

Mass Timber Advisory Council Terms of Reference

February 2024



Office of
Mass Timber
Implementation

1.0 Background

Mass timber can generate more value from B.C. forest resources by supporting a shift from high-volume to high-value production, and drive clean innovation within B.C.'s land development and construction sectors. It has the potential to create opportunities for local workers, strong partnerships with First Nations, quality economic growth and contributions to achieving B.C.'s climate change targets. Multiple upcoming government strategies plan to profile mass timber to advance a range of provincial policy goals.

The Office of Mass Timber Implementation (OMTI) is tasked with transitioning the use of this new technology from niche to mainstream. As a cross-government leadership hub positioned within the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, OMTI coordinates policy levers and statutory authorities distributed throughout various Ministries to increase acceptance of mass timber construction by accelerating demand to stimulate supply.

2.0 Purpose and Scope

The Mass Timber Advisory Council (MTAC) is established to act as a strategic discussion forum and sounding board to inform and provide advice on the implementation of B.C.'s cross-government and cross-sectoral Mass Timber Action Plan.

The purpose of the Action Plan is to build up domestic demand and supply as a platform for:

- a) establishing B.C. as a North American leader in the production and use of mass timber, and
- b) building up international demand for B.C. product and talent, as B.C.'s construction market is too small alone to drive the desired economic and climate impacts.

MTAC's cross-sectoral thought-leaders are well positioned to highlight the opportunities and challenges to the development and expansion of mass timber as a material of choice.

MTAC will leverage the considerable experience and knowledge of members representing a broad range of interests related to mass timber. Through discussion and consultation members will:

1. Identify and advise on strategic issues, trends and emerging priorities in the development, construction and forest products manufacturing sectors relevant to successful use of mass timber.
2. Review, inform, and validate the key actions to implement the Mass Timber Action Plan.
3. Be ambassadors within their respective sectors as champions of mass timber implementation.

To move mass timber from **niche to mainstream**, the Province will focus on **accelerating demand to stimulate supply**.

Key areas for discussion include the 7 objectives of the Mass Timber Action Plan:

1. Demonstrate mass timber in action
2. Enhance and advance the system of technical rules and tools
3. Catalyze construction sector innovation
4. Celebrate B.C.'s high-performance building successes
5. Expand mass timber education and prepare the workforce
6. Strengthen inclusive, sustainable economic development
7. Amplify climate action with low carbon building materials

Priorities related to the implementation of these objectives will be evaluated annually.

3.0 Membership

MTAC members are drawn from First Nations, local government, and the development, construction and forest products manufacturing sectors.

Minister Brenda Bailey is the elected official with the mandate to lead the development and implementation of B.C.'s Mass Timber Action Plan. Honourable Jagrup Brar, Minister of State for Trade, is the chair of MTAC with staff support provided by OMTI.

Provincial government ex-officio members who will be a resource for MTAC include:

- Kerry Pridmore, ADM, Trade and Industry Development Division
- Michael Loseth, CEO, Forest Innovation Investment

Distinct from MTAC, focused project teams will be created to achieve specific actions. These teams will have interest-based participation and be populated by a cross section of subject matter experts within ministries and external to government, as appropriate.

4.0 Governance and Reporting

MTAC operates through consensus, with opportunity to engage and receive input from all participating members.

MTAC is not a decision-making council. There is no expectation of a final report with recommendations to government. The key benefit of MTAC meetings is frank and open discussion with the Chair. There will be a high-level Record of Discussion document after each meeting noting consensus, advice or any challenges.

5.0 Meetings and Participation

Meetings will occur once per year or as needed and will normally be scheduled for two to three hours. The Chair may also occasionally request ad hoc meetings and/or input from the members via email or short teleconference on emerging or time-sensitive issues.

All meetings will be either videoconferencing or teleconferencing with the option for face to face when possible. Cost to participate will be covered by the MTAC members or the organization they represent. Travel expenses are the exception. They will be reimbursed as per the BC Public Service guidelines, if requested by members.

MTAC members may send an alternate from the organization they represent, if required. The member and the alternate are responsible for relaying information between one another and, as needed, with the organization they represent. Members or alternates are expected to possess the knowledge and ability to speak to agenda items relevant to the organization they represent. Likewise, they are expected to connect with and recommend other thought leaders who could add value to the conversation. MTAC may, from time to time, benefit from participation of additional representation. All invitations for alternates and guests are at the discretion of the chair.

