



March 18, 2019

Dear Chief Administrative Officer:

Re: Expression of Interest – Early Adoption Initiative for Tall Wood Mass Timber Construction

The 2020 National Building Code is targeted to contain provisions for the construction of encapsulated mass timber wood buildings up to 12 storeys in height. As recently [announced](#), the Province will provide opportunities to build taller buildings with engineered wood products (encapsulated mass timber) in advance of provincial adoption of the 2020 National Building Code.

The Office of Housing and Construction Standards is inviting expressions of interest from local governments to participate in such an opportunity. This early adoption initiative will allow participating local governments to enable innovative tall wood buildings in their communities two to three years before adoption in the BC Building Code. At this point, the Office of Housing and Construction Standards is asking for expressions of interest only. Please see the attachment for information on the types of building occupancies allowed and requirements for participation. Further details on program requirements, links to technical information and dates of information sessions will be sent to those who respond.

If this initiative is of interest to your local government, please email building.safety@gov.bc.ca using “Tall Wood - Early Adoption” in the subject line **by Friday, April 5th, 2019** (extensions may be granted). **Please be assured that an Expression of Interest does not commit you to further participation in this process.**

Thank you in advance for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Gord Enemark
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
Attachment:



ATTACHMENT

Information for Interested Participants

A local government is an ideal candidate for participation in the early adoption initiative if they have a Building Official with Level 3 Certification from the Building Officials Association of BC and land use bylaws that support buildings greater than six storeys in height.

While not required at this stage of the process, prior to a community's participation, a council resolution in favour will be required along with written confirmation that the planning, building/development and fire departments support participation.

The building occupancies that will be considered are Residential, and Business and Personal Services (as defined in the 2018 BC Building Code). Select mixed uses like education, restaurants and retail will be allowed on lower stories. More details can be found in the 2018 B.C. Building Code – *Division B: Acceptable Solutions Notes to Part 3 – Fire Protection, Occupant Safety and Accessibility (pages 2-5)*.

This initiative is subject to a ministerial regulation under the *Building Act*.