

# BC Forest Safety Ombudsman



Roger Harris

**The BC Forest Safety Ombudsman is part of the BC Forest Safety Council and is mandated to investigate safety concerns and provide recommendations for improvement.**

**The Office of the Forest Safety Ombudsman provides a safe, confidential environment for the discussion of issues and facilitates an impartial and timely resolution of concerns.**

## Contact

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### Mailing Address:

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*The Forest Safety Ombudsman's Office will endeavour to return all contacts within five (5) working days.*



**BC Forest Safety**

Safety is **good** business

## The History of the Office of the Ombudsman

In 2006, as a result of the Council's review of current safety practices and concerns in the forestry sector, it became clear that there was a need for industry to provide the means for safety issues to be raised and discussed in as free and open a manner as possible. It was also clear that at times this was not occurring due to concerns with possible adverse repercussions to those raising the issues. As well, the relative inequality of size and influence of parties within the sector made the raising and discussion of safety issues difficult.

Given these concerns and the importance of safety to the forest sector, the BC Forest Safety Council established the Forest Safety Ombudsman.

The mandate of the Forest Safety Ombudsman is to enhance safety in the BC forest sector by acting as a safe, confidential and persuasive agent for the raising and review of safety concerns throughout the sector and facilitating impartial and timely resolution of safety issues.

The Forest Safety Ombudsman is part of the BC Forest Safety Council and has a clear mandate to investigate safety issues and recommend the best means to address them. The Ombudsman will use review, recommendation, mediation and conciliation where necessary. The Ombudsman will also rely on international experience and leading examples of success to inform the process. The Ombudsman will adhere to the following principles of operation:

1. Impartiality in all respects, both in practice and in perception of practice;
2. Fair and timely process;
3. Confidentiality for companies and workers in order to identify real safety problems and find workable solutions to these safety problems; and
4. Coordination of action given the number of other organizations involved in safety in British Columbia. In particular the Ombudsman will work closely with the WorkSafeBC given its mandate to enhance safety in British Columbia.