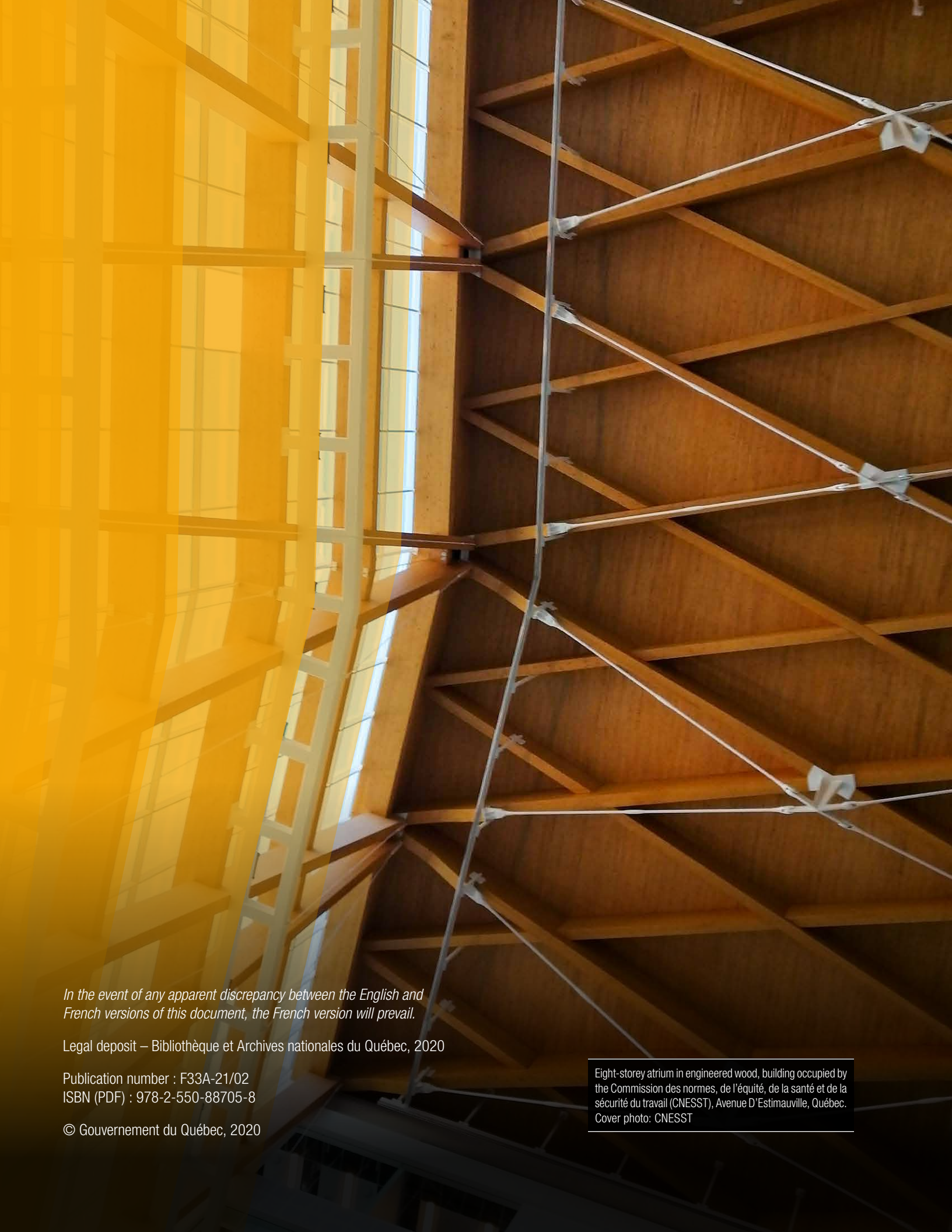




POLICY FOR THE USE OF WOOD IN CONSTRUCTION



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Legal deposit – Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, 2020

Publication number : F33A-21/02
ISBN (PDF) : 978-2-550-88705-8

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Eight-storey atrium in engineered wood, building occupied by the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST), Avenue D'Estimauville, Québec.
Cover photo: CNESST



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

In the fall of 2019, at the Woodrise international conference, I undertook to launch a more ambitious Wood Charter during the following year. Today, I am proud to present the new Policy for the Use of Wood in Construction.

The Policy will be an excellent tool for Québec's economic recovery. The forest sector has a great deal to offer from an economic standpoint, while also helping to fight climate change. Timber construction products add value to forestry products and the buildings in which they are used. They also help to generate and consolidate stimulating jobs in the regions, and foster the emergence of solid, inspiring buildings. What better way is there to play an active role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

The Policy for the Use of Wood in Construction is a thoroughly modern approach worthy of our vision for our forests. With its focus on innovation and new forest product development, it will help our forest industry to become more competitive and will add to our efforts in the fight against climate change.

Timber construction has won a significant share of the market in recent years. Despite the progress we have made so far, much still remains to be done to promote and provide information about it. Our Policy therefore covers not only the residential and non-residential sectors, but also civil engineering works. Its ambition is clear: to ensure that maximum use is made of wood in our buildings and infrastructures. To achieve this, we have set specific targets for each of the Policy's five focus areas. This will be followed by a series of measures signalling our commitment and intention to ensure that Québec becomes a leader in the timber construction sector!

