

## MLB Historical Milestones



1938                      The Bureau was founded on September 7, 1938, at a joint meeting of the Forest Products Associations of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

At this meeting interested individuals spoke strongly in favour of an organization which would **point the way toward better merchandising practices.**

1939                      **On April 1, 1939 the first office of the Maritime Lumber Bureau opened in Amherst.** Its original purpose was to coordinate both large and small units dispersed throughout the region into a more orderly plan of action. In addition the Bureau was responsible to disperse information to the industry and to act as government liaison on behalf of the industry.

1942                      MLB undertook the administration of standard grading rules for Eastern Canadian Spruce in respect to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

1943                      The "MLB Grading Rules for Eastern Canadian Spruce" were developed. Training was completed for district representatives **which was the birth of the MLB "Quality Control Department" as we know it today.**

Between  
1945-1949              **Prince Edward Island joined the Maritime Lumber Bureau. MLB Developed and gained acceptance for the "MLB Export Grading Rule."** Volumes of **graded** lumber grew from 0 at the beginning of 1945 to 93 million in the year 1949. During this period MLB Office staff hit their highest levels as every off-shore shipment required individual certification. There were 7 secretaries employed for this purpose.

Between  
1965-69

As a testimony to the fact that the Maritime Lumber Bureau was an established and permanent organization, the members and Directors began planning for the erection of its' own building to house the MLB offices. **The MLB Training and Administration Building was formally opened on May 25, 1967.** The Federal Government contributed 65% of the building costs and the members of the Maritime Lumber Bureau paid the rest. By the spring of 1969 the Building was completely paid for, the mortgage burned and solely owned and operated by the members of the MLB. Also during this period the Province of Newfoundland requested services from the Maritime Lumber Bureau.

1971

**The National Lumber Grades Authority rules came into effect.** On August 1, old stamps were picked up and members were issued with new stamps under the NLGA Rules. These rules replaced 6 regional rules previously utilized in Canada. The development of the NLGA Grading rules was the first standardized national grading system.

1982

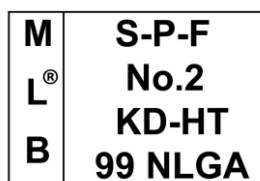
**MLB was notified that its' Grading Supervision services were no longer required in Newfoundland with the creation of the Newfoundland Lumber Producers Association.** The NLPA requested membership in the MLB under the associate category, and requested MLB assistance with representation on all International issues.

1986

Under the Maritime Lumber Bureau the Coalition Against Unfair Lumber Taxes was created. **They were successful in obtaining an exclusion for the Atlantic Region from the 15% excise tax applied to Canadian shipments of softwood lumber to the USA** under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding - the then applicable agreement between the two countries.

Between  
1990 - 1995

The Maritime Lumber Lumber Manufacturers Lumbermen's Manufacturers BPIB was a office dedicated to utilized in Europe. officially recognized by Accredited Agency. A designation it maintains today.



Bureau partnered with the Ontario Association, the Canadian Association and the Quebec Lumber Association to create the BPIB. The promotional and technical support Eastern Canadian softwood lumber During this period the MLB became the British Standards Institute as an

1991

The Maritime Lumber Bureau made representations in the latest softwood lumber battle between Canada and the United States. Efforts of the Maritime Lumber Bureau were again successful. The United States authorities deemed that there was no need to include the Atlantic Canadian softwood lumber producers in their Countervailing Duty investigation against Canada. This was the first time in the United States history that a political sub-division of a country was not investigated in a Countervailing Duty suit. **Again Atlantic Canadian producers were exempt from a 17.0% Duty charged against shipments of Canadian softwood lumber destined to the United States.**

Between

1991/2000 The MLB was contacted by several mills in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, requesting MLB Grade Marking and Supervision services. The MLB resisted accepting these membership applications for several months, in recognition of the existence of the NLLPA Services and potential costs to the MLB organization. After months of negotiations and arguments from those mills seeking MLB services which pointed out the advantages of the full range of services provided by the MLB organization, we established a policy to service mills in Newfoundland and Labrador provided that our transportation costs were recovered. **We continue to have two member facilities operating in Newfoundland today.**

