

FOREST SAFETY

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NEWS



Welcome to the Winter edition of Forest Safety News, covering news about safety topics in forestry. This is YOUR safety newsletter. We look forward to your input and feedback! Email the editor at editor@bcforestsafesafe.org or call 1-877-741-1060.

What's Inside:

1 - 11	Industry News
12	Work-Related Deaths & Injuries
13	SAFE Companies
14 - 15	Training
16 - 17	Transportation Safety
18 - 22	Manufacturing Safety
23 - 24	Falling
25 - 27	Health & Wellness
28	Kid's Corner

Rebuilding in the Aftermath of an Atmospheric River

Atmospheric River, Heat Dome, Polar Vortex, Pineapple Express ... over the past few years these meteorological terms have been used so regularly that they are now part of our everyday vocabulary. Severe weather events are occurring regularly all over the world and BC is certainly not spared from them.

In November 2021, an atmospheric river brought an unprecedented amount of rain to the province causing catastrophic flooding to the south coast of BC. It devastated parts of southern Vancouver Island, the Fraser Valley, parts of the interior and the Kootenay region. This flooding not only prompted a state of emergency for the province but also caused devastation to agriculture production and severe disruptions to the transportation

corridor. Roads and bridges were heavily impacted by high water levels and slides that damaged bridges, culverts and large sections of highways and roads that cut off main access routes from the south coast to several areas of the province.

But it wasn't just major infrastructure that was affected. Numerous sections of resource roads were destroyed halting forestry operations in their tracks. These roads are typically gravel roads with bridge infrastructure, culverts, switchbacks and other engineering challenges that are vulnerable to damage from ongoing seasonal weather at the best of times. But when the atmospheric river occurred in November 2021, the damage wiped out huge areas of roadways creating numerous

operational and safety challenges for road recovery and repair crews. Road and bridge builders were running at full speed to repair the roads so operations could get back on track. This type of work can be extremely difficult since most resource roads are located in remote areas where it is difficult to get equipment and crews to inaccessible sites. Even just assessing the damage can be a challenge as there may be multiple sections of the road that may be impassable making it difficult to determine what needs to be repaired.

The severity of that particular storm took us all by surprise. In fact, it was reported that one river went from 2m rising to 20m overnight. After the damage assessment was done, almost every bridge from Hope to Cache Creek was missing, severely compromised and in some cases, completely wiped out.

Continued on page 2...

SkinnyChicken Enterprises Ltd. is the Prime Contractor appointed by Teal Jones to construct resource roads and bridges in the East Anderson area. Based out of Boston Bar, they shared their harrowing story with BCFSC about the storm hitting them last year and their equipment getting stranded more than 40km up a resource road where they were working.

When the storm hit, SkinnyChicken was building roads and bridges while the same area had active logging operations. The rain was so severe it washed out multiple sections of the road from top to bottom, the largest was about a 2km stretch that was completely wiped out. The entire section had disappeared and only a 30ft drop was left in its place. In the blink of an eye, the project instantly changed from a rebuilding operation to an equipment rescue operation that would require meticulous planning, coordinated teamwork and persistent communications to execute safely.

The scale of the rescue operation was uncharted waters for SkinnyChicken Enterprises as eight of their machines and a number of machines from other contractors were stuck at the top of the mountain without a passable route to get down. Owner, Eric Phibbs and his crew worked diligently with Teal Jones to spearhead a revised strategy with a revamped safety plan to get the equipment down to the bottom of the mountain safely. The treacherous conditions, remote location and site accessibility made the work high-risk for serious injury. Although the site was accessible by helicopter, the scheduling and machine capacity had to be carefully considered due to the expense and ongoing weather conditions at the time. Crews were able to hike but the inclement weather was a challenge and they were also limited with the necessary rescue equipment they could carry and the time it took for them to get to the site.