Pierre Dufour
Ministre des Forêts,
de la Faune et des Parcs



CONTEXT

Wood is used increasingly as a material in the construction sector, and its contribution to the fight against climate change has been acknowledged. Choosing wood as a material for construction means choosing to use a local, sustainable, renewable resource that offers an excellent environmental performance throughout its life cycle. The use of wood as a material also contributes to the sustainable development of Québec.

Greater use of wood in the construction sector may generate benefits, but it is also subject to some challenges that have hindered its development in the past. They include the normative environment and regulatory framework currently in force in Québec, which limit the use of wood in construction. New knowledge must therefore be developed on the best way to use wood, because the sector is evolving steadily thanks to major advances in research and development. To give wood the place it deserves, the next generation of construction sector stakeholders must be trained and have the necessary technical support.

The Government therefore intends to take the steps required to promote the many social, economic and environmental benefits of wood as a construction material.

AIM

The Policy's aim is to increase the use of wood in construction in order to foster the sustainable development of all Québec's regions and reduce the carbon footprint of buildings. It sets out the Québec Government's general guidelines, and will be implemented through a series of targeted measures for each guideline.

SCOPE

The Policy applies to public, parapublic and private infrastructures in the residential and non-residential sectors.

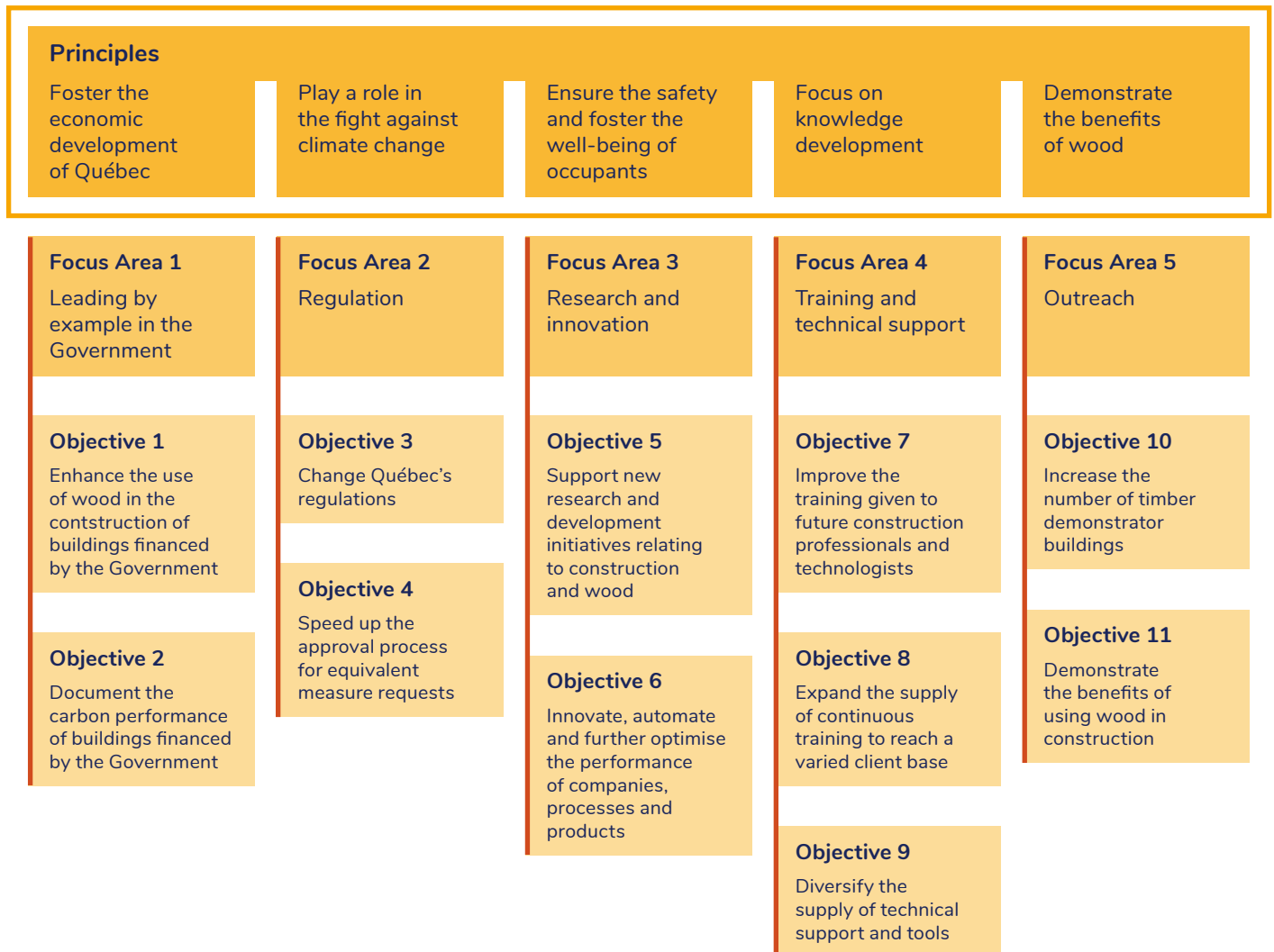
Residential construction includes single-family and multifamily buildings. In the single-family and multifamily residential sector, timber structures are already used extensively in buildings of four storeys or less. Here, advanced building functions such as insulation and finishing provide opportunities to use more wood.