1993

**Plantation of Norway Spruce in N.S., N.B., and PEI** were reaching maturity and interest in processing this product into lumber was being expressed. Unfortunately as a non-indigenous species, there were no design values available and the product was prohibited from being processed as SPF lumber. **MLB and the Governments of N.S. and N.B. funded a feasibility study with the intent of establishing appropriate design values to improve utilization of this resource.** (See further work in 2002 and 2003)

1995

The Committee now known as the U.S. Market Access Committee made representations to the United States officials during the Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Consultations between the two countries. These consultations eventually led to negotiations in an attempt to avert yet another Countervailing Duty investigation. **Efforts of this Committee led to the signing on May 1, 1996 of a separate agreement covering the 4 Atlantic Provinces. Obtaining of this agreement is thought to be one of the most valued accomplishments of the MLB.** The agreement records in a legally defensible method the history of why the MLB was exempted from duty in the previous two disputes, provides for continued un-restricted Market Access. With the signing of the Agreement the MLB accepted the responsibility to create a program which would ensure that softwood lumber from affected provinces was not being mis-represented as Atlantic Canadian production for the purpose of circumventing the Canadian Agreement which provides for restricted Market access within a determined Quota of shipments originating in the provinces of B.C., Ont., P.Q. and Alta. **Under this agreement the MLB created and maintains the Certificate of Origin program which records every softwood lumber shipment,** originating in the 4 Atlantic Provinces, from logs which originate in the 4 Atlantic Provinces or the State of Maine, and is destined for the United States of America.

Between

1997-1998

**The Maritime Lumber Bureau was recognized by the Japanese Ministry of Construction for acceptance of structural lumber** produced under NLGA Rules and supervised by the MLB Organization. Early in 1998 the MLB was again recognized by the Japanese Ministry of Construction for acceptance of **finger-jointed lumber produced and supervised by the organization.**

1998	Received Registration under ISO 9000. The scope of registration applies to:- <b>The provision of administration, inspection/grading and training services, certification programs and information dissemination, associated with the production of solid wood products and market access requirements.</b>
Between	
2001/02	MLB responded to the needs of Members who obtained raw material from the State of Maine. <b>The design values established for U.S. SPF(S)</b> were substantially reduced from those assigned to Canadian SPF. The MLB, QFIC and NeLMA contracted with UNB Wood Science and Technology to conduct testing of Eastern Spruce and Balsam Fir, in an attempt to obtain non-prejudicary design values and improve the competitive position of these products. The initial results demonstrated an improvement but somewhat reduced from established values of SPF. No decision has been taken to date.
Between	
2001/09	<b>MLB has been active in responding to the detection of Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle in Nova Scotia.</b> Initially, MLB assisted (as a member of the BSLB Task Force) with obtaining Bait Logs for placement in Point Pleasant Park, as part of an eradication plan. In more recent years MLB accepted the leadership in developing a program with the stakeholders, that would focus on only products considered of medium and high risk. This was a substantial win for the region as previously all products located within the "Ministerial Order" zone had restricted movement. This was a stakeholder developed plan to "Mitigate the Risk of Spread of the BSLB".
Between	
2001/06	Upon expiry of the 1996-2001 Softwood Lumber Agreement, the United States Industry filed a Countervailing Duty and Anti-Dumping Case against Canada. <b>Within the first 60 days, the United States Department of Commerce amended their initiation of the CVD Case to exclude the Maritimes (4 Atlantic Provinces).</b> Of the initial 18.8% CVD subsidy margin and applicable duty, shipments originating in Atlantic Canada produced from logs originating in the 4 Atlantic Provinces of the State of Maine were excluded provided the shipment was accompanied by an original MLB Certificate of Origin. Unfortunately, the exclusion did not extend to the Anti-Dumping portion of the litigation. Atlantic shipments were subject to the Anti-Dumping duties, (as outlined below).

<b>ANTI-DUMPING DUTY RATES</b>	
May 22, 2002 - Dec. 20, 2004	8.43%
Dec. 20, 2004 - Jan. 24, 2005	4.03%
Jan. 24, 2005 - Dec. 11, 2005	3.78%
Dec. 11, 2005 - Oct. 12, 2006	2.11%

**During the Administrative Review process of the Countervailing Duty Litigation, the U.S. Department of Commerce determined that the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia could be used as an appropriate benchmark in determining the subsidy margins for the rest of Canada.** In December of 2004, the Commerce Department established a new subsidy rate of 16.4%. This was the rate of duty deposits collected on Canadian softwood lumber imports other than those originating in the Atlantic Provinces.

2002/03 The NLGA responded to the MLB request and added Norway Spruce to the NLGA Rule Book. Until the specific design values are assigned, Norway Spruce could be grade marked with the "N" species designation. In 2003, the NLGA assumed the technical work of establishing design values for Norway Spruce and funding the work under the National Grade Rule. In addition to NS, NB, and PEI, it was determined that quantities of Norway Spruce Plantations existed in Ontario and Quebec. Work continues on this project.

2003 **MLB was re-registered under ISO 9001-2000.** MLB was the only grading agency in North America to received the ISO designation. *(Note: In 2008 the MLB did not re-register as a result of time constraints due to budgetary cutbacks. However, this item should be recorded as a "future plan").*

Between 2004/09 **MLB identified growing inequities at the Canadian Wood Council.** The work of the CWC in providing market access through the essential technical support in the areas of support of the NLGA Grade Rule; and North American Building Codes and Standards was being funded by less than 60% of the softwood lumber producers. MLB provided leadership in generating equal funding through NLGA for all activities in support of the NLGA Rule. In addition, MLB continues its efforts to develop improved efficiencies and government structure in order to maintain the superior and essential technical work performed by the CWC. **This has**

**resulted in an overall dues reduction for supporting members.**

2006

After months of negotiations and attempts to resolve the decades old "lumber wars", in April of 2006 a tentative agreement between Canada and the United States was reached. The terms of this agreement were codified and implemented in Canada through legislation which was introduced in September and enacted in December. The agreement was officially signed and brought into force on October 12, 2006. **This marks another significant and tangible accomplishment of the MLB and the U.S. Market Access Committee as both the Softwood Lumber Agreement and Canadian Legislation Bill C-24 specifically recognized the unique circumstances in Atlantic Canada and excluded shipments of softwood lumber originating in the four Atlantic Provinces, provided the shipment was covered by a Maritime Lumber Bureau Original Certificate of Origin.** Other MLB obligations include quarterly reporting of total production and U.S. shipments. The Agreement is intended to remain in effect for 7 years (2013) with a possible extension to 9 years (2016).

2008

With the on-set of a recession, MLB membership was in decline for the first time in more than 20 years. The MLB governance structure was not flexible and responsive to ensuring the organization was positioned to continue to adapt to the changes occurring in the sector it represented. MLB established a "strategic planning process" and engaged Members in determining the most appropriate structure to enable the organization to continue to provide valuable service and leadership. Sessions were held in June and August. New "mission and vision" statements were established to guide the organization's future activities.

**Vision Statement:-** To be the single multi-service organization to provide a one-stop-shop to access markets easier and quicker worldwide for forestry based products, documentation and certification.

**Mission Statement:-** To provide superior services, to enable market access, domestically and internationally for the Atlantic Region's forest based products.

## 2009-2010

New By-Laws were adopted at the Annual General Meeting of Members. In addition, in keeping with the direction provided during the Strategic Planning process, the MLB staff directed efforts towards “new projects” that would improve market conditions and market access both domestically and internationally. During the AGM of Members held in Moncton, NB, the MLB invited every Mayor in every municipality in the 4 Atlantic Provinces in an attempt to develop a “wood first” culture in the region.

MLB employees participate in a “Work-share” program to offset reductions in revenue streams due to the downturn in the industry production shortages.

## 2011-2012

Development and application to CWC, ACOA and the Atlantic Provinces was completed for the commencement of the “Atlantic WoodWORKS!” department at the MLB. This project would be a Core function of the association and would benefit its membership by promoting the use of regionally produced wood and wood products in the construction of commercial, industrial, educational and multi family buildings. The Atlantic WoodWORKS! program would be housed in the offices of the MLB building and would be financially supported by the MLB membership (industry), provincial governments of the Atlantic Provinces, CWC (industry funding through national sponsorship), NRCan and ACOA.

## 2013

- Being constructed in 1967 and after many years of service as an administration and training building, the MLB office building was in need of repair and renovation. A renovation plan was submitted to the MLB Board of directors and after approval was granted, renovations on MLB Administration Building commenced with numerous upgrades and adjustments made to the structure to assist in energy efficiency.
- Canada/US Softwood Lumber Agreement is granted a temporary extension.

## 2014

- Canada/US Softwood Lumber Agreement extension set to expire. Work being done by MLB and Provinces to discuss a course of action for management of the file.
- Renovations at the MLB Administration building completed

2015

- Softwood Lumber Agreement Expires with no new Agreement in Place.
- MLB By-Laws updated
- After a service to the MLB and the industry of over 30 years, President and CEO of the MLB, Diana Blenkhorn retires in the fall of 2015. Her dedication to the many facets of the MLB mandates (especially the SLA file) was apparent and her knowledge of the subject material was exemplary.

2016

- After the retirement of Diana Blenkhorn, the MLB Board of Directors approached Ed MacAulay to sit as interim Executive Director of the MLB until such time that a full time Director could be acquired. Ed MacAulay was familiar with the operations of the MLB as he sat on the MLB Board of Directors for many years as a representative for the Province of Nova Scotia (Department of Natural Resources) until his retirement in 2013, where he was replaced on the MLB Board by Peter MacQuarrie as the NS representative.
- MLB Board of Directors vote to no longer have MLB manage the Canada/US Softwood Lumber file for the Atlantic region. It was decided that the Provincial Governments and Industry from each respective Province would manage their role(s) in the softwood lumber file.
- In January, Jennie Embree was hired as the new MLB Comptroller to replace Linda Murphy. Linda agreed to remain at the MLB to assist Jennie in her new role until June here she would then retire and allow Jennie to assume the role on her own.
- At the April MLB Board of Directors meeting, Kevin Merriam was officially appointed as the new Executive Director of the Maritime Lumber Bureau. With a Forestry resources Diploma and a graduate of the Maritime Forest Ranger School, Kevin started work at the MLB in January 1999 in the capacity of field inspector. Since that time, Kevin worked as "Special Projects Coordinator" and worked to initialize and startup the Atlantic WoodWORKS! Program at the MLB. Kevin was appointed as the Quality Control Manager/ Chief Inspector in 2011 and will continue that role in harmony with the Executive Director position.
- Atlantic Lumber Producers (ALP) established by MLB members to manage industry matters pertaining to the SLA.

## 2017

- During budget planning, it was determined that since MLB would no longer be risk managing certain aspects of the SLA file, there was no more need to retain the MLB "Contingency" reserve. It was therefore decided to utilize the contingency reserve over the course of a few budget years and therefore, dues assessments were able to reduce by and \$0.35/mfbm for the 2017 budget year.
- Atlantic Lumber Producers (ALP) created by NS, NL and PEI industry for managing matters pertaining to the Canada/US Softwood Lumber file.
- New drainage system upgraded (retaining wall built)

## 2018

- New Brunswick Lumber Producers (NBLP) created by NB industry for managing matters pertaining to the Canada/US Softwood Lumber file.
- ALP de-activated
- MLB Chair (Jocelyn Archibald, Taylor Lumber) to assume a 2 year term (first 2 year term in over 50 years)
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## 2019

- Convention/AGM held in St. John's NL (first time in convention history)
- Jocelyn Archibald re-nominated to serve the second year as Board Chair
- Export Development Committee initiated
- Export Development Market Study Completed for MLB by Halifax-Global (Peter Milley)
- Closure of Northern Pulp
- Final testing results for Canadian grown Norway Spruce were analyzed and structural design properties were officially implemented into the NLGA Rule Book, CSA 0141 and Building Codes of Canada for use in Canada & USA

## 2020

- Combine Board & Regular Members meetings into one inclusive meeting for all meetings except the Budget meetings in April.
- COVID pandemic forces all "non-essential" business to either work in strict, regulated work atmospheres or work from home offices (if possible). MLB implements a safety protocol for all staff and applications are made to Provincial Governments for QC Inspection staff to be listed as "Essential Workers". All staff forced to work within their respective Provinces with no access allowed to other Provinces except under strict regulatory frameworks.
- Cancelled convention/AGM (Scheduled to be held at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax). As per MLB By-laws and the requirement for an AGM, the MLB Annual General meeting was held in June by "Zoom" video conference.

