



The Richmond Olympic Oval: An international showcase of Canada's wood products



Canadian wood from trees affected by the mountain pine beetle is featured prominently in the design of the Richmond Olympic Oval, one of the signature buildings of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

A unique structure, the Richmond Olympic Oval serves as an international showcase of Canada's wood products and the benefits of using wood in construction. It highlights Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan's) ongoing commitment to sustainable development through the use of renewable building materials.

In addition to being renewable and recyclable, wood can play an important role in combating climate change. Wood-based building materials can store carbon and have a lower environmental footprint when compared with other building materials such as steel and concrete.

The innovative roof of the Richmond Olympic Oval provides a clear example of the versatility and environmental benefits of using wood as a construction material. The superstructure for this magnificent building is constructed almost entirely of wood. It is a showcase of just how attractive and structurally sound building with wood can be.

The roof system has 15 laminated beams and 452 unique panels of "wood wave". These V-shaped panels are made from 1 million board feet of 2X4 dimensional lumber – primarily from lumber affected by the mountain pine beetle in the British Columbia interior.

As new trees grow, they absorb carbon dioxide. Wood products like these will continue to store carbon throughout the lifespan of this building and beyond. If the wood had been left on the forest floor, the carbon would be released back into the atmosphere as the tree decomposes. As new trees grow in the same place, they will absorb more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

NRCan's Canadian Forest Service will continue to work with provincial, territorial and industry partners to bring sustainably sourced wood and wood products to the global marketplace.

nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Cat. No. M4-82/1-2009 (Print)
ISBN 978-1-100-50035-5

Cat. No. M4-82/1-2009E-PDF (On-line)
ISBN 978-1-100-13759-9

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, 2010
Photos courtesy of www.naturallywood.com



Canada