Non-residential construction includes commercial, industrial and institutional buildings and infrastructures such as civil engineering works. In these sectors, and in the mid-rise multifamily building sector (five storeys or more), there is significant potential to increase the use of wood as a structural and non-structural material.

Wood-wood assembly, office at the Charpentes Montmorency factory in Saint-Raymond.
Photo: Cecobois

THE POLICY'S STRUCTURE

The Policy for the Use of Wood in Construction is built around five focus areas, each with its own precise objectives. For each focus area, the Québec Government, in collaboration with its partners, will introduce a variety of measures to ensure that maximum use is made of wood in the construction process.



PRINCIPLES

Foster the economic development of Québec

The use of wood in construction will help to make Québec's forest products industry more dynamic and will stimulate Québec's economy. Increasing the number of construction projects using wood as an abundant local resource will help to create and consolidate employment in many of the province's regions. With an annual turnover of \$17 billion, the forest products industry supports roughly 60,000 jobs and is an essential component of Québec's economy. The forest sector is present in more than 900, or 83%, of Québec's municipalities.

Play a role in the fight against climate change

The use of wood in construction plays a role in carbon storage. In addition, wood is used as a substitute for materials produced using large quantities of energy, or manufactured from petroleum products. Using wood as a replacement for these high carbon footprint materials helps to avoid emissions generated by raw material extraction and manufacturing processes. The potential for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions is promising in residential, commercial, institutional and industrial buildings, and in infrastructures currently built using mainly non-renewable, energy-consuming materials.

Ensure the safety and foster the well-being of occupants

Timber construction must comply with current codes and standards, since the aim is to increase the use of wood without compromising the safety of the building's occupants. The use of a natural material such as wood also helps to foster the occupants' well-being by creating an environment conducive to comfort and health. Research has shown that the presence of natural wood in a room helps to reduce stress and has a positive impact on general health.

Focus on knowledge development

Upgrading the knowledge of existing construction sector stakeholders and students is a priority to ensure that wood is used properly in construction. A sustained effort is therefore needed to enhance and develop the skills of professionals, technicians and tradespeople in the rapidly-changing timber construction sector.

Demonstrate the benefits of wood

Research, innovation and existing knowledge have shown that it is possible to build with wood products and systems. Québec's know-how, wood products, innovations and good practices must be highlighted to accelerate this process.

Large commercial building in engineered wood, occupied by Ameublements Tanguay, Trois-Rivières.
Photo: Stéphane Groleau

FOCUS AREAS AND OBJECTIVES

FOCUS AREA 1 | Leading by example in the Government

As a major order-giver, and to greenwash Québec's property portfolio, the Québec Government must lead by example in the use of wood for non-residential, multi-family and infrastructure construction.

Objective 1 Enhance the use of wood in the construction of buildings financed by the Government

The Québec Government must promote the use of wood in buildings financed in whole or in part by public funds. To do this, it must consider the possibility of using wood before the project begins, and must select wood for its projects when it is technically possible to do so at a competitive cost. It must also continue to carry out comparative analyses of greenhouse gas emissions using Gestimat.

To speed up the use of wood in the construction of public, parapublic and private subsidized buildings, the Government intends to promote the use of both structural and appearance wood products.

The Policy aims to increase the number of construction projects with wood or hybrid (wood/other material) structures that it is technically possible to build at a competitive cost, in compliance with current regulations. Projects will include educational institutions, health institutions, community housing and forest bridges.

Gestimat: A tool to quantify greenhouse gas emissions

Gestimat, designed by the *Centre d'expertise sur la construction commerciale en bois* (Cecobois) and adapted to the context in Québec, is used to quantify greenhouse gas emissions from the production of structural materials and compare various building scenarios. It is available to the general public via a user-friendly Web interface. Gestimat was designed mainly to meet the reporting information needs of Government departments and agencies. By quantifying the greenhouse gas reduction potential of new buildings, it is possible to make informed choices of materials to meet the needs of consumers and society in general.

+ 6%



The percentage of wood-framed non-residential buildings of four storeys or less increased from 28% in 2016 to 34% in 2020.

High-level inter-ministerial committee on government leadership in wood construction

The high-level inter-ministerial committee on government leadership in wood construction was created in 2015. It is responsible for overseeing government leadership in wood construction in the main government departments and agencies involved in managing projects and awarding subsidies, as well as other construction sector organizations. The committee is composed of representatives from the following government departments and agencies:

- » Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP)
- » Ministère des Transports (MTQ)
- » Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation (MAMH)
- » Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ)
- » Ministère de la Culture et des Communications (MCC)
- » Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS)
- » Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor (SCT)
- » Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI)
- » Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation (MEI)
- » Ministère des Finances (MF)
- » Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC)
- » Société des établissements de plein air du Québec (Sépaq)
- » Régie du bâtiment du Québec (RBQ)
- » Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)
- » Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (MERN)



The committee's 15 member departments and agencies will be asked to identify the steps that must be taken to achieve this objective of the Policy. These steps must increase the use of wood in public buildings while accelerating the greenwashing of the Government's property portfolio and contributing to the province's economic development.

Among other things, objective 1 involves:

- > identification and implementation, by the inter-ministerial committee on government leadership in wood construction, of steps to increase the number of public buildings and road infrastructures using wood;
- > introduction of a new accountability framework to monitor these steps.

Commercial building in engineered wood,
Sainte-Foy public market, Québec.
Photo: Jonathan Robert

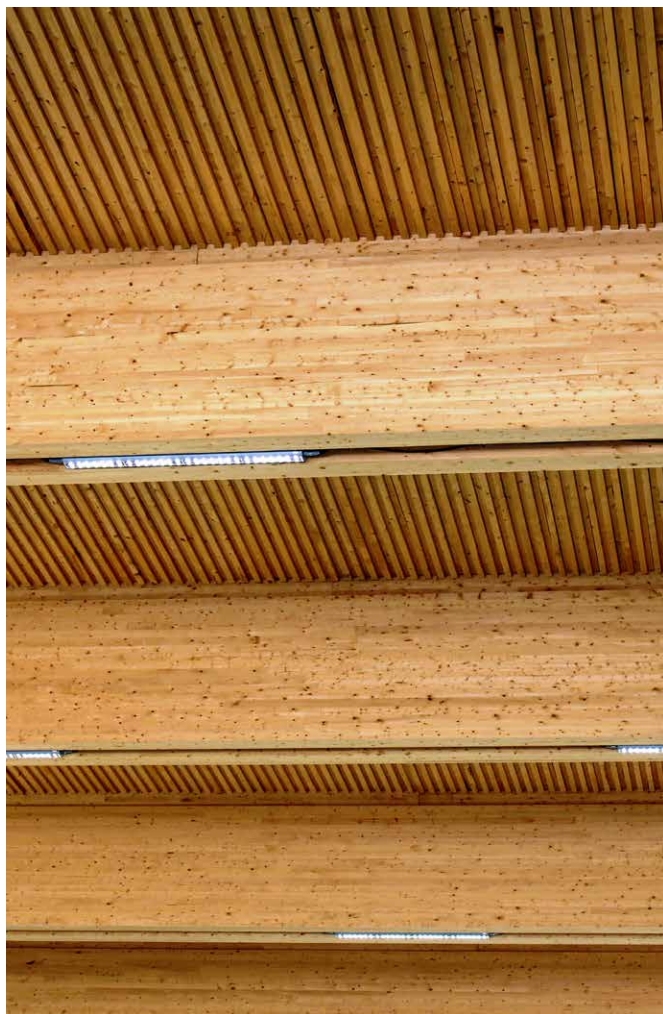
Objective 2 Document the carbon performance of buildings financed by the Government

The establishment of maximum greenhouse gas emission thresholds for different types of buildings has become a global trend. The Québec Government intends to use Gestimat to analyze the carbon performance of wood buildings in more detail. The information produced by this process will be used to set maximum carbon emission thresholds for different types of buildings. These thresholds will serve in turn to select low carbon footprint materials in order to contribute to the fight against climate change.

To improve the carbon performance of buildings, the chosen materials must have low carbon footprints and greenhouse gas emission levels. Forest products have a lower carbon footprint, and offer the advantage of avoiding greenhouse gas emissions when used in place of other, more energy-consuming materials.

Among other things, objective 2 involves:

- > using Gestimat to analyze the carbon performance of buildings financed by the Government;
- > continuing to develop Gestimat in order to facilitate and speed up comparisons of different structural materials and include appearance wood and insulation materials among others;
- > carrying out analyses to determine maximum greenhouse gas emission thresholds for buildings financed by the Government.



Wood, a tool in the fight against climate change

The wood that comes from our forests is created from solar energy. Very little additional energy is needed to process it into useable products, and in Québec, that energy is generally renewable. When wood is used in construction to replace other materials produced using large quantities of fossil energy, the emissions from the production process are avoided.

In addition, trees have the ability to capture carbon dioxide (CO₂), a greenhouse gas that is partially responsible for climate change, and trap the carbon from it. As a result, the forests serve as a vast sink for carbon absorbed from the atmosphere and stored in the wood. Carbon captured in the forest is retained in the products made from wood, throughout their life cycle. In fact, many wood products contain more carbon than is emitted into the atmosphere when they are manufactured. Recycling and reuse of wood also extend the time for which the carbon is stored.

Wood to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of buildings

Globally, the construction sector is responsible for nearly 40%¹ of all greenhouse gas emissions. Most of these emissions are generated when buildings are in use, from the energy consumed to control ambient temperatures. They can be reduced through the use of more effective technologies and by improving the building's overall energy efficiency. Wood provides a fairly high level of thermal insulation and can play a role in optimizing the energy performance of buildings

In addition, 11%¹ of construction sector emissions are related to the choice, harvesting and production of construction materials. Improvements to energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies, including hydroelectricity, means that materials now account for a larger portion of a building's environmental footprint. In buildings in Québec that consume very little energy and are heated with hydroelectricity, the greenhouse gas emissions produced by construction materials now account for the same percentage of emissions as the building's use throughout its life cycle.

By choosing the right materials and managing them carefully throughout the building's life cycle, it is possible to reduce the building's carbon footprint and contribute positively to the fight against climate change. Given that fewer greenhouse gas emissions are generated when producing wood than when producing other materials, and that wood is renewable and stores carbon over time, there are significant benefits to be derived from using it as a replacement for other materials with higher carbon footprints.