- Jacques Cormier (Delco Forest Products) nominated as MLB Chairman of the Board

## 2021

- COVID pandemic – Most staff remains working remotely or on a strict office time schedule. MLB QC Inspection staff limited to their respective Province for travel.
- Cancelled convention/AGM. AGM was held by “Zoom” video conference in June
- Jacques Cormier re-nominated to serve second year as Board Chair
- New sawmill database was developed by “Mobitask” and implemented as a new electronic reporting system for MLB QC department Inspections and report generation.
- New “electronic” Certificate of Origin System developed in conjunction with “Customs Direct” and implemented at the MLB for “Short Form” certificates only.
- In July, new QC Inspector (Shawn Giberson) was hired to replace Eric Doucette. It was proposed and approved by the MLB Board to hire Shawn in advance of Eric Doucette’s retirement to allow for job shadowing. In October and after 43 years of active field duty, Eric Doucette retires from active field inspections. Eric remains under contract with the MLB to oversee inspection reports and database entries related to the MLB QC Inspection department.

## 2022

- COVID restrictions relaxed
- Convention/AGM held in-person (Lord Nelson, Halifax) for the first time since 2019 (due to Covid).
- Richard Freeman (Harry Freeman & Son Ltd) nominated as Chairman of the Board
- QC Inspector Justin Blair hired in January
- Due to discrepancies in moisture content findings between MLB, ALS and other agencies, it was proposed to the MLB Board of directors to commission a Moisture Study for the purpose of verifying the moisture readings of lumber using hand held moisture devices vs. oven dry moisture content. After Board approval, UNB Wood Science and Technology was commissioned to conduct the study.
- After two years of planning and delays due to Covid, MLB finalizes a tour to Germany and Austria in late November and early December (2 weeks in total) to observe Mass Timber manufacturing facilities and to participate in the Holzbau Forum in Innsbruck, Austria. This tour was planned in conjunction with CWC (Peter Moonen) and the Austrian Trade Commissioners Service (Nicole Mothes), with assistance from

NRC and NRcan. In total, 28 Canadian delegates attended, 11 of those being Atlantic Canadian Delegates.

- Atlantic WoodWORKS! submission of a new 3 year business plan was submitted and well received with funding support acquired by the four Atlantic Provinces as well as ACOA, CWC, NRCan and MLB membership.

## 2023

- Laura Potter hired in January as a part-time Admin staff
- MLB Convention/AGM held at the Delta in Saint John NB.
- Richard Freeman nominated as Chairman of the Board for the second year

## 2024

- MLB asked to be a "Trade Investment Champion" to work with the Canadian Trade Commissioners Service in Austria. The purpose of the visit was to meet with Austrian industry for trade partnerships with Canadian industry and investment into Canada
- MLB Grader Database updated to incorporate software into the Groveware system.
- MLB Convention/AGM held at the Rodd Charlottetown in Charlottetown, PEI
- Jerome Pelletier (JD Irving Limited), nominated as Chairman of the Board
- Agreement signed with the Atlantic Structural Wood Association (ASWA) to conduct 3<sup>rd</sup> party audits at Atlantic Wood Truss Manufacturing facilities
- Agreement signed with NB Power to conduct Power Pole inspections at pole supplier facilities in NB and NS.

## 2025

- MLB Moisture Study and Atlantic S-P-F Correction Table approved by CLSAB Board of Directors and recognized by the ALSC for use in NS, NB, PEI and Newfoundland
- Passing of long time MLB Board Member and Immediate past Chairman of the Board (Richard Freeman).
- MLB Convention/AGM held at the Westin in Halifax NS
- Jerome Pelletier re-nominated as MLB Chairman of the Board for the second year
- By-Laws changed to reflect annual audits are now a "Review Engagement"