6.0 Confidentiality

Members are encouraged to share overall themes of conversations with their respective organizations and will be provided guidance if some discussions are deemed confidential. If uncertain, members are encouraged to seek advice from OMTI around any specific details they may wish to communicate more broadly. More formal agreements of confidentiality may be required for select topics (such as any proposed legislative amendments).

Member Biographies



Minister Jagrup Brar, Chair

Jagrup Brar was first elected as an MLA in Surrey in 2004, and served until 2013. He was elected again as the MLA for Surrey-Fleetwood in 2017 and 2020. Jagrup serves as the Minister of State for Trade and previously served as the Official Opposition critic for Small Business, Healthy Living and Sport, Employment and Income Assistance, as well Solicitor General and Public Safety.

For over a decade, Jagrup worked in the public and non-profit sectors. As the Executive Director of the Surrey Self Employment and Entrepreneur Development Society (SEEDS), Jagrup trained new entrepreneurs to develop and launch successful small business ventures.

Jagrup has been active in the Surrey community for years. He is a dedicated local volunteer, and has worked with a variety of local organizations providing services to young people, seniors, the homeless, and new Canadians.



Andrew Harmsworth, GHL Consultants Ltd

Andrew Harmsworth, a Principal of GHL Consultants Ltd, is the Fire Engineer responsible for Tallwood House at Brock Commons. He is currently working on over 15 new tall wood buildings from 8 to 30 storeys, several of which have received approval and building permits. Andrew is also heavily involved in fire research around mass timber construction.

Known for proactive and creative application of fire engineering to building design, Andrew is a member of the Standing Committee on Fire Protection of NRCC's Codes Canada, responsible for Part 3 Fire Safety, in the National Building Code of Canada.



Anne McMullin, Urban Development Institute

Anne McMullin is currently the President & CEO of the Urban Development Institute (UDI). UDI is a non-profit and non-partisan industry association of the residential, commercial and industrial builders.

Anne studied political science at UBC and journalism at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). In 2017, she received the BCIT Distinguished Alumni Award. Anne has held multiple leadership and communications roles, including President and General Manager of the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, Director of Communications at the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, President of the BC Salmon Farmers' Association, and a Lower Mainland journalist, and she volunteers with many charities and community organizations.



Brian Hawrysh, BC Wood Specialties Group Association

Brian Hawrysh supports B.C.'s secondary wood product manufacturers to grow faster by helping them access and exploit markets they would not otherwise enter.



Claire Huxtable, ERA Forest Products Research

Claire Huxtable is part of ERA's equity research team, focused on North American paper and forest products producers. She previously worked in private equity with the Hancock Timber Resource Group, in Boston and Vancouver, Washington.

Claire began her career with Western Forest Products on Vancouver Island. She holds an undergraduate degree in forestry from the University of British Columbia and Laval University, and an MBA from the University of British Columbia. She is a registered professional forester with the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals and a CFA Charterholder.



Derek Newby, Perkins & Will Architects

Derek Newby is a principal in the Vancouver studio of Perkins & Will Architects. His work includes a wide range of project types for private and public-sector clients. He has served as a member of the Advisory Design Panels in the City of New Westminster, the City of Surrey, and presently, the City of Port Moody. Born and raised in British Columbia, his practice seeks to prioritize environmentalism as a defining characteristic of architecture. He is a licensed Architect and member of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia, a LEED accredited professional, and a Certified Passive House Designer.



Guido Wimmers, British Columbia Institute of Technology

Currently the Dean of the School of Construction and Environment at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Dr. Wimmers earned his Ph.D. from the Doctoral Program in Engineering Science and a Master's degree in Architectural Engineering from Leopold Franzens University in Innsbruck, Austria. He brings extensive industry leadership in the field of sustainable construction practices. Prior to moving to Canada in 2007, Guido collaborated with multi-disciplinary teams across Austria, Germany, and Italy, focusing on energy-efficient and sustainable building projects. In BC, he played an instrumental role in the implementation of the International Passive House Standards in BC and across Canada.

