

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2012JTST0005-001321
Sept. 10, 2012

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Request for Proposals released for Wood Innovation & Design Centre

PRINCE GEORGE – A multi-storey wood building is closer to becoming a reality, as three qualified teams have been shortlisted to participate in the Request for Proposals (RFP) phase of the competition to design and build the Wood Innovation and Design Centre (WIDC).

Seven groups responded to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Following evaluation of the responses received, three teams were shortlisted. They are:

- Maple Reinders/Cree
- WIC Design + Build
- PCL Westcoast Constructors 1057 Inc.

The shortlisted respondents will be invited to respond to the RFP and submit proposals to undertake the design and construction of the WIDC. While only three groups could be shortlisted, the three successful design-build teams have the ability to add to their teams where they feel necessary. This may include members of teams that were not selected to move forward for the RFP process.

The innovative wood building will showcase British Columbia's expertise and global reputation as a leader in wood construction and design and engineered wood products. Its construction will catalyze new wood-product development, commercialization and adoption.

Responses to the RFP will be evaluated based on both cost and the level of innovation that their designs demonstrate. The Province is interested in maximizing the potential size and scope of the WIDC, and will consider these factors in its evaluation of proposals.

Once complete, the building will house academic and research programming with the University of Northern British Columbia, as well as office space for industry and potentially provincial use. It will focus on advancing B.C.'s expertise in wood-related products, and it will highlight new and innovative wood building products and techniques.

Construction of the WIDC is expected to start early in 2013, with completion estimated to be completed by fall 2014.

Quotes:**Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training Pat Bell —**

“British Columbia is a global leader in wood, and this development is another positive step forward in the creation of innovative projects – ones that will create jobs and provide a great space for furthering British Columbia’s strong connection to and history of wood use. Wood is an extremely important and renewable natural resource for our province. I am very happy to see this project continuing to develop and know it will be outstanding for the City of Prince George and all those involved.”

MLA for Prince George-Valemount Shirley Bond –

“Today marks another important step forward in the creation of the Wood Innovation and Design Centre. This building will not only enhance our downtown but will create new opportunities for innovation with the use of wood.”

Prince George Mayor, Shari Green —

“The Wood Innovation and Design Centre will be the latest addition to a changing and improving downtown core in Prince George. City council is pleased to have provided land along historic George Street for this iconic wood building, and we look forward to the creative concept of the successful team that showcases the valued natural resource Prince George is known for.”

Quick Facts:

- The WIDC will be built on land once occupied by the Prince George Hotel at the corner of George Street and Fifth Avenue.
- The forest sector is a large contributor to government revenues and enables expenditures on essential public services. Today, this sector continues to be an economic engine for British Columbia, contributing more than 30 per cent of the province’s gross domestic product and 12.3 per cent of all employment.
- In September 2011, government issued a Request for Expression of Interest (RFEOI) to obtain input from the design and construction industry regarding building design, construction and procurement attributes for the WIDC project. The government received 34 responses to the RFEOI from a wide variety of companies, including B.C.-based and international organizations.
- In April 2012, a RFQ was released seeking interest in, and qualifications for, the project from design-build teams. The RFQ closed June 5, 2012 and seven proponent teams responded.

Learn More:

Wood First: www.jti.gov.bc.ca/woodfirst

Naturally Wood: www.naturallywood.com

B.C. Forestry Innovation Investment: www.bcfii.ca

Wood Enterprise Coalition: www.wecbc.ca

Canada Starts Here: The B.C. Jobs Plan: www.bcjobsplan.ca

Media Contact: Media Relations
 Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

250 356-8177

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect