



## COMPOSITES IN CONSTRUCTION: A CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

Martin Noel

University of Ottawa

**Abstract:** Three decades ago, fibre-based composites were practically absent from the construction industry. Beginning in the 1990s, great enthusiasm and sustained research efforts in Canada eventually led to the development of guidelines, standards, and codes, as well as several key case studies, which significantly accelerated the rate of acceptance of FRP as a viable building material. Recently, increasing emphasis on sustainability, durability, lightweight and/or rapid construction have led to new applications which rely on innovation and creativity to exploit the positive attributes of engineered composites. Examples of applications for bridge infrastructure, buildings, and renewable energy projects will be presented.

**Keywords:** Fiber reinforced polymers, construction, Canada, infrastructure, building, sustainability