

Commentary-Dave Pasolli-Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

**2025 Western Wood Truss Conference and Annual General Meeting**

**April 3, 2025**

**Deerfoot Inn and Casino**

Our annual conference and general meeting is fast approaching and we have some great topics on the agenda.

To start the meeting off we are going to have a moderated panel discussion with some prominent Alberta Home Builders. Some of the topics of discussion will include:

- Customer trends and expectations,
- Housing affordability,
- Supply Chain Concerns,
- Incorporating new technologies, and
- Eliminating road blocks that is limiting growth.

Of interest to everyone with the turmoil coming from south of the border will be a presentation from Rob Roach from ATB on the Alberta economic outlook.

We will also have a presentation from Detective Rey Bangloy of the Calgary Police Service discussing cybercrime and how businesses can be prepared.

The past few years have been turbulent in the insurance market and Connie Rowley from Axis Insurance will give owners an overview of the current conditions and the changes to the endorsed Canadian Wood Truss Association Woodsure program. Connie will be joined by Colin Baker discussing potential risks manufacturers' face.

Of course, I will be giving an update on current issues including new STANDATA requirements and an update on the National Certifying Body development.

Following will be our Annual General Meeting reviewing finances, setting membership dues and electing the Board of Directors.

**Call for Board of Directors**

We are always looking for new Directors and it is a great opportunity for members to participate in your association. If you have any questions about becoming a director please contact myself and I can provide you the duties and responsibilities.

# Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta February 2025

The roles of the board of directors of the Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta include:

- Determine the association's vision and mission to guide its current operations and future development.
- Determine and review the goals of the WWTa.
- Determine policies of the WWTa.
- Determine strategic options, select those to be pursued, and decide the means to implement and support them.
- Ensure that the association's organizational structure, including employees have the capability and resources appropriate for implementing the chosen strategies.
- Delegate authority to the Executive Officer of the WWTa, and monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies, strategies and business plans.
- Ensure that communications to the membership of the WWTa are effective.
- Understand and take into account the interests of the membership of the association.
- Promote the goodwill and support of the full membership, including participating in objectives and programs of the WWTa when appropriate.
- Promote the benefits of the WWTa to all non-members and associate members.

After the meeting is a great time to network with your fellow suppliers and competitors and the feedback I have received in the past is that this is one major reason to attend the meeting. Having those discussions in the hallway can really pay off once you get the opportunity to build those relationships.

There will be a cash bar prior to a buffet dinner and we will be having Malcolm Russel doing a close-up strolling magic performance during this time.

There is a group rate of \$165 per night for guestrooms, but they must be booked prior to March 3.

Your manager has also been sent the registration invitations that I would like to have back prior to March 3 as well. The invitation is also on [www.wwta.ab.ca](http://www.wwta.ab.ca).



*Scott Fash from BILD at the 2024 WWTa meeting*

# Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta February 2025

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

## Economic Update

### Housing Starts

In Alberta, urban housing starts totaled 3199 in January 2025, a year-over-year increase of 9.22%. Canadian housing starts also increased by 7% over the same period. Edmonton was up big time 77%% compared to January 2024, while Calgary was actually down 16.5% from a strong number last year. Housing starts in Alberta were down slightly from 3485 in the previous month of December 2024.

Housing Starts Alberta						
	Jan-25	Jan-24	% Change	YTD 2025	YTD 2024	% Change
Alberta	3199	2929	9.22%	3199	2929	9.22%
Edmonton	1211	683	77.31%	1211	683	77.31%
Calgary	1629	1951	-16.50%	1629	1951	-16.50%
Red Deer	28	11	154.55%	28	11	154.55%
Grande Prairie	88	12	633.33%	88	12	633.33%
Lethbridge	125	103	21.36%	125	103	21.36%
Wood Buffalo	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	0	#DIV/0!
Whitehorse*	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!
Canada	15930	14883	7.03%	15930	14883	7.03%

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

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

	JAN-25	JAN-24	YTD-25	YTD-24
Total	3,199	2,929	3,199	2,929
Single	979	815	979	815
Semi-detached	247	204	247	204
Row	619	386	619	386
Apartment	1,354	1,524	1,354	1,524

