

BC Announces Support for FPInnovations Research Through Wood First Program

Vancouver, BC – June 10, 2014 – FPInnovations is proud to support the Government of British Columbia’s contribution to our research programs through Forest Innovations Investment’s Wood First Program, as announced today by the Honourable Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade. Details of the contribution were revealed at a press conference held in Richmond, BC.

This investment totaling \$510,297 will be used by FPInnovations to carry out targeted research and knowledge transfer initiatives. This includes working with the BC Advisory Group on Advanced Wood Design Solutions – a representative cross-section of BC architects and engineers – to conduct research that will update or fill technical information gaps in the building code that limit the use of innovative wood products or systems. In addition, FPInnovations will be working with BC’s wood products small and medium enterprises (SMEs), transferring knowledge that will help improve productivity, increase product quality, develop new products, and enter new markets.

FPInnovations will deliver a suite of activities through its technical service specialists. With on-ground manufacturing experience, the likelihood that new knowledge will be taken up by the sector will be increased.

The funding is part of a \$2.14 million investment by the BC Government being provided to industry trade associations and research institutions with proven records in wood products marketing, training, wood products development and research to advance the use of wood in BC.

Quick Facts:

- In 2009, the BC Government introduced Wood First to promote a “culture of wood” in the province. Also in 2009, the Wood First Act was enacted by the BC Government to position wood as the primary choice for building material in provincially funded buildings, where supported by the BC Building Code.
- The information and guidance developed in consultation with the BC Advisory Group on Advanced Wood Design Solutions complement the BC Building Code by helping early adopters to specify innovative wood-based solutions, well before new code provisions that need to undergo the longer review process to gain formal recognition for mainstream use are available.
- BC is home to the third largest SME wood products manufacturing industry in Canada - after Ontario and Quebec. The sector employs over 10,000 people in BC and is represented by very small companies with less than 10 employees, to those that have over 200 employees. The sector now finds itself struggling to compete with new, aggressive off-shore competition in its

traditional U.S. and domestic markets – particularly as the North American economy has improved over the past two years.

- The forestry sector employs almost 60,000 British Columbians and generates an annual manufacturing output of over \$12 billion. More than 40% of regional economies across the province are dependent on forestry.

Quote:

- “This announcement is an admirable example of how collaboration and targeted investment can positively impact forest-dependent communities across BC by developing new alternative solutions to building with wood and by supporting BC’s SMEs in improving their competitive position and expand beyond their area through the development of new products and markets for their current or future products.”

Pierre Lapointe

President and CEO, FPInnovations

Associated Links

- To find out more about our research programs, please visit: www.fpinnovations.ca and follow us on Twitter @FPInnovations.
- To learn more about Forest Innovation Investment’s Wood First Program, please visit: www/bcfii.ca.

About FPInnovations

FPInnovations is a not-for-profit world leader that specializes in the creation of scientific solutions in support of the Canadian forest sector’s global competitiveness and responds to the priority needs of its industry members and government partners. It is ideally positioned to perform research, innovate, and deliver state-of-the-art solutions for every area of the sector’s value chain, from forest operations to consumer and industrial products. FPInnovations’ staff numbers more than 525. Its R&D laboratories are located in Québec City, Montréal, and Vancouver, and it has technology transfer offices across Canada. For more information about FPInnovations, visit: www.fpinnovations.ca.

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