Guido's distinguished career led him to a tenured professorship at the University of Northern British Columbia where, in 2014, he assumed the role of inaugural Chair of a novel Master of Engineering Program in Timber Engineering. Under his leadership, an interdisciplinary curriculum emerged that seamlessly integrated modern timber engineering, building physics, prefabrication principles, and practical project experience. In addition, Guido was pivotal in the design and construction of the Wood Innovation Research Laboratory, which allowed for the testing of large-scale integrated wood structures using engineered wood products. In addition to his academic contributions, Guido previously served as a consultant for the City of Vancouver, and the BC Energy Step Code Committee.



Janice Morrison, Union of BC Municipalities

Janice Morrison, the Mayor of Nelson, is a passionate community advocate. Having called Nelson home for three decades, she has a deep connection to the city, with her family settling here in the 1920s. Janice holds degrees in Microbiology from the University of British Columbia, an interdisciplinary Masters with a specialty in Physiology from New Mexico State University, and a Physical Therapy degree from the University of Alberta. Additionally, she has certification in Medical Acupuncture, showcasing her dedication to holistic approaches to healthcare.

Janice's commitment to serving her community is evident through her extensive involvement in various organizations. She has served as a Director of the Nelson Leaf's hockey team, chaired the Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation, was President of the Chamber of Commerce, chaired the City Advisory Planning Commission and has been an active member of the Nelson Rotary Club for 32 years. Janice was first elected to Nelson City Council in 1999, was re-elected in 2014 and 2018; ultimately elected in Mayor in 2022.

Alongside her political career, she had an impressive 33-year career as a professional Physical Therapist at Kootenay Lake Hospital. Mayor Morrison's tireless advocacy for her community and diverse experiences in healthcare, community leadership, and sports make her a dedicated and dynamic leader who is deeply invested in the betterment of Nelson and its residents. Mayor Morrison has been appointed as the representative for the Union of BC Municipalities on MTAC.



Jeff Bromley, United Steel Workers- Canada

In his role as the United Steelworkers Wood Council Chair, Jeff represents sawmill workers, timber transportation workers and others working in the forestry sector. He became a rank-and-file member of the International Woodworkers of America in 1994 when he was hired as an operator at the Elko Sawmill in British Columbia. Jeff has served the United Steelworkers union in a full-time staff role since 2012.



Zara Rabinovitch, Council of Forest Industries

Zara Rabinovitch is the Director of Sustainability for the BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI), an organization that represents forest tenure holders and manufacturers across British Columbia. COFI members include companies, big and small, that produce lumber, pulp and paper, engineered wood products including mass timber, and biofuels.

At COFI, Zara is responsible for advancing the BC forest sector's role as a provider of low-carbon building materials, supporting innovation and decarbonization strategies, and engaging on environmental policy and regulation impacting forest product manufacturing.

Previously, Zara was a Senior Policy Advisor to Canada's Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of International Trade. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of British Columbia and a Master of Science in Comparative Politics from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Michael Green, Michael Green Architecture

Michael Green is an award-winning architect known for his research, leadership, and advocacy in promoting the use of wood, new technology, and innovation in the built environment. He lectures internationally on the subject, including his TED talk, "Why We Should Build Wooden Skyscrapers." Based in Vancouver, Canada, Michael founded MGA to create meaningful and sustainable change in building through innovation in construction sciences and design. He is a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and has been honoured with North America's most prestigious awards, including two RAIC Innovation Awards and four Governor General's Medals.



Paul Fast, Fast + Epp

As founder of Fast + Epp, Paul Fast is passionate about design excellence. He has emerged as a leader in architecturally exposed structures and is recognized for his unconventional use of materials, including hybrids of timber, concrete and steel. For over three decades, Paul has been the design lead for many of the firm's most significant award-winning projects, including the Richmond Olympic Oval roof, the Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre, the Kingsway Pedestrian Bridge, and UBC's Brock Commons.



Paul Rasmussen, Interior Lumber Manufactures Association

Paul is a Registered Forest Technologist (RFT) with over 30 years of experience in BC's Natural Resource sectors, mostly in Forestry. He has held a diverse range of positions, both in industry and the BC Government. During his time with the provincial government, Paul enjoyed several operational, strategic leadership, and Executive roles, concluding his career with the Province as an Assistant Deputy Minister with the Ministry of Forests.