¹ Global Status Report

Textured nail laminated timber (NLT),
Charpentres Montmorency factory in Saint-Raymond.
Photo: Cecobois



Relaxation area in an engineered wood administrative building, Eddyfi Technologies, Québec.
Photo: David Boyer Photography

FOCUS AREA 2 | Regulations

In Québec, construction is regulated by the *Construction Code*, which is administered by the Régie du bâtiment du Québec (RBQ). Inspired to a large extent by the *National Building Code*, Québec's *Construction Code* ensures the quality of construction work and the safety of the general public. The RBQ is responsible for overseeing regulatory compliance in the timber construction sector, especially with regard to safety, fire prevention and building maintenance among other things.

The RBQ has also published a number of guides and instructions setting out the conditions for the use of wood in certain applications. In 2013, for example, it published a guide to the construction of five or six-storey timber housing, followed in 2015 by instructions and an explanatory guide for mass timber buildings of up to 12 storeys.

Objective 3 Change Québec's regulations

Québec's regulatory framework in general, and the *Construction Code* in particular, must provide increased opportunities for the use of wood. In the next few years, the RBQ will attempt to bring the *Construction Code* into line with the *National Building Code*. The next version of the *National Building Code* is expected to leave more room for wood in general, and for structural appearance wood in particular. Speeding up the harmonization process will have a major impact on the use of wood in construction. The possibility of integrating administrative and regulatory environmental requirements for carbon performance in different types of buildings must also be considered.

Among other things, objective 3 involves:

- > speeding up the process of harmonizing Québec and Canadian building regulations by ensuring that Québec adopts the 2020 National Building Code quickly;
- > updating the instructions and explanatory guide for mass timber buildings of up to 12 storeys;
- > considering the possibility of drafting and publishing new instructions and an explanatory guide.

Objective 4 Speed up the approval process for equivalent measure requests

A promoter whose construction project does not meet the requirements of Québec's *Construction Code* must submit a request for equivalent measures to the RBQ. This can cause additional delays in construction projects, for which deadlines are usually tight.

To speed up the equivalent measures process for wood, the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) will produce technical fact sheets in collaboration with the RBQ. The fact sheets will accelerate the RBQ's approval process for equivalent measure requests and this, in turn, will help to increase the use of wood in Québec while maintaining the resilience and safety of the buildings concerned.

Among other things, objective 4 involves:

- > recommendations to the MFFP and the RBQ by the Advisory Committee on Timber Construction concerning the need to use wood in construction;
- > preparing and publishing explanatory technical fact sheets on a variety of subjects relating to timber construction, to speed up the approval of equivalent wood measures that comply with the safety goals set out in Québec's *Construction Code*;
- > considering the possibility of including the technical fact sheet content in Québec's *Construction Code* and in the federal *Building Code* when these Acts are updated.

Advisory Committee on Timber Construction

The Advisory Committee on Timber Construction, chaired jointly by the MFFP and the RBQ, began its work in 2017. Its mandate is to propose changes to Québec's regulations governing timber building and infrastructure design, construction and safety. It brings together a dozen partners, including the Association des chefs en sécurité incendie du Québec (ACSIQ), the Ministère de la Sécurité publique (MSP), the Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI) and the cities of Montreal and Québec.



Curtain wall with columns, glue laminated timber,
Horisol factory in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli.
Photo: Dave Tremblay

FOCUS AREA 3 | Research and innovation

To support a competitive business sector and a dynamic wood construction industry, it is important to foster research and development expertise and encourage transfers of knowledge and technology.

Research and development are needed in particular to support the design of high-performance buildings in the residential and non-residential sectors. In mid-rise (five or six storeys) and high-rise (seven storeys or more) buildings, a global approach to building systems is vital to obtain good structural, thermal, acoustic, mechanical and fire safety features.

Ultimately, research will permit the development of knowledge and expertise that will encourage the emergence of new buildings and ensure that the use of appearance and structural wood in combination with other materials is considered.

Wood – An innovative material

On a weight-for-weight basis, wood is the most resistant of all structural materials. Despite human expertise and technology, it has not yet been possible to design a material that performs as well as wood and is as flexible, lightweight and resistant.

In addition, and contrary to popular belief, the low thermal conductivity of wood allows it to maintain its load-bearing capacity for longer than other materials in fires. Heat spreads more slowly through wood, with the result that it burns less quickly, allowing more time to evacuate the building.