With a revised operational strategy plan and safety procedures in place, the equipment rescue operation took approximately one week to execute. There were fuel factors to consider since extra fuel for the stranded machines could not be transported by helicopter or by crews on foot. The group had decided they would ONLY work during daylight hours which also put a time constraint on the day-to-day operations. The work was gruelling and difficult but through constant communication and their commitment to safety and each other, crews managed to move the stranded equipment from one site to another down unstable muddy terrain in inclement weather working in small teams.

Teal Jones' and SkinnyChicken Enterprise's diligence in revising a strategy to work around unpredictable environmental factors and arming the crews with enhanced safety protocols and equipment training, ensured the crew's safety was the number one concern while they worked. They managed to rebuild temporary roads

and river crossings using the stranded equipment while moving down the mountain in small stages without one injury occurring during the entire precarious operation.

"Safety is not difficult" says Peter DeVido, Operations Manager for SkinnyChicken Enterprises. "Yes, we need to be productive in our operations, but by slowing down and taking time to stop, think and communicate, we can still get the job done and all get home safely every night. It's that easy."

In the next issue of Forest Safety News, SkinnyChicken Enterprises will share how they are using this experience and starting their project planning with a renewed vision to ensure they are not caught off guard in a similar situation in the future. Stay tuned. 📻



What's New

Here is the latest on what we have to offer since September 2022. Find direct links to safety alerts, industry-specific resources, industry information and more to download and/or share with employees, industry and safety peers. And make sure to follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with the latest news. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

New Amendments to the Employment Standards Act Increases Safety for Young Workers - The BC Ministry of Labour has announced changes to employment standards will better protect young people by outlining the types of work that are suitable for those aged 16 to 18.

WorkSafeBC – Manual Falling Supervisor Video Series - New forestry videos highlight the importance of supervising to the level of risk.

BCFSC 2023-2025 Strategic Plan – the updated three-year Strategic Plan is now available on our website. Read it online or download a copy.

Training Course Catalogue – We have a new look to our Course Catalogue. Keep your safety training current and find courses easily with our new filterable course catalogue.

Training Calendar – Our Training Calendar is now fully loaded and offers both in-classroom and online courses. We also provide requested training bringing courses directly to your preferred location at a convenient time that works for you.

BCFSC FIRS App - Forest Industry Reporting System is a FREE resource available to all BCFSC Members. [Register for access.](#)

WorkSafeBC - New Requirements for Refusing Unsafe Work - Workers' ability to refuse work if they believe it's unsafe is a fundamental right. Recent

amendments to the OHS Regulation clarify this right, and employers are now required to inform workers about a previous work refusal before reassigning the refused work.

Tips to Successfully Transition into Supervision - Webinar recording.

Safety Alerts – Alerts provide timely information on incidents and issues which cause, or result in, serious or fatal injuries. The alerts we send by email and post on our website are intended to raise awareness and educate industry so we can learn from each other's experience and effort. Here are the latest alerts from BCFSC and industry.

- **BCFSC Safety Alert of the Month** – Health and Wellness
- **Industry Alert** – Log Loader Cab Tilt System Fails
- **Manufacturing Weekly Safety Alert** – Click on the link to see the latest weekly alert

To subscribe to our safety alert emails – [Click Here](#)

Industry Links

Shift Into Winter – winter is just around the corner. Make sure you know when you need to install your winter tires and find out more about driving in winter road conditions.

Road Safety at Work – visit Road Safety at Work for resources, webinars, workshops and news relating to road safety for you and your employees.

WorkSafeBC Announcements – check here for the latest information on WorkSafeBC policy and regulation updates, resource development, risk advisories and more.



Happy Holidays
BC Forest Safety

Extending you our very best for a **safe, healthy and happy holiday season.**

BCFSC Holiday Office Hours

Monday, Dec 26	CLOSED
Tuesday, Dec 27	CLOSED
Wednesday, Dec 28	8am – 4:30pm
Thursday, Dec 29	8am – 4:30pm
Friday, Dec 30	8am – 4:30pm
Monday, Jan 2	CLOSED
Tuesday, Jan 3	Regular hours resume

WorkSafeBC Enews – subscribe to Insight; WorkSafeBC's policy, regulation and research division e-Newsletter, Health and Safety Enews, Young Worker Enews and more.

