



Minister for
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Ministre du
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REPORT ON CANADIAN HOUSING EXPERIENCE TRANSMITTED TO JAPAN'S MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Pat Carney met with Japan's Minister of Construction, Mr. Kosei Amano last November, regarding continuing Canada-Japan cooperation in the diversification of Japan's wood frame housing. Minister Carney agreed at that time to provide the Minister of Construction with a technical information package on Canada's experience with three storey wood platform frame multi-family housing units.

The Canadian Ambassador to Japan, His Excellency Barry Steers, presented Minister Amano on June 9 with a technical report on the safety and performance aspects of this form of housing, specifically, horizontally-separated units. This report, which draws on Canadian expertise, will assist the Minister of Construction in considering the inclusion of three storey platform frame apartment buildings in Japan's Comprehensive Technological Development Project currently reviewing wood building construction codes.

The report provides an analysis of adaptability, durability, fire and structural aspects of wood platform frame construction. It complements recent amendments to Japan's Building Standards Act which will permit greater use of wood in housing construction.

A technical presentation on the report was held in Tokyo on June 11 for senior housing officials and urban planners. The report and other subjects related to a wide range of housing issues will be examined at the Canada-Japan Housing Committee which meets this October in Ottawa.

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