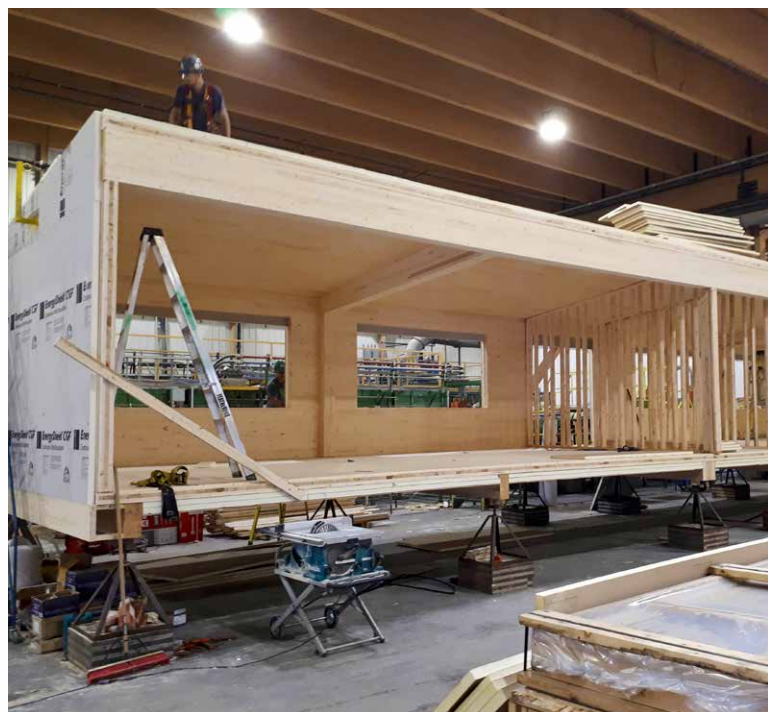
The ability of wood to bend without breaking means that it adapts and performs well if subjected to seismic variations. When used in building systems, it provides good stability, especially during earthquakes.

In recent years, innovative methods and technologies have been developed to construct safer timber buildings. Research and development aimed at creating and marketing new products and entering new markets must therefore continue.

Objective 5 Support new research and development initiatives relating to construction and wood

To speed up research and development in the use of wood for construction, the Québec Government intends to forge new partnerships, among other things with universities specialized in building-related research. These partnerships will help to ensure that wood is incorporated into a variety of building research initiatives on topics of importance to construction.

For example, modular construction is an approach that can significantly increase the speed of building assembly. It also helps to reduce costs because it cuts both site time and the number of employees needed, thereby accelerating the commissioning process. Research in this field may be particularly profitable for the construction of five- or six-storey multifamily buildings.



Solid wood prefabricated module, Riverside School, Arvida.
Photo: Nordic Structures

Research and development of new wood products also offers potential for maintaining or increasing the market share of wood products. Examples include wood fibre-based insulating materials, innovative wood floor coverings and indoor or outdoor wood fibre composite claddings. These innovative products will help to increase the use of wood in residential construction while reducing the carbon footprint of the buildings and enhancing comfort levels for their occupants.

With respect to the biophilic qualities of wood, research has shown that the presence of natural wood helps to reduce stress levels and creates an ambiance conducive to learning and concentration. It therefore has a positive impact on the health and welfare of the building's occupants. This is a key element that merits further study.

Among other things objective 5 involves:

- > promoting the inclusion of wood in a variety of research and development initiatives in Québec on topics of importance that will encourage the use of timber construction in both the residential and non-residential sectors;
- > continuing to develop knowledge about wood as a low carbon footprint material and its use in the construction of sustainable timber buildings and bridges.

Objective 6 Innovate, automate and further optimize the performance of companies, processes and products

For a company to perform well, it must develop a competitive edge. In the business sector, innovation is often achieved by developing or using new equipment and technology. Given the level of market competition and the fact that labour is in short supply, it will be important for the timber prefabrication sector to move more quickly towards automation and optimization in order to improve its manufacturing and business processes.

Manufacturing and construction sector companies must consider industrialization of construction. This is an advanced level of prefabrication in which buildings are designed in such a way as to ensure that their component systems are compatible. As has been the case for the automobile sector, industrialization will help to standardize practices, reduce costs and improve both quality and productivity while maintaining and increasing opportunities for personalization.

A program to speed up optimization and automation in the prefabrication sector

The Timber Prefabrication Optimization and Automation Program, announced in 2019, helps companies to automate and optimize their manufacturing and business processes so that they are able to offer more value-added products at lower prices. Québec's companies now face fierce competition, ever-changing markets and labour shortages, and must therefore rethink their business models. Wood product manufacturers must look more towards prefabrication and integrated solutions that will allow them to meet the growing world demand for prefabricated structural timber products used in the construction of residential and non-residential buildings.

Among other things, objective 6 will involve:

- > increasing interactions between stakeholders and partners and pooling resources to create attractive spaces for expertise and experiments in the wood construction sector, with a view to positioning Québec as a leader and accelerating the development of key innovations;
- > providing more support for innovative projects by timber construction product manufacturers;
- > maintaining support for automation and optimization projects in timber prefabrication factories so that the producers of prefabricated timber products become more competitive;
- > encouraging timber construction product manufacturers to use Building Information Modelling (BIM), which is gradually becoming an essential part of the construction sector's future.



FOCUS AREA 4 | Training and technical support

Initiatives designed to increase the supply of training in the use of wood for construction sector stakeholders and students are extremely important in encouraging the use of wood in construction.

The compulsory training offered by educational institutions must be strengthened to include the use of wood in the construction of buildings and infrastructures. Universities and college training centres will receive assistance that will allow them to include more compulsory and optional courses on wood, so that the next generation of construction sector workers also become timber construction ambassadors.

Continuous training is also essential, because practices and knowledge evolve quickly. Timber construction projects need professionals and tradespeople with up-to-date knowledge. The continuous training supply must also be varied, to meet the skill development needs of people who currently work in the sector

Technical support is also essential, since it often serves as the spark that triggers timber construction projects. It does this by providing information on innovations, new technologies and newly generated knowledge on the use of wood for construction.