WorkSafe Magazine – WorkSafeBC publishes *WorkSafe Magazine* six times a year to inform, inspire and provide practical tips on a range of topical occupational health and safety matters. It's free to [subscribe](#) and available online. 📄

New Amendments to the Employment Standards Act Increases Safety for Young Workers

The BC Ministry of Labour has announced changes to employment standards to better protect young people by outlining the types of work that are suitable for those aged 16 to 18.

These updated amendments will come into force on January 1, 2023 and identify work that is considered too hazardous for children and young people to perform.

“For a young person, working can be a rewarding and valuable experience, important for personal growth and setting them on a path to their own success,” said Harry Bains, Minister of Labour. “But it must be work that is both physically and mentally appropriate for their age, with the necessary training and supervision.”

To develop the new rules, ministry staff examined WorkSafeBC injury data and other jurisdictions’ labour laws relating to hazardous employment. Based on that information, several jobs within many industries were identified as hazardous for young workers, including areas within construction, forestry, food processing, oil/gas and power, asbestos removal and others.

Important Facts:

- In BC the average annual injury rate in 2021 was 2.2 per 100 workers, but some jobs have much higher injury rates. For example:
 - framers in the construction industry have an injury rate of 7.8 per 100 workers;
 - workers in abattoirs have an injury rate of 15.7; and
 - manual tree fallers/buckers have an injury rate of almost 20 per 100 workers.
- Between 2012 and 2021, WorkSafeBC data revealed more than \$26.4 million was paid out in job-related disability claims for workers who were 16 to 18 at the time of the injury.

Consultations on the draft rules were held with industry, labour, safety and skills training groups, and an online survey was available to the public. Overall, survey respondents agreed that 18 years old was an appropriate minimum age requirement for most types of hazardous work, with some exceptions. For construction work, and fish and some animal processing work, a minimum age of 16 was deemed appropriate. There was also agreement that workplace safety and training must be prioritized at any worksite, and there needs to be rigorous enforcement of existing safety standards.

The new regulations define hazardous work for youth and provide minimum ages of 16 or 18 for certain types of work that are considered too hazardous for younger workers.

A minimum age of 16 to undertake the following activities:

- construction
- silviculture
- forest firefighting
- working from heights that require fall protection under section 11.2 of the of the OHS

A minimum age of 18 to undertake the following activities:

- tree falling and logging
- using a chainsaw
- work in a production process at a pulp, paper, saw, shake or shingle mill
- work in a production process at a foundry, metal processing or metal fabrication operation, refinery or smelter
- powerline construction or maintenance where an electrical hazard exists
- oil or gas field servicing and drilling
- work with dangerous equipment in fish, meat or poultry processing facilities

- silica process/exposure to silica dust
- work in which a worker is or may be exposed to potentially harmful levels of asbestos
- exposure to harmful levels of radiation
- working in a confined space or underground workings
- work requiring a respirator

The following are important definitions relating to these provisions.

1. The Director of Employment Standards cannot issue a permit for workers to work below the prescribed minimum ages, nor can a parent or guardian give permission.
2. Students in a secondary school work study, work experience or occupational study class are exempt from these provisions, as are trainees or apprentices registered with the BC Industry Training Authority (SkilledTradesBC).
3. While the regulation comes into force on January 1, 2023, workers and employers do not need to change a young worker’s duties if the young worker has been performing the same duties prior to January 1, 2023 and will attain the prescribed minimum age by April 1, 2023.

The updated regulation brings BC into line with international labour standards and other Canadian jurisdictions by ensuring that children and young workers are engaged in safe and age-appropriate work. While the work can safely be undertaken by adults, a level of maturity and judgment is required to properly assess risks and use personal protective equipment and safety controls.

