



## Safety 'number-one'



*This feature on the Interior Logging Association (ILA) is part of a series on the major forestry organizations making up the Council Board.*

“Safety is our number-one thing. We’re an association with members who are willing to work to make the forestry industry a safer place,” declares ILA General Manager Wayne Lintott.

“A lot of things in the past were done wrong, but they are being made better today. It’s not an easy process, but

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## New silviculture training from government funding

The province is investing \$500,000 in the delivery of specialized silviculture safety training, Forests and Range Minister Pat Bell and Community Development Minister Kevin Krueger announced in late February.

The funding will provide 1,400 training seats in new programs on all-terrain vehicle use, resource road driving, power saw operation and silviculture supervision over two years. The training was developed in a partnership of the Western Silviculture Contractors’ Association (WSCA) and the Council which provided development funding for the training programs.

“From a safety perspective, this is particularly important because of our changing work force,” said WSCA Executive Director John Betts. “We have a workforce that’s actually becoming younger and to some extent less experienced” as older workers leave. Bell said the new “training will add to the broad range of actions we’re taking to promote a culture of safety across the forest sector.”

The grant from the Community Development Trust, said Krueger, “will help build a culture of safety” and “provide benefits to workers for many years to come.” Betts said the government funding “would not have been available to us” without the Council’s support.

WSCA will deliver the training in collaboration with WorkSafeBC, and information on the courses will be posted at [www.wsca.ca](http://www.wsca.ca).

## New CEO sees pay-offs in safety

When the Council’s new CEO, Reynold Hert, talks about safety, he definitely means business in every sense of the word.

“The best businesses are safe businesses. Safety should be integrated into every company operation for improved overall results,” he says. “Sound safety policies and procedures mean fewer injuries, lower costs, higher productivity and better worker morale.”



COUNCIL CEO REYNOLD HERT

Hert brings what Chair Bev Briscoe calls “a strong commitment to workplace safety that is well-known and respected throughout the forest industry. We know Reynold will lead the Council to build on its pioneering efforts to make forest operations safer across the province.”

Most recently, the new Council leader spent four years as president and CEO of Western Forest Products (WFP), where he led major safety improvements.

He started in the industry as a university student working in timber cruising while earning a B.Sc. degree in forestry from the University of Toronto.

Before joining WFP in 2004, Hert advanced through the ranks of the industry from being a harvesting area manager at Procter and Gamble to vice president at both Canadian Lumber and Canadian Forestlands.

Hert joined the Council on March 16 and will be working primarily from the Nanaimo office.

## SAFE Companies growth

The SAFE Companies program continues to grow, the latest figures showing:

- » 1,771 SAFE-certifications — 219 large companies, 1,142 small companies and 410 individual owner operators.
- » 4,217 operations registered to earn certification — 254 large companies, 2,418 small companies and 1,545 individual owner operators.



## Safety comes at a cost, but 'a good investment'

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ILA GENERAL MANAGER WAYNE LINTOTT

our members feel that improved safety helps them.”

For the ILA, one direct route to better safety is keeping members informed; and an important vehicle is the Association magazine, Interior Trucker & Logger. Every issue carries a lot of safety content with contributions from the Council and WorkSafeBC.

With 5,500 subscribers, the magazine reaches “the people on the ground, the individual contractors and employees who need good safety information” says Lintott.

“We know that contractors copy articles from our magazine for safety meetings and to include with employees’ pay cheques.”

The Association also believes safety is a key priority at the industry level. Provincially, the Association has representatives on six Council committees, as well as the WorkSafeBC Employers Forum. The ILA also works closely on safety with its sister organizations: the Central Interior Logging Association, the North West Loggers Association and the Truck Loggers Association.

All this activity continues a history going back to the Council’s predecessor, the Forest Industry Safety Association. Lintott and other current ILA members were active with that organization, and they maintain that tradition by working hard for safety with the Council today.

“The people in this industry are workers,” says Lintott. “They go out to work, that’s their life. We want all workers and contractors to be safe and go home to their families.”

He says that “making safety work effectively and properly carries a cost, but it’s a good investment. No one argues with the results.”

## Day of Mourning decals

For the first time, WorkSafeBC is offering free commemorative decals in bulk quantities for use in supporting commemorative Day of Mourning events.



Ceremonies across the province on April 28 will honour the memory of B.C. workers who have lost their lives to on-the-job injuries or occupational diseases.

The annual Day of Mourning is an opportunity to remember those fallen workers and to re-commit to creating safer workplaces.

The new decals — and posters — can be ordered by emailing [dayofmourning@worksafebc.com](mailto:dayofmourning@worksafebc.com) or phoning Karen Neoh at 604-276-3149.

More information on the Day of Mourning, including times and places of local ceremonies, is at [www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com).

## Hert's first appearance

Reynold Hert’s first industry appearance as Council CEO is at a Truck Loggers Association meeting scheduled in Port Hardy on April 1, starting at 6 p.m. at the Airport Inn.

Along with his presentation on how safety can reduce operating costs, the TLA meeting will feature talks on current and future market conditions and on the association’s affinity programs.

Check [www.tla.ca](http://www.tla.ca) for more details, or RSVP by March 31 by emailing [colin@tla.ca](mailto:colin@tla.ca) or phoning 604-684-4291, ext 2.

## Coming attractions

**April 6-7** — Western Conference On Safety; Vancouver; see [www.pacificsafetycenter.com](http://www.pacificsafetycenter.com)

**April 16-18** — Interior Logging Association Convention & Trade Show, Vernon, see [www.interiorlogging.org](http://www.interiorlogging.org)

**May 3-9** — North American Occupational Safety and Health Week, [www.bcforestsafesafe.org](http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org), [www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com) and [www.naosh.org/english/events.html](http://www.naosh.org/english/events.html)