Since leaving Government in 2021, Paul has been operating a consulting business, working on projects of importance to him, with a focus on Indigenous economic development and other community or forest industry centered work.

In November 2022, Paul began working as President of the Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association, representing 12 member mills, one Community Forest Corporation and many Associate members. This latest role is "right up Paul's alley" offering opportunities to continue focusing on work and relationships that will help build a better future for BC's Natural Resource Sectors and the economic stability those sectors provide BC's communities and its citizens.



Shawn Keyes, Wood Works! BC

Shawn Keyes is an accomplished structural engineer and the Executive Director of Wood WORKS! BC, a regional market development program created by the Canadian Wood Council. He has a background in structural design, project management, and business administration. Before joining Wood WORKS! BC in 2022, Shawn spent over six years at Fast + Epp, a leading structural engineering firm best known for their creative and innovative use of wood. During his time there he played a crucial role in designing and delivering numerous high-profile projects, and advancing the firms project management practices.

Shawn is a licensed Professional Engineer in BC, AB, and ON. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering Science from the University of Western Ontario, a Master of Engineering from Carleton University, and is currently pursuing an MBA from the UBC Sauder School of Business. Shawn is passionate about sustainable building practices and advancing the use of wood in construction.



Robert Phillips, First Nations Summit

Robert Phillips is a member of the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw (Shuswap) of the Canim Lake First Nation. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University College of the Fraser Valley. Phillips was previously elected by First Nations Summit delegates to three, two-year terms as a Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission (2007-2013). He also previously served as Chief Negotiator, and prior to that, as Self-Government Director at the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council (1998-2007). Mr. Phillips has an extensive background in aboriginal justice and economic development. Mr. Phillips was elected in June 2019 for a third consecutive three-year term on the First Nations Summit Political Executive, which is mandated to carry out specific tasks related to Aboriginal Title and Rights negotiations with British Columbia and Canada and other issues of common concern to First Nations in British Columbia.



Terry Teegee, BC Assembly of First Nations

Terry Teegee is the elected Regional Chief of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations and proudly serving his second term in this position. Terry's ancestry is Dakelh, Gitksan and Sekani descent and is a member of Takla Nation. As a former Registered Professional Forester, responsible for looking after the forests, forest lands and forest resources, Terry is deeply involved in natural resource development. As Regional Chief, he was an instrumental voice in the development and historic passing of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Terry is known for his caring and collaborative leadership. He worked to unify and support people working together towards the recognition of our inherent rights. Prior to becoming the Regional Chief, Terry held forestry and natural resources roles with the CSTC and Takla Nation, and was the elected Tribal Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (CSTC) from 2012-2017. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resources Management (Forestry) and a Natural Resources Technology Diploma. Terry, his wife Rena Zatorski, and their two children Rylie and Rowan reside on Lheidli T'enneh Shelley Reserve, 22 kilometers up the Fraser River from Prince George.



Tim Ryce, City of North Vancouver

Tim Ryce is a Professional Engineer and Chief Building Official for the City of North Vancouver. Previously, Tim worked as the Green Building Engineer for the City of Vancouver. He has developed and implemented construction regulations relating to green building, energy efficiency, and accessibility, both at the local and national level, and acted as a peer reviewer for FPInnovations' Technical guide for the design and construction of tall wood buildings in Canada. Recently, he introduced new performance-based requirements aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in new non-complex residential buildings while quickly adapting the City's in-person and paper-based Permitting processes to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Tom-Pierre Frappé-Sénéclauze, Pembina Institute

Tom-Pierre Frappé-Sénéclauze is the director of the Pembina Institute's buildings program, replace Karen Tam Wu on the MTAC. Until 2022 he served as director for buildings and urban solutions at the Institute. Through fact-finding, convening, and coalition building, he facilitates the development and implementation of policies to reduce carbon pollution and energy waste from homes and buildings. Tom-Pierre has provided consulting services to local, provincial and federal governments agencies on topics ranging from energy labelling, PACE financing, to building codes and market transformation. He sits on resource planning and demand-side management advisory bodies for BC Hydro and FortisBC.