To learn more about these new amendments, visit the [BC Ministry of Labour website](#). 📄

Save the Date – Scheduled BC Forestry Conferences & Events for 2023

*Please note: Scheduled in-person 2023 conferences could be modified based on BC Health Authority restrictions at the time of the conference.

Conference	Scheduled Dates	Location	Registration
20th Annual BC Natural Resource Forum	Jan 17 - 19, 2023	Prince George, BC	bcnaturalresourcesforum.com
78th Annual Truck Loggers Association	Jan 18 - 20, 2023	Vancouver, BC	tla.ca/convention
2023 Western Forestry Contractors' Association Conference, Trade Show and AGM	Feb 1 – 3, 2023	Hybrid / Online & In-person Victoria, BC	wfca.ca
Association of BC Forest Professionals Forestry Conference	Feb 8 – 10, 2023	Prince George, BC	abcfp.ca
7th Annual Indigenous Resource Opportunities Conference	Feb 28 – March 1, 2023		bcirc.ca
Council of Forest Industries Convention	April 12-14, 2023	Prince George, BC	cofi.org
Western Conference on Safety	May 1-2, 2023	Vancouver, BC	wcs.pacificsafetycenter.com
Interior Logging Association	May 4 – 6, 2023	Kamloops, BC	interiorlogging.org
Canadian North Resources Expo	May 26-27, 2023	Prince George, BC	cnre.ca
Vancouver Island Safety Conference	Oct 28, 2023	Nanaimo, BC	bcforestsafesafe.org

And the Award Goes to ...

The Leadership in Safety Awards celebrate safety achievements in the forest industry. The awards are presented at the Vancouver Island Safety Conference recognizing individuals for their contributions and their outstanding commitment in supporting safety in the workplace. Nominations are invited from anyone in industry, who knows someone – an individual, crew, contractor, company, supplier, consultant, etc. – who deserves to be recognized for their outstanding safety achievements. Someone who has made, or continues to make, a difference in supporting our shared goal to see every worker return home safely at the end of the day.

There are three award categories for Leadership Safety.

1. Cary White Memorial Award

This special award is presented to someone who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving safety awareness, expanding safety knowledge, developing safety skills at ground level and building a lasting culture of safety among BC's forestry workers. It is someone who goes the extra mile to help others reach their safety goals with a helping hand, proven experience and knowledge.

It was created in honour of one of BCFSC first Safety Advocates, Cary White, who passed away in 2008. With more

than 30 years' experience in the forest industry – including 23 years with WorkSafeBC, Cary was an individual often described as someone who had forestry and the safety of workers in his blood.

2. Forest Safety Most Valuable Player (MVP)

This award recognizes an individual or group that has made a notable contribution to forest industry safety within their operation or company.

3. Manufacturing Safety Most Valuable Player (MVP)

This award recognizes an individual or group that has made a notable contribution to manufacturing safety within a sawmill or wood pellet operation or company.

The MVP for both Forest Safety and Manufacturing Safety could be a worker whose idea resulted in improvements to workplace safety, a supervisor who communicated regularly with their crew spearheading safe work procedures, a crew that found a way to work more safely and productively, a manager who demonstrated commitment to worker safety, a committee that achieved safety improvements through persistent efforts to seek changes, or a company that has demonstrated leadership in integrating health & safety into their business practices.

Continued on page 6...

This year, four individuals received Leadership in Safety Awards. The 2022 Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award for Commitment to Safety Excellence was presented to two outstanding individuals, Chico Newell, retired BC Coroner and Darin Brown (RFPF and RPFT), Owner and Safety Manager at Meridian Forest Services Ltd. The 2022 Most Valuable Player Award in Forestry was presented to long-time faller and faller safety advocate, Dazy Weymer and David Murray, corporate safety, HR and environment manager for Gorman Group and the co-chairperson of the Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) was this year's winner of the Most Valuable Player Award for Wood Products Manufacturing.

