity. [cms.c2ccertified+1](#)

[Prime Minister Carney outlines Budget 2025 measures to enable \\$1 trillion in total investments | Prime Minister of Canada](#)

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?

In its latest budget, the Liberal government scrapped the 2 Billion Trees (2BT) program as part of Prime Minister Mark Carney's broader effort to rein in federal spending. The move has caused concern for conservationists, forestry experts and industry groups who say the cut leaves a major policy gap at a moment of accelerating ecological stress.

Launched in 2019, the 2BT program set an ambitious goal: plant two billion saplings by 2031 as part of Canada's plan to reach net-zero emissions and rehabilitate fire-damaged forests. But progress lagged from the start. According to the auditor general, only 2.3% of promised trees were planted in the program's first two years. Annual targets were missed again in 2023, the program's third planting season.