

Resolution 19A

WOOD FIRST RESOLUTION (PASSED)

⇒ UNSM Board of Directors

WHEREAS the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities recognizes the historic, present and future value of the wood culture in Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS Nova Scotia's forest industry, in partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia, is developing new markets and new opportunities for forest-based products as part of a long-term strategy toward a healthy forest industry; and

WHEREAS wood is recognized as sustainable, and renewable, and that wood structures minimize or eliminate the carbon footprint of a building; and

WHEREAS wood meets building code requirements as permitted in the Canadian Building Code (2010 edition);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia continue to support the development of its forest products sector by encouraging municipalities to:

- a) When building new structures, renovating or adding on to existing buildings, to utilize wood building systems for the lowest environmental impact, within building code requirements;
- b) Select and use building materials and systems with the lowest embodied energy, e.g. wood building system solutions (where technical standards permit), when considering new construction, retrofit, and refurbishment projects;
- c) When building new structures, renovating or adding on to existing buildings, require proponents and design teams to demonstrate critical evaluation of lowest impact material solutions using recognized evaluation tools;
- d) Ensuring that the performance of building systems and products are considered whenever appropriate throughout all phases of infrastructure procurement and ownership;
- e) Specify the use of wood when designing new structures, or performing renovations or additions to existing buildings; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request that the Provincial Government support marketing (domestic and international), research and education strategies to bolster development of a Nova Scotia wood culture and a sustainable forest based economy.

Forwarded to:

Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism

RESPONSE:

Thank you for recent letter with the resolutions passed at the Annual Conference of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM). I have consulted with staff about the resolutions you shared, I hope UNSM finds the following information helpful to address issues of concern to its membership.

The province strongly supports the increased use of wood in building construction and appreciates UNSM's recognition of the historic and future value of the industry. Nova Scotia is also a long-time supporter of the Maritime Lumber Bureau's Atlantic WoodWORKS! program. This industry-led initiative is supported by the federal and provincial governments to educate stakeholders about the economic and environmental benefits of wood construction. We encourage the industry to consider sustainable, life cycle-smart wood construction and to support build with wood policies.

Nova Scotia continues to partner with the forest industry to develop new markets for Nova Scotia as part of our long-term strategy toward a viable, long-term forest industry. The Bowater Transition Advisory team has also been looking closely at the benefits of wood first policies.

Thank you again for sharing UNSM's Annual Conference Resolutions. I look forward to working on these issues with our municipal partners across Nova Scotia.

*The Honourable Percy A. Paris
Minister
November 13, 2012*