CHICO NEWELL - 2022 Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award Forest Safety



Chico's award as a champion of promoting safe practices to help reduce the risk of injury and incidents was long overdue. The term "good enough" was never in Chico's vocabulary – he always looked for the best solution to improve safety, even if that meant taking on established norms or bureaucracy. Chico was passionate about preventing incidents, always keeping this ultimate goal in mind while striving to get information out to industry that was useful and actionable in preventing further incidents.

DARIN BROWN - 2022 Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award Harvesting



Darin's commitment to safety began at the very beginning of his career when he was working in the bush conducting an in-field assessment. Darin was mauled by a black bear while working alone. This experience forced him to focus on what he could have done differently to change the outcome and implement safety procedures to help reduce his risk and the risk to others working in similar field conditions. Darin has continued to keep safety top of mind throughout this career and has been an advocate of safety for every project he's touched and is constantly improving the Meridian safety program to ensure workers have the safety training and PPE they need to do their job safely.

Continued on page 7...

DAVE (DAZY) WEYMER - 2022 MVP Award Harvesting



The 2022 Harvesting MVP was awarded to Dazy Weymer in recognition of his long-standing advocacy to falling safety. With over five decades of experience in BC logging, four of those as a Certified Faller, Dazy has played a crucial role in the training and development of new loggers, fallers and faller blasters. He has trained over 100 faller blasters through the Danger Tree Blasting Program and has been involved with training over 60 rookie loggers and fallers. Dazy's passion for falling and forestry safety combined with his wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise has made Dazy a key contributor and subject matter expert for various organizations especially the BC Forest Safety Council. As a member of the BCFSC Program Committee and the Faller Technical Advisory Committee rep for both the Coast Harvesting Advisory Group and the Faller Standard Advisory Committee, Dazy continues to be an integral part of our commitment to ensuring *Every Forestry Worker Gets Home Safe. Every Day.*

DAVID MURRAY - 2022 MVP Award Wood Products Manufacturing



The final award for 2022 was presented to David Murray for the Most Valuable Player in Wood Products Manufacturing. David is well-known for his exemplary reputation as a strategic leader in implementing safety systems and championing best practises not only within his own company but across industry. David has been recognized throughout BC and Canada with safety results that are proven to significantly reduce incident risks for workers and has dedicated his career to transforming industry safety as a principal component in manufacturing operations.

David Murray is a true safety professional and quiet spoken leader with extensive knowledge of safety systems and processes. Some of his most endearing qualities are his practicality to solving problems and his honesty in evaluating safety initiatives, tools, systems, and ideas. His willingness to share his successes and failures for the betterment of all, endears him to those he collaborates with." – Darren Beattie, Manager Health & Safety, City of Prince George and former MAG member. 🌟

The Return of the Vancouver Island Safety Conference

On Saturday, October 29th, 294 participants attended the 2022 Vancouver Island Safety Conference in Nanaimo, BC. Forestry professionals from various industry sectors spent their Saturday attending the full-day conference centered on “Lead the Way – Resiliency, Opportunity, Engagement”.

This year’s presentations focussed on mental health, safety leadership and resiliency of the mind. Three keynote speakers, Corey Hirsch, Michelle Ray and Terry Small, addressed their topics in very different ways. Corey Hirsch, former NHL Goaltender, coach, Olympic silver medalist and NHL commentator spoke about his struggles with his own mental health issues. In his powerful presentation, Just One More Day, Corey shared how he was able to mask his feelings outwardly while struggling to cope each day and how he came back from the brink of self-destruction by taking the courageous step to ask for help. Michelle Ray, Leadership Expert, gave an inspiring and humorous presentation on *Safety Leadership: It Starts and Ends With Me* addressing