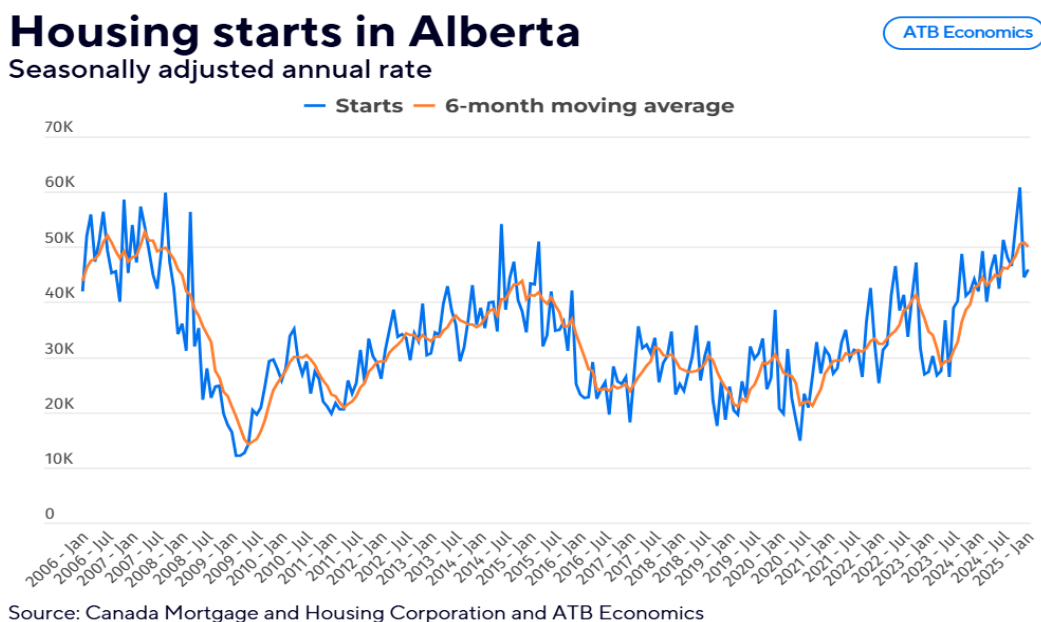
*Housing Starts by Type in Alberta*

## Strong start to the year: Housing construction in Alberta

The pace of new home construction in Alberta stayed strong in January at just under 46,000 housing starts\* (seasonally adjusted annual rate). The January reading comes on the heels of last year’s annual tally of 47,827—the fourth highest on record.

Housing starts can be tricky to interpret because—even after accounting for regular seasonal variation—the monthly data tend to bounce around quite a bit.

As with many other economic indicators, the trick is to look at the long-term trend.



As you can see in the chart above, the trend (as measured by the six-month moving average) in Alberta has, notwithstanding a few minor ups and downs, been on a sharp upward trajectory since the recent low point reached in April 2023. As a result, housing starts in Alberta are back at levels last seen during the housing boom of the mid-2000s.

Even with the high levels of uncertainty accompanying the threat of a trade war with the U.S., past and ongoing population growth in Alberta is expected to support strong residential construction activity going forward.

According to our latest forecast, the gap between supply and demand will keep housing starts in 2025 elevated at 45,600. While down slightly from last year, this is well above the five-year average of about 35,000. Home construction will, in turn, continue to be a key driver of economic growth and employment for Alberta this year.

## **A tale of Alberta's two largest cities**

*Rob Roach-ATB*

For an interesting case study, let's look at Alberta's two largest cities: Calgary and Edmonton. If it's true that people are seeking lower-cost housing, what happens when Calgary gets expensive and Edmonton remains relatively cheap?

Calgary's housing market remained resilient following the Bank of Canada interest rate hikes. It was the only metro area in Canada with a population of 1 million+ where prices continued to increase year-over-year even as rates moved higher. This outperformance corresponded to breath-taking population growth, with more than 190,000 people added to the CMA in the last two years alone, putting pressure on housing.

Edmonton meanwhile saw a modest correction in home prices, and population growth (while strong) lagged Calgary.

The result? The price gap between the two cities hit a record \$194,000 in May 2024.

But then the pattern shifted.

Benchmark home prices have been growing faster in Edmonton than in Calgary for six straight months on a year-over-year (y/y) basis. Last month, Edmonton's benchmark home price jumped 3.8% over December, the largest month-over-month increase since the housing boom of 2006. Meanwhile, the price in Calgary dipped 0.4%.

