



## News From MTI

Hello Mass Timber Colleagues,

### **Sidewalk Labs Says Farewell to Quayside Project**

Regrettably [Sidewalk Labs announced today that it would no longer pursue the Quayside development project](#) on the Toronto Waterfront. The project would have been a big win for sustainable building and the mass timber sector in Canada, and it represented a major opportunity for innovation in the Canadian forest sector. It is important that we not lose sight of these opportunities and that we recognize the major 'lessons learned' from this project are valuable educational and research resources.

Firstly, with the existing mass timber supply chain infrastructure in Canada, building the project with exclusively local mass timber would have been very challenging, as were the connections with suppliers in Quebec and British Columbia. This will need to be addressed moving forward. To this effect, we are very glad to hear that Sidewalk Labs will be continuing to pursue its interest in a mass timber factory. Secondly, the lack of sociopolitical awareness of why it is important to build with wood remains a major obstacle to projects such as these. It was clear from the political debate that the sustainability issues associated with mass timber were ignored or simply not understood. Getting more uptake on mass timber for education and training in universities and colleges, in municipal council chambers and the boardroom will be essential to make progress.

Sidewalk Labs has been an important partner of MTI since the beginning and we look forward to continuing to work with them on future projects.

## Updates from the Institute

### **1. MTI PI appointed to Interim Dean of John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design**

We are very excited to announce that MTI Principal Investigator Professor Robert Wright has been appointed to Interim Dean of the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design at the

University of Toronto. Professor Wright brings to the position his previous leadership experience at U of T as Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, Associate Dean and Associate Dean of Research at the Daniels Faculty, Program Director of the Landscape Architecture Program and Director of the Knowledge Media Design Institute at the School of Graduate Studies. Congratulations Professor Wright!



Professor Robert Wright

## **2. Projects in progress**

### *Mass Timber Projects*

We are constantly updating [our interactive map of mass timber projects in North America](#). If you have a project that you would like included, please let us know by [filling out this form](#) and we will update our map to include your project.

### *Mapping the mass timber supply chain*

One of the questions we get asked most when people reach out is 'where can I get mass timber products from?' While there has been some research on aspects of this topic in the past (e.g. [this journal article](#), [this thesis project](#), [this online article](#) and [this online article](#)), much of that information is hard to find and does not include Canadian suppliers. To address this challenge, we are building an interactive online database of mass timber suppliers. If you are a supplier and want to get your company's information out there, let us know by [filling out this form](#) and we will add the project to our database.

## Other Updates:

- [The UK is considering a ban on exterior combustible material in wake of the Grenfell disaster](#). If you would like to submit a comment in support of mass timber, you can do so [here](#).

That's all for now -- thanks for reading!



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