

**From:** Laird, Tom GCPE:EX(Tom.Laird@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX (Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca)  
Suddaby, Clay GCPE:EX (Clay.Suddaby@gov.bc.ca); McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**To:** (Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca); Corns, Paul GCPE:EX (Paul.I.Corns@gov.bc.ca); McKenzie, Scott  
GCPE:EX (Scott.I.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca); Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX (Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** RE: Mass Timber in the media

**Sent:** 05/02/2023 16:24:27

**Message**

**Body:**

Hi Stephen,

The IN on this one is attached for you!

Cheers,  
Tom

From: Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX  
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 9:01 AM  
To: McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX ; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
Cc: Suddaby, Clay GCPE:EX ; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX ; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX ; Laird, Tom  
GCPE:EX  
Subject: RE: Mass Timber in the media

Fun! Thank you.

SB

From: McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX >  
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 9:01 AM  
To: Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX >; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX >  
Cc: Suddaby, Clay GCPE:EX >; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX >; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX >; Laird,  
Tom GCPE:EX >  
Subject: RE: Mass Timber in the media

Hi, we're working on an IN today.

From: Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX >  
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 9:00 AM  
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX >; McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX >  
Cc: Suddaby, Clay GCPE:EX >; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX >; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX >  
Subject: Mass Timber in the media

Hi All,

Noticed this, today. Was hoping you could pass on any messaging that's been developed for it. We use Mass Timber frequently in our own messaging so would be good to have responses in case minister gets questions.

SB

B.C. policy stifled fire safety concerns to promote mass timber highrises, documents show  
CBC Online  
Monday, May 01, 2023

By CBC Online-2

[[https://i.cbc.ca/1.6815905.1681937383!/cpImage/httpImage/image.jpg\\_gen/derivatives/16x9\\_460/wood-tower-20160614.jpg](https://i.cbc.ca/1.6815905.1681937383!/cpImage/httpImage/image.jpg_gen/derivatives/16x9_460/wood-tower-20160614.jpg)]

Page 02 of 15

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

Page 03 of 15

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright





## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUE NOTE

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and  
Innovation

Date: May 1, 2023

Updated: May 1, 2023

Minister Responsible: Hon. Brenda Bailey

## Mass Timber – Organizational Alignment

### ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The Organizational Alignment policy was about ensuring that there was a forum where questions and concerns could be raised and resolved before local government's volunteered to be early adopters of the expanded mass timber code provisions.
- It's no longer in place, as mainstream building codes have now caught up – including at the national level.
- It's very important that people have the opportunity to speak about any issues that they have. We welcome that.
- We're going to continue to work closely with fire safety professionals, local governments and all our partners as we expand the use of this important building material in B.C.

### IF ASKED ABOUT FIRE SAFETY:

- Fire testing has demonstrated that the performance of a mass timber structure is similar to that of non-combustible construction.
- And new, real-world research is highlighting the safety of new tall wood buildings as interest in timber construction continues to grow across Canada and the globe.
- This ongoing research bolsters the case that modern construction techniques and protective systems have neutralized the fire risk traditionally associated with combustible building materials.

### BACKGROUND

A [CBC story](#) was published on May 1, with the headline of 'B.C. policy stifled fire safety concerns to promote mass timber highrises, documents show'.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

The story cited a briefing note that said cities needed ‘organizational alignment’ from fire officials to put up tall wood buildings.

The reporter cites a fire chief from Alberta who states that fire testing and research of tall wood buildings lags behind approvals – specifically mentioning floor performance requirements that are still being developed in Canada.

OMTI notes the reporter did not obtain quotes from any of the communities who participated in the early adopter program.

OMTI also emphasizes that any technical comparison between light-weight wood frame construction and mass timber construction are like comparing apples and oranges.

### Media:

- May 1, 2023: B.C. policy stifled fire safety concerns to promote mass timber highrises, documents show
- June 22, 2022: Mass Timber Research Fire Test Performed as Expected: Fire Performance Similar to Non-Combustible
- May 25, 2020: Is taller safer?
- Jan 5, 2023: Sticks and stones: Study demonstrates safety of tall wood buildings with protective systems

Communications Contact:	Tom Laird – Public Affairs Officer, GCPE
Program Area Contact:	Jarrett Hutchinson – ED, Office of Mass Timber Implementation Kerry Pridmore – ADM, Trade and Industry Development Division

File Created:	May 1, 2023
File Updated:	May 1, 2023

**From:** McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX(Scott.1.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX (Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca); Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX (Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca)  
Suddaby, Clay GCPE:EX (Clay.Suddaby@gov.bc.ca); McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX (Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca); Corns, Paul GCPE:EX (Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca); Laird, Tom GCPE:EX (Tom.Laird@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** RE: Mass Timber in the media  
**Sent:** 05/01/2023 16:00:45  
**Message**  
**Body:**

Hi, we're working on an IN today.

From: Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX  
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 9:00 AM  
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX ; McKenzie, Scott GCPE:EX  
Cc: Suddaby, Clay GCPE:EX ; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX ; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX  
Subject: Mass Timber in the media

Hi All,

Noticed this, today. Was hoping you could pass on any messaging that's been developed for it. We use Mass Timber frequently in our own messaging so would be good to have responses in case minister gets questions.

SB

B.C. policy stifled fire safety concerns to promote mass timber highrises, documents show  
CBC Online  
Monday, May 01, 2023

By CBC Online-2

[[https://i.cbc.ca/1.6815905.1681937383!/cpImage/httpImage/image.jpg\\_gen/derivatives/16x9\\_460/wood-tower-20160614.jpg](https://i.cbc.ca/1.6815905.1681937383!/cpImage/httpImage/image.jpg_gen/derivatives/16x9_460/wood-tower-20160614.jpg)]

Copyright



Page 09 of 15

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

Page 10 of 15

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

Stephen Binder | Communications Manager  
Ministry of Forests  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
C: 778-677-2174

**From:** Corns, Paul GCPE:EX(Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX (Stephen.Binder@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** RE: FYI morning clip  
**Sent:** 05/01/2023 15:55:17  
**Message**  
**Body:**

Can you reach out to your colleagues at JEDI and Housing to see if they are developing messages.  
Thanks

p

From: Binder, Stephen GCPE:EX  
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 8:45 AM  
To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX  
Subject: FYI morning clip

Hey Paul,

This one caught my eye based on our use of Mass Timber in messaging:

B.C. policy stifled fire safety concerns to promote mass timber highrises, documents show  
CBC Online  
Monday, May 01, 2023

By CBC Online-2

[[https://i.cbc.ca/1.6815905.1681937383!/cpImage/httpImage/image.jpg\\_gen/derivatives/16x9\\_460/wood-tower-20160614.jpg](https://i.cbc.ca/1.6815905.1681937383!/cpImage/httpImage/image.jpg_gen/derivatives/16x9_460/wood-tower-20160614.jpg)]

Copyright

Page 13 of 15

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

Page 14 of 15

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

Stephen Binder | Communications Manager  
Ministry of Forests  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
C: 778-677-2174