Now that Calgary-Edmonton price gap has closed to \$163,300.

The sales-to-listings ratio is another barometer. Calgary is still in sellers territory at 0.64, but Edmonton now sits even higher at 0.80. The national ratio is 0.49.

We are seeing a similar divergence in asking rents, though rental increases in both markets have cooled.

The good news for would-be home buyers is that housing supply has responded, with record housing starts in both Calgary and Edmonton last year. This is helping ease some of the price pressure.

The shift towards Edmonton is much more apparent in the housing data, than in the population stats. Edmonton's population growth has accelerated, but still lags Calgary's. However, we saw for the first time since 2008, net interprovincial outflows from Calgary to other parts of the province in 2024, and inflows into Edmonton.

Our view is that the chasing affordability theme has partly moved from provincial to local. That is, local housing price gaps are closing in response to the appetite for households to find lower cost options within the province.

We suspect the rising share of remote workers, with more flexibility to separate place of work and residency decisions, is playing into this ‘chasing affordability’ trend.

With households across Canada still squeezed by elevated prices, softer labour markets, and higher interest rates than before, we think this theme will continue to unfold this year. It is one of the reasons why we think interprovincial migration will continue into Alberta. After all, even with some convergence in markets, home prices in Alberta remain well below the national average. And with wide price gaps within the province and international immigration set to slow (mostly hitting major centres), we expect that population growth rates will become more balanced across the province.

### **US Housing Starts**

Privately-owned housing starts in January were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,366,000. This is 9.8 percent ( $\pm 12.5$  percent)\* below the revised December estimate of 1,515,000 and is 0.7 percent ( $\pm 13.0$  percent)\* below the January 2024 rate of 1,376,000. Single-family housing starts in January were at a rate of 993,000; this is 8.4 percent ( $\pm 10.1$  percent)\* below the revised December figure of 1,084,000. The January rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 355,000.

### **Lumber**

Lumber futures surpassed \$630 per thousand board feet in February, the highest since October 2022, amid tariff concerns and tightening supply. U.S. President Trump reaffirmed Monday that tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports remain "on time and on schedule," despite both nations' efforts to bolster border security and curb fentanyl flows ahead of the March 4th deadline.

The National Association of Home Builders warned that higher tariffs on lumber and gypsum could push prices up 40%, worsening affordability and slowing the housing market's recovery. Meanwhile, U.S. building permits edged up 0.1%, signaling stability, while housing starts plunged 9.8%, pointing to near-term weakness. On the supply front, North American production fell by 3.1 billion board feet in 2024 due to widespread sawmill closures, particularly in Canada, where rising costs forced cutbacks.

### **Trump Tariffs Spooking the Market?**

The mere threat of tariffs being tacked onto Canadian lumber imports in the U.S. is raising fears of panic buying that could roil lumber markets and prices.

“A number of Canadian lumber companies are now advising customers that they will add 25 per cent to lumber exports to the U.S. when the tariff is announced,” global wood analyst Russ Taylor wrote in a recent [newsletter](#).

“With Canadian mills already paying an average of 14.4 per cent import duties on U.S. shipments, they have no alternative but to increase prices by the 25 per cent to cover the potential tariff.”

Taylor cites Nic Wilson, CEO of the Denver Group Mass Timber Summit in the U.S., who wrote in a LinkedIn post that Canadian companies like West Fraser Timber (TSX:WFG) have sent letters to customers warning that it will hike its prices 25 per cent.

### [Navigating Tariffs on Canadian Lumber](#)

Wilson writes in his post that “multiple big Canadian mills sent out the same public announcement,” and that the potential threat of a 25 per cent increase in lumber prices could prompt “panic buying” as American buyers try to bolster February and March inventories ahead of price hikes and tariffs taking effect.

West Fraser said: “West Fraser has not issued blanket emails to customers regarding potential Trump tariffs.”



With the increases in lumber anticipating tariffs I thought it would also be a good idea to look at what happened during the pandemic to lumber pricing in a 10 year chart below showing it peak in May of 2021.

Although prices hit a high of \$1697 in May of 2021 it really did not have the expected impact on US housing starts one might have thought hitting 1.6 million in that month, ultimately continuing to increase to a peak high in April of 2022.