the power of personal leadership and providing useful insights for safety professionals to build upon core personal values and blending them into leadership skills to bring out the best in people. The final keynote speaker, Terry Small, aka “The Brain Guy” is one of Canada’s leading learning skills specialists. His presentation on *Healthy Brain, Resilient Mind | Five Steps to a Calmer, Happier, Sharper You* was a fascinating look into how the brain leads the charge in ensuring the body’s health and safety. The audience was left pondering how they will take the tools Terry provided to help boost their brainpower, improve their thinking, focus and productivity, and improve their brain health to work more safely.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who made this free conference and networking event possible through generous financial, product and service contributions. For a detailed overview of all of the presentations from the 2022 Annual Vancouver Island Safety Conference, read the [VISC 2022 Wrap-up](#). 📄



Corey Hirsch



Geraldine Manson

Safety Share

In September, David D’Arcangelo from Darcan Contracting, contractor for Mosaic Forest Management reached out to us to share a personal experience that made him appreciate the need to be prepared not just at work but always.

“I came across a Motor Vehicle Accident (not forestry-related) this morning on the Inland Island Hwy on my way to see my parents.

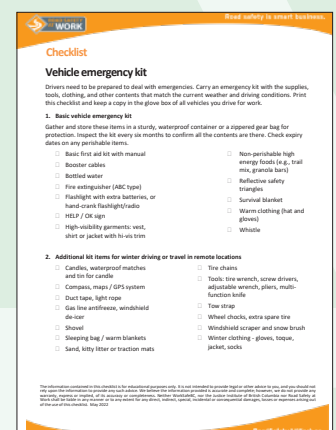
Thankfully all of my safety components were on-hand in my truck (first aid kit and training, blankets, spill kit and fire extinguisher) and brought into service. A 5-ton cargo truck (might have been a 3-ton) was on its side and the gasoline was free flowing from the ruptured tank. Thankfully there was no fire, but it was iffy. I ended up having to take control of scene and administer first aid until ambulance arrived.

Anyway, thanks to the due diligence and safety mindset of Mosaic and the BCFSC, I had some pretty essential tools on-hand when the first dozen people who stopped before me had nothing. That felt rewarding, especially when a couple onlookers present said thank you at the end.”

Thanks to David’s preparedness, he helped keep the incident in check until emergency services were able to arrive on the scene. His safety training, cool head and well-equipped vehicle are a clear demonstration of the importance of being prepared. We want to thank David for sharing this story with us and applaud him for making safety an important part of his everyday life.

If you have a safety moment you would like to share, send us an email at editor@bcforestsafes.org. 📄

Road Safety at Work Emergency Car Kit



BCFSC Unveils its 2023-2025 Strategic Plan

The BCFSC is constantly assessing the BC Forestry Industry reviewing each sector's forecasted challenges and trends using industry feedback, WorkSafeBC injury data and working with its Board of Directors, Program Committee and advisory groups to support our collective vision of *Ensuring every forestry worker goes home safe. Every day.*

As forest policy modernization, reconciliation efforts and robust climate agendas continue to advance, the forest industry in BC is undergoing an evolution that will require new and different strategies to meet the future needs of BC's Forest Industry.

As we continue to adapt to changing circumstances, we have identified eight strategic focus areas.

The following is an overview of the areas and safety strategies we aim to deliver over the next three years.

Promoting cultural change

1. Develop and promote communications of BCFSC and industry initiatives

BCFSC will be recognised as an industry leader for value-added health and safety and training resources.

2. Engage and inform industry

BCFSC will engage in partnership with key industry stakeholders and organizations to collaboratively develop and advance industry best practices.

Developing a competent, confident workforce

3. Refine existing training programs

BCFSC will revise training programs to ensure accessibility and inclusion for all participants.

4. Increase access to training materials and programs to permit industry to train more people

BCFSC will increase access to training materials and programs to support improved learning outcomes for new entrants and existing workers.

Encouraging and supporting companies to have effective safety and injury management systems in place

5. Support Indigenous participation in the forest industry

BCFSC will work closely with Indigenous organizations to support worker awareness of safety issues, develop tailored safety programs, and improve access and availability of training programs.