Objective 7 Improve the training given to future construction professionals and technologists

Training for professionals is essential and must be improved if more wood is to be used in construction projects. Some universities, including Université Laval and the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC), supported by the MFFP, have included timber construction in the compulsory course load of their civil engineering students. However, much still remains to be done to ensure that the building and infrastructure construction professionals of the future learn about the characteristics of wood in their college and university programs.

Among other things, objective 7 will involve:

- > supporting the educational institutions in Québec that offer construction-related programs to ensure that they also provide specialized training in the use of wood;
- > ensuring that more universities and colleges in Québec offer compulsory programs on the use of wood.

Objective 8 Expand the supply of continuous training to reach a varied client base

The Québec Government intends to do more to reach a more varied and broader client base, with the goal of training major stakeholders to work in the wood construction ecosystem. Examples include promoters, estimators, insurers, contractors, structural erectors and carpenters, who would have an opportunity to upgrade their timber construction knowledge. Those who are already working would benefit from this new training, either by adjusting their ideas or learning about the opportunities and benefits provided by recent advances in the use of wood.

Among other things, objective 8 involves:

- > consulting all the stakeholders involved in wood construction projects, to learn more about their training needs;
- > designing and providing a range of continuous training programs to meet those needs;
- > monitoring the impacts of those programs for the people who take them.

A new Integrated Wood Construction postgraduate microprogram – available through distance education

This program, offered by Université Laval since January 2020, teaches students about integrated timber construction, the properties of wood, building envelopes, building structures and durability, and the notions and concepts of acoustics and fire prevention. It is a postgraduate program composed of five three-credit courses, offered through distance education. It is intended in particular for graduates in the fields of civil engineering, timber engineering, mechanical engineering, architecture and related areas, and was created to meet the growing need for specialist training designed in particular for working professionals.

Snood in glue laminated timber with glue rod connectors, Tour de l'innovation, Musée de la mémoire vivante, Saint-Jean-Port-Joli. Photo: Art Massif

Objective 9 Diversify the supply of technical support and tools

The challenges faced by the residential and non-residential construction sectors change constantly, and a broad range of tools and technical support is needed to address them. Information on innovations, new technologies and newly developed knowledge must continue to be circulated, so that the sector's professionals are kept up-to-date.

Guides, tools and workshops, along with technical services, play a key role in ensuring that wood is used properly in construction.

Cecobois: Technical support and practical tools

The *Centre d'expertise sur la construction commerciale en bois* (Cecobois) plays a key role in providing training and technical support, and many architects and engineers have benefited from its services. Cecobois has published several guides, reports and studies on the use of wood in buildings and infrastructures. In 2020, for example, it published a new guide to the durability of timber bridges, to help Québec's professionals and manufacturers with bridge design.

Among other things, objective 9 involves:

- > consulting the *Réseau Cecobois* and all the stakeholders involved in wood construction projects, to understand their technical support needs;
- > providing technical support and designing tools specifically for different timber construction sector stakeholders, to meet those needs;
- > monitoring the impacts of those tools and technical support initiatives for the people who benefit from them.

Industrial building in glue laminated timber,
Ecorad factory, Saint-Jean-Port-Joli.
Photo: Art Massif



FOCUS AREA 5 | Outreach

The Québec Government will increase its promotion of wood as a material for the non-residential and multifamily construction sectors. Wood must also continue to be the preferred material in the residential (four storeys or less) construction sector. The construction industry and the general public must be better informed about the benefits of wood and new innovations in timber construction.

In addition, wood is a core element in the transition to a green, low carbon footprint economy. The population and the construction community need to know about the role wood plays in the fight against climate change. At the same time, Québec's wood products must be promoted in demonstrator buildings.

Objective 10 Increase the number of timber demonstrator buildings

The opportunities for and benefits of using wood in construction are numerous, and it is important to ensure that people know about them. Timber building and infrastructure demonstrator projects can help to do this. They show that it is possible to build with wood products and systems. Many municipal bodies have shown real interest in timber construction, and several have signed declarations regarding the use of wood in municipal construction projects.

Among other things, objective 10 involves:

- > setting up initiatives to create timber building and infrastructure demonstrator projects.

Objective 11 Demonstrate the benefits of using wood in construction

The Québec Government will further promote the contribution of wood to the fight against climate change. All available information on greenhouse gas emissions caused by buildings must be published extensively so that promoters and the general public can make informed decisions regarding the impacts of buildings on climate change.

At the same time, communication is also needed to promote the Policy for the Use of Wood in Construction, as well as wood products, timber buildings and Québec's expertise in these sectors. These actions will help to overcome preconceived ideas and incorrect assumptions about the use of wood, and will also serve to present the many benefits that wood and timber buildings have generated for every region of Québec.

Among other things, objective 11 involves:

- > selecting and implementing real actions to promote the Policy for the Use of Wood in Construction, as well as wood products, timber buildings and Québec's expertise in these sectors;
- > exploring the possibility of introducing a certification system or joining an existing certification system to promote the environmental, cultural, regional or other aspects of wood;
- > speeding up the production of environmental declarations for wood construction products, in order to promote the environmental consequences of products and buildings.

A recent measure to produce environmental declarations for wood construction products

In June 2020, the Québec Government announced a financial assistance package for the Québec Wood Export Bureau (QWEB), to help with the introduction of a specific type of environmental product declaration for Québec wood products companies.