## *10 year lumber pricing*

With the rebuild due to California fires the US housing market may be able to absorb prices due to tariffs assuming the other market conditions are favorable.

However, one must consider that the Trump tariffs on lumber piled on to the softwood duties may have his desired effects. [California Builders say few alternatives to Canadian Timber](#)

The US region is set to eclipse Canada for softwood lumber capacity for the first time since at least 1970, according to commodity pricing agency Fastmarkets. It's a remarkable turnabout that signals how much a key Canadian resource sector has diminished due to years of US duties and other challenges including wildfires, land-use regulation and insect infestation.

Further levies could be “quite devastating for the sector,” said Kurt Niquidet, chief economist of the BC Council of Forest Industries. “You would see widespread curtailments throughout not just BC, but across Canada.”

As Canadian sawmills get squeezed by high costs and lower revenue — most notably in the forest-rich western province of British Columbia, the US South is enjoying gains in the industry. The US Lumber Coalition has credited the duties for a robust boost to American investment and capacity.

North America lost 4% of sawmill capacity through closures this year alone — and more than 40% of that was in BC, according to Dustin Jalbert, senior economist at Fastmarkets.

Forestry firm Canfor Corp. said in September it would close two BC sawmills by year end and take a C\$100 million write-down, citing the duties as well as a lack of wood supplies. West Fraser Timber Co., the world's largest lumber manufacturer, and smaller rivals Interfor Corp. and Western Forest Products Inc. have also suspended or shuttered western Canadian mills. [Canfor opens new mill in Alabama](#)

This newsletter could be 100 pages if I included all the comments on the Trump tariffs and the economic position, we have put ourselves in, so I have attached some links to some interesting articles for your perusal.

[BC Forest Minister Projects US tariffs and duties could reach 55%](#)

[eric-nuttall-says-the-us-has-no-alternative-to-replace-canadian-oil/](#)

[new pipelines our trump card](#)

[trump-sets-the-stage-for-the-next-Canadian-election](#)

[jack-mintz-the-economic-policy-revolution](#)

[Tariff impact on Alberta economy](#)

“The Trump administration is not interested in climate policy. But it is the poster boy for directed economic development. Canada is not that much different, however. Industrial policy is increasingly acceptable. A wide range of subsidies, regulations and mandates is being used to support the EV industry (even if it is largely dominated by foreign companies). Critical mining, advanced manufacturing, high-tech, clean energy, and agriculture are all political favourites that receive generous support. Oil and gas is a pariah — or was until this month, when Canadian politicians decided “trade diversification” was the most beautiful term in the language.

Canada needs to shake itself out of its lethargy. The colossus to our south, the biggest economy in the world, with a climate more temperate than ours, is and will always be a magnet for people hungry for opportunities. Our goal should be to offer a better life in Canada, driven by creative economic policy here. That does not necessarily mean having the same taxes, regulatory environment, education, infrastructure and social policy as elsewhere. The Irish economic miracle and Israel's start-up nation were not accidents. These two countries figured out what their unique advantages were and acted on them. That should be our policy goal.

Jack Mintz is the President's Fellow of the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary. This is a condensed version of his Princeton Developments Ltd. Distinguished Lecture at the Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta, which he delivered in Edmonton.

**Tariff Checklist: A blueprint for building resilience**  
**BDO**

With the 30-day pause in potential U.S. tariffs hitting Canada, now is the time for Canadian businesses to assess and strengthen their tariff resilience strategies. Our [checklist helps you develop a proactive approach](#) to managing tariffs, keeping you prepared for changes in trade policy once the 30-day pause in tariffs ends, and beyond.

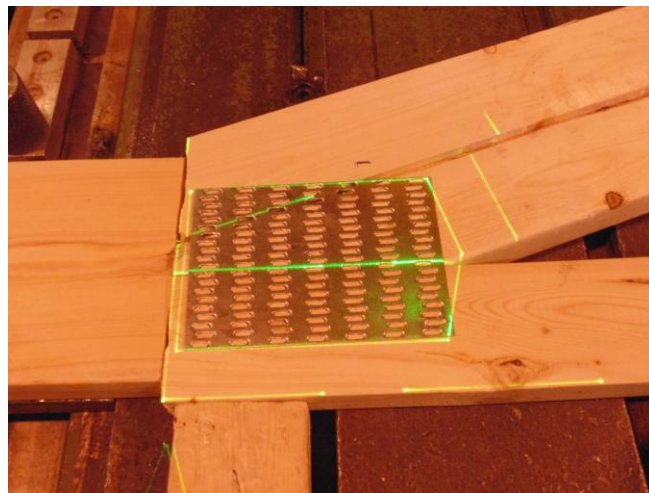
**Quality Control**

**We can't consistently get our plate placement within the allowable tolerances**

Just about every plant I go to has their minimum plate placement translation tolerances set to the TPIC Appendix G settings of 1/4" or 5°.