6. Research, Identify and Promote New Technologies

BCFSC will research and promote new technologies aimed at eliminating and reducing existing and emerging risks to workers and develop new technologies aimed at simplifying incident and safety management system reporting requirements.

7. Improve and expand in-field support and advocacy services

BCFSC will provide targeted outreach and support to employers and workers engaged in high-risk activities.

Promoting a safety conscious legal regime

8. Develop industry guidelines and best practices

BCFSC will engage with industry to develop industry guidelines and best practices to enhance the consistent application of safe work practices for high-risk activities.

Within each of these focus areas, BCFSC has foundational resources to support the delivery of our safety mandate through our programs, resources and services. We have developed robust work plan initiatives including annual targets to translate our strategic focus areas into measurable outcomes over the next three years. These initiatives will help improve our ability to deliver BCFSC's Strategic Focus areas.



Access the [2023-2025 Strategic Plan](#) and [2023 Work Plan](#) on our website for full details. 📄

Canada's Forest Sector Honours Ntityix Resources LP of West Kelowna, BC with Indigenous Business Leadership Award

Article Courtesy of Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC)

As National Forest Week was celebrated across the country, Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) seized the opportunity to announce the recipients of its annual Awards of Excellence program. FPAC announced that Ntityix Resources LP of West Kelowna, BC was honoured with the Indigenous Business Leadership Award.

The Indigenous Business Leadership Award, presented by FPAC in partnership with Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB), celebrates Indigenous entrepreneurs in the forest products sector who exemplify business leadership through exceptional environmental and safety performance and the delivery of high-quality products and services. The recipient must also demonstrate a long-term commitment to the Indigenous community, particularly in supporting Indigenous employment.

"The forest products sector works in partnership with over 1,400 Indigenous-owned businesses, each of which are critical partners in advancing forest health and economic prosperity in our forestry communities," said FPAC President and CEO Derek Nighbor. "The Indigenous Business Leadership Award provides FPAC and CCAB with the opportunity to highlight the great work being done in these communities and showcase how Indigenous business leaders like Ntityix Resources LP are driving environmental, economic, and social opportunities across the country," he added.

Since 2013, Dave Gill (RPF) has had the honour of being General Manager of Forestry with Ntityix Resources

LP – a West Kelowna First Nation-held natural resource company located in the heart of Syilx territory in the central Okanagan valley. He and his team coordinate the planning, operations, silviculture, and community and local stakeholder engagement on Westbank First Nation's (WFN) forest tenures. Since graduating from forestry at UBC, Dave has worked for industry, his own consultancy, government, and First Nations in locations such as Haida Gwaii, Vancouver Island and various locations in the interior of British Columbia. Today, Dave's primary interest is advancing ways to incorporate Indigenous and community values into all aspects of forest stewardship on WFN-held tenures and to continue earning the support of, and developing opportunities for, the WFN Community.

"I can't tell you just how exciting it is to be working with Indigenous communities in forestry today. After more than 30 years in the industry, the last 9 with WFN have been the most rewarding and challenging years of my career," said Gill. To see Indigenous communities to begin re-taking control of their lands, making decisions that reflect their values, and forging partnerships with our industry neighbours warms my heart and shows how we can move our industry forward in a more sustainable and inclusive way. For Ntityix to win this award reflects the values of our community, our company, and the hard work of our staff and the will of our partners to make a difference".

[Click here](#) to learn more about FPAC's Awards of Excellence recipients. 🌲



WorkSafeBC's Worker Engagement and Joint Committees Initiative - a Key Strategy for Reducing Health and Safety Risks in BC Workplaces

Each year WorkSafeBC aligns its initiatives with its strategic plan. WorkSafeBC's [2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) builds a framework to guide decision-making and focus for their work by setting strategic priorities and the desired outcomes.

Prevention Services' initiatives are focused on the strategic priority