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Province announces \$7.8M for Mass Timber Program

Program will encourage research and development of tall wood buildings

20 h by: Northern Ontario Business Staff



Ontario is putting forward \$7.8 million to back its previously announced [Mass Timber Program](#), which will support the research, education and construction of tall wood buildings.

The province announced the funding in an April 25 news release, in which it said the use of timber in tall wood buildings could help address climate change by “storing carbon in buildings and by avoiding greenhouse gas pollution associated with other carbon-intensive materials.”

The program is part of the Climate Change Action Plan and is funded by proceeds from the province’s carbon market.

The program aims to:

- provide funding for research and development of innovative wood products, undertaken by academic and private research organizations, to support potential wood-related changes to the Building Code and other standards;
- fund post-secondary education institutions to provide skills development and technical training and to create tools relating to using wood in construction;



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- support the establishment of a tall wood research institute in Ontario, in partnership with researchers, universities, and colleges; and
- demonstrate the successful use of mass timber in design, construction, and the fire safety of taller wooden buildings (seven storeys and higher) including four tall wood demonstration projects.

The current Building Code allows for the construction wood frame buildings up to six storeys.

A Private Member’s Bill tabled by Nipissing MPP Vic Fedeli that would extend wood frame construction to buildings up to 14 storeys is slated for second reading in the provincial legislature on April 26.

Fedeli has said promoting wood frame construction would help boost the forestry sector in Northern Ontario.

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