If this is what your tolerance is set to this is what all plates are expected to be within when doing Q.C. checks.

With the increased use of new technology like laser plate placement it is very achievable to meet these requirements. But what if your workers just can't consistently meet this standard and you don't want to make the investment to ensure the tolerances are made.



One solution is to increase your tolerances.

In TPIC it allows the designer to use a “minimum plate placement translation” which opens the door for the designer to use a greater tolerance.

# Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta February 2025

For example, the designer could increase the tolerance to 1/2" and 10° which would allow the fabricator a little more wiggle room when placing the plates.

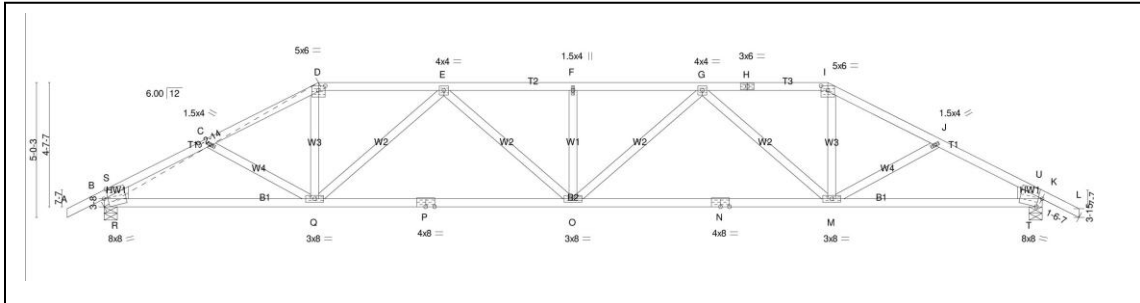
PLATE PLACEMENT TOL. = 0.250 inch  
 PLATE ROTATION TOL. = 5.0 Deg.  
 JSI GRIP= 0.88 (B) (INPUT = 0.90 )  
 JSI METAL= 0.96 (P) (INPUT = 1.00 )

PLATE PLACEMENT TOL. = 0.500 inches  
 PLATE ROTATION TOL. = 10.0 Deg.  
 JSI GRIP= 0.89 (P) (INPUT = 0.90 )  
 JSI METAL= 0.96 (P) (INPUT = 1.00 )

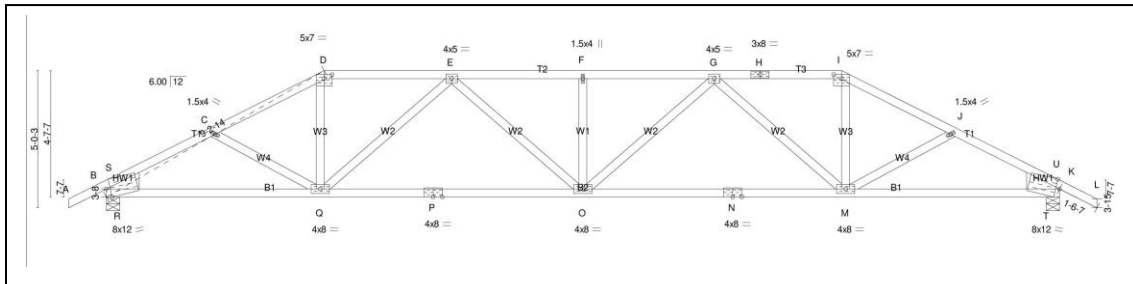
*Plate placement tolerances as set by the truss designer*

This of course, may increase the plate size and therefore the cost of the truss, but the cost may be minimal to either installing plate placement systems or not meeting the QC requirements.

Recently Mike Watier from Star Building Materials and I played around with this idea comparing a 35' hip truss with 1/4" and 5° plate tolerance to one with 1/2" and 10° tolerance.