The measure is designed to assist wood products industry companies with the process of producing environmental product declarations (EPDs). EPDs are technical fact sheets providing verified, transparent information on the environmental consequences of a product throughout its life cycle (from extraction or harvesting of the resource, to processing manufacturing, transportation, use and end-of-life disposal). The EPDs will help the companies to become more competitive on foreign markets, and also to preserve their existing markets.

IMPLEMENTATION

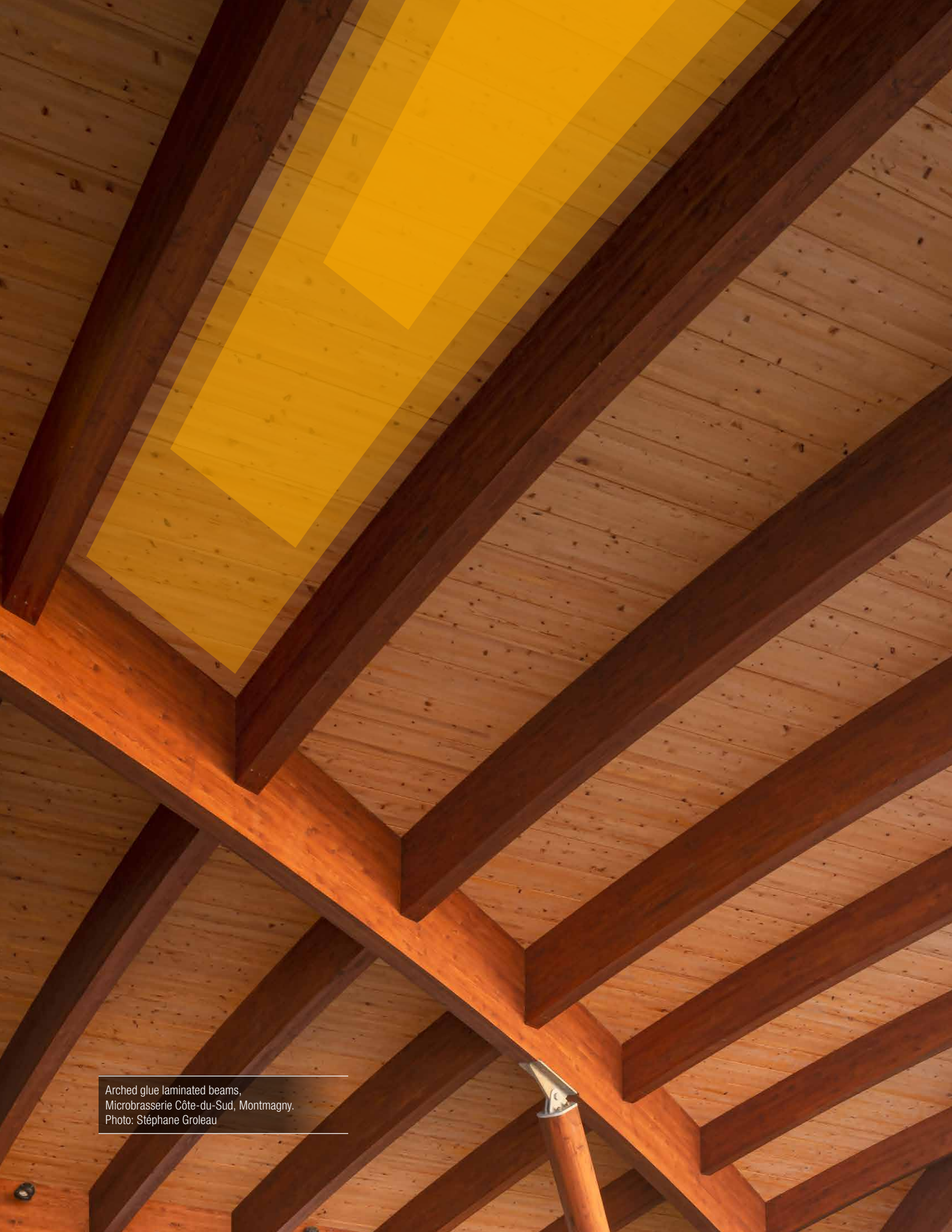
The Policy for the Use of Wood in Construction will be implemented through a series of measures designed to encourage greater use of wood in construction, to foster the sustainable development of all Québec's regions, and to reduce the carbon footprint of buildings. The measures selected by the Government will be published at a later date, and will follow up on the Policy's focus areas and objectives.

Responsibility for implementing the Policy throughout the government apparatus will be shared by the Government and its partners, and requires their participation. The process will be coordinated by the MFFP, in collaboration with the other government departments and agencies concerned. Actions will be taken in partnership with specific government departments and agencies, as well as with educational institutions and centres of expertise.

The high-level inter-ministerial committee on government leadership in wood construction will be responsible for implementing the measures associated with focus area 1 of the Policy. It will also be asked to decide on the steps that must be taken to increase the number of public buildings and road infrastructures built using wood, and will be responsible for monitoring the actions taken by setting up an accountability framework.



Wide-span wood prefabricated roof trusses, farm building.
Photo: Structures RBR



Arched glue laminated beams,
Microbrasserie Côte-du-Sud, Montmagny.
Photo: Stéphane Groleau