*Truss design with 1/4" and 5° plate tolerance*

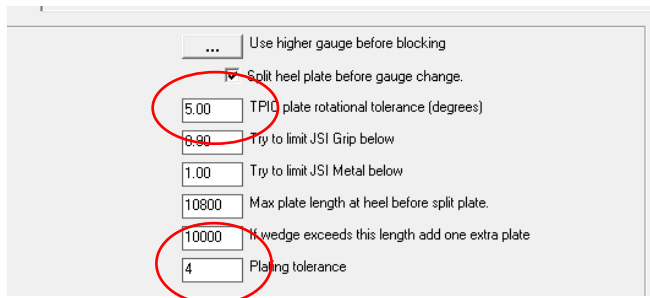


*Same truss with 1/2" and 10° plate tolerance*

The results were that in this truss 10 plates changed sizes and 5 remained the same. All plates remained 20 gauge.

In the first truss the plates added up to 784 square inches or 8.98 lbs. of plates.

In the second truss with the greater tolerances the plates added up to 1008 square inches or 11.54 lbs. of plates. A difference in this truss of 2.56 lbs. of plates for the truss.



*The tolerances can be found in your settings. You can also decrease the maximum JSI here, which may increase plate size.*

**Before changing you plate setting make sure you consult with your plate supplier to ensure that you are doing it correctly!**

In order to simplify manufacturing some plants even change their setting to symmetrical plating only which could potentially speed up plate placing by simplifying the requirements to read the drawings.



*Symmetrical Plating*

Although this adds to the price of the truss you may want to play around with this idea to find a solution for your plant instead of just going with the minimum tolerances.

## Health and Safety Toolbox

### **Manage OH&S the same way we manage the other parts of our businesses.**

Why would a profitable, successful company with a clear record of managing success implement a safety program that doesn't exactly replicate why they are successful in the first place? Manage safety exactly like you manage your business and you'll get similar results.

There are too many companies that manage safety differently than their business to the peril of their safety results. If you know how your employees and management team are motivated to give you production, why would you settle for doing something different to get safety results?

Far too often, companies take a very positive and proactive approach to motivating productivity activities yet do exactly the opposite when it comes to safety, by providing only negative reinforcement for safety. "Safety is a condition of employment", is a commonly used threat. Of course, it is, and so is being on time and doing your job.

Too many companies focus on making negative consequences the key messages during orientation rather than to tell employees that the company needs their help to make it safe, and bosses are counting on them to help with safe production. Of course, you cannot ignore unsafe behaviours any more than you would ignore behaviours that didn't comply with your productivity systems. Stop making safety feel like a negative thing. There is nothing negative about doing our work with a focus on safe production.

### **Stop holding safety meeting that no one wants to go to**

Ask your employees if they enjoy safety meetings. They will probably tell you they don't like what goes on in these meetings very much. The natural question is, "Why are we going to a meeting and not liking what is going on?" If your employees don't like something as simple as the safety meeting, then fix it! At your next meeting, stand up and tell folks you'd like to discuss how to make these meetings better. Let's all set a goal to not sit silently at a meeting that isn't addressing our needs. Just say NO to

Making a safety meeting entertaining requires a mix of humor, storytelling,

interaction, and even a bit of competition. Here's how you can spice up your next safety meeting:

### 1. Kick Off with a Fun Icebreaker

- **“Two Truths and a Lie – Safety Edition”** – Employees share two real safety experiences and one made-up one. Others guess the lie.
- **“Caption This”** – Show a funny (but relevant) safety-related image and have people come up with captions.

### 2. Use Videos & Memes

- Show **hilariously bad safety videos** (YouTube has plenty). Then discuss what went wrong.
- Create a “What NOT to Do” skit—act out safety mistakes in a humorous way.

### 3. Turn It into a Game Show

- **Safety Jeopardy!** – Make categories like “PPE Rules,” “Tricky Hazards,” and “What Happens Next?”
- **Who Wants to Be a Safety Expert?** – Let employees "phone a friend" or "ask the audience" for tricky questions.
- **Minute to Win It** – Set up quick, fun challenges related to safety, like properly putting on PPE in under a minute.

### 4. Use Role-Playing & Skits

- Have employees **act out** a workplace hazard and let others guess what's wrong.
- Do a “bad vs. good” safety demo—one team acts out unsafe behavior, another team corrects it.

### 5. Add Some Friendly Competition

- **Safety Bingo** – Use a card with common safety actions (e.g., "Wore PPE," "Reported a hazard"). First to complete wins a prize!
- **Best Safety Story** – Let employees share real safety close calls—best one wins!
- Offer small rewards like snacks, gift cards, or a “Safety Hero” award.

### 6. End with a Laugh & Takeaway

- **Show a Funny GIF or Meme** that reinforces the lesson.
- **Give a One-Liner Reminder** (e.g., *"Safety glasses: Because eye patches aren't a good look for you."*)
- **Have Employees Recreate a Safety Slogan** in their own words.

New on the Alberta OHS Portal

[Health and Safety Committees and Representatives Presentation](#)

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 Conference and Annual General Meeting April 3 Calgary**

Get your registrations in by March 3

### **WWTA Annual Wage Survey Responses by the end of February**

It is time to get your annual wage survey information into Dave. I would like to have the responses back by the end of February so that I can compile the information. If you have not seen the form or accidentally deleted it please ask for a new form.

Remember only those that give information will be entitled to receive the results.

### **STANDATA 23-BCI-015 Wood Roof Truss Systems for Part 9 Buildings**

As you are aware the requirements for engineering authentication in Part 9 buildings has been going on for quite some time. As a stakeholder the WWTA gave our input to the latest version on January 24th.

We were somewhat surprised when without any further consultation a new STANDATA was published on February 14<sup>th</sup>, particularly since we had not seen the comments from the other stakeholders or a draft before publication.

It is my understanding that this was also the first time that any municipality or Authority Having Jurisdiction saw it.

But here we are.

### **Application**

This interpretation applies to the design of all wood roof truss systems used in Part 9 buildings.

### **Interpretation**

1. The design of a wood roof truss system must be designed and authenticated by a registered engineering professional.
2. Wood roof truss system layouts are required to be authenticated unless the essential information needed to design and install the roof trusses is provided in a separate

document that is already authenticated. This could be the truss profile drawings or the framing plan of the building drawings.

3. The authenticated truss profile drawings or other required authenticated drawings may be provided to the authority having jurisdiction prior to their approval for covering or permission for occupancy as part of the permit conditions.

This INTERPRETATION is applicable throughout the Province of Alberta.

The key point here is #2. The layouts **not** required to be authenticated if all the information for the design and installation is provided on the truss profile drawings.

So going forward, builders are going to have to provide authenticated truss design profiles prior to occupancy, although there is no time indicated for implementation. You are going to start seeing this from municipalities.

This of course means that each truss company is going to have to incorporate this change into their processes and procedures including the cost and timelines that are no doubt going to change for your customers.

Obviously, as stakeholders both the WWTa and BILD still have some concerns on this requirement and the wording of it and have expressed these concerns. The response we received from Municipal Affairs is:

“We took into consideration the feedback each stakeholder provided and incorporated it into the best possible version, but until it starts getting applied in the industry we won’t be able to really know what needs to be adjusted or what is understood by the larger variety of industry stakeholders. The point is that we know there will still be work done through the implementation plan to clarify the intent and application across the industry.”

“Regarding the truss “system”, we will take that into account when we review the feedback from the larger stakeholder group. I agree that this may seem confusing, but through the implementation we will aim to clarify the intent of what we need to accomplish.”

So, the issue is not completely finalized but they are going to test the implementation and based on that may make some adjustments.

**In conversations with a couple of AHJ’s recently they to are awaiting more information from Municipal Affairs and have not issued any bulletins yet. In the meantime, 23-BCB-002- Roof truss layout for one-and two-family dwellings is still in effect.**

## Mid-Rise Construction Workshop

Alberta WoodWorks is putting on a workshop for Mid-Rise Construction March 10 in Edmonton and March 11 in Calgary.

[mid-rise construction registration](#)

Mid-rise construction is transforming urban development, but it comes with unique design and performance challenges. This exclusive workshop brings together industry experts to tackle key issues in **structural design, building enclosure, and acoustics**, equipping you with the knowledge to **optimize performance and ensure project success**.

### What You'll Learn:

- Design Challenges & Solutions – Overcome zoning, structural, and material selection complexities.
- Building Enclosure Best Practices – Enhance durability, energy efficiency, and moisture control.
- Acoustic Performance – Reduce sound transmission and improve occupant comfort.

### Featured Speakers:

- Steve McManus, Senior Engineering Manager, Weyerhaeuser Canada
- Eric Watters, Building Science Engineer, RDH Building Science
- Ian Bonsma, Director, Western Region, HGC Noise Vibration Acoustics

## Open-Web Truss Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

At long last, the Canadian Wood Council is pleased to provide you with the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for open Web Wood Trusses in Canada. While it is currently only available in English, it will be translated into French soon.

This EPD was possible because of the willingness of many of our members to provide the necessary input and output production data to develop Life Cycle Assessment reports. These reports have now been delivered to the National Research Council (NRC) for uploading into their Life Cycle Inventory database and will be available for those wishing to access LCA information in their procurement practices.

CWC had not expected to be able to produce EPDs, as funding was only granted from NRC for the LCA reports, but we were able to secure funding internally.

There are a couple of things to note:

1. The EPD covers Eastern Canada-made trusses and Western Canada-made trusses. We did not receive enough data from producers to be able to have meaningful aggregated data for every province. This presents a potential problem going forward

if procurement practices change to require more granular information about product impacts. This may change if requirements in the market or the regulatory environment change to expect EPDs at a provincial-, company- or, perhaps, site-specific level. But these EPDs are a start.

2. You will note there is a difference in impact between Eastern Canada and Western Canada trusses. This is largely due to the differences in how electricity is generated in each province. It was the same situation for all the other wood products. (Note: If you would like copies of the EPDs for Plywood, lumber, I-Joists and OSB, please let me know. They will be posted on the CWC website in the next couple of weeks.)
3. Your members may be concerned about these differences. The variations are not intended to create competition between regions. Rather, they demonstrate how wood trusses compare to structural systems made using other materials. The variation between wood truss manufacturers within and between regions is very small compared to systems using other materials. We are trying to grow the wood truss market, not redistribute it.
4. Companies which provided data are ***NOT*** listed by name in the EPD. We did this to preserve anonymity of producers. If, as mentioned above, there is a requirement for more detail, companies may need to produce their own EPDs.
5. The EPDs are valid for a period of five years and are dated Jan 6, 2025. The data collected was 2022 production data.
6. Given this is the first time this kind of data has been collected by the truss sector, it is not surprising that participation was low. However, we will be conducting annual environmental impact data surveys in hopes the practice becomes better understood and recognized as a part of doing business going forward. ***Please alert*** your members that this is being done. This effort is being undertaken to maintain current and future market access.

I have posted the EPD document on the WWTA website in the design professional area:

[wwta design professionals](#)

### **SBCA Membership for WWTA Members**

If you are interested in SBCA membership they have created a new limited membership for Canadian Manufacturers that are members of the Canadian Wood Truss Association.

It includes:

1. Free access to Digital Q.C. (currently available for any Canadian MiTek users)
2. Member pricing on SBCA publications
3. Member pricing for BCMC

If your company's annual total sales volume for structural building components is \$5 million USD or more your cost is \$1800 USD. If your total sales volume is \$1-5 million

your cost is \$984 USD, and if you sales volume is less than \$1 million, your cost is \$516 USD.

In order to get the pricing, you must be a member of a provincial truss association like the WWTa.

### **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?**

“There is enormous inertia — a tyranny of the status quo — in private and especially governmental arrangements. Only a crisis — actual or perceived — produces real change. When that crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around. That, I believe, is our basic function: to develop alternatives to existing policies, to keep them alive and available until the politically impossible becomes politically inevitable.”

*Milton Friedman, Capitalism and Freedom, 1962*

The Friedman quote sums up a major element of Canada’s evolving response to the escalating or looming trade war with the U.S. A lot of good can come from this “let no crisis go to waste.” Desperately needed reforms that have proven “politically impossible” appear to become “politically (and economically) inevitable.”

Suddenly everyone seems to be on board with getting our natural resources to market instead of leaving them in the ground.

Unfortunately, while all the talk is around finding other customers our Prime Minister announces \$4 billion for the design only of a pie-in-the sky high speed train that I am pretty sure can not transport any of our resources and increasing the CBC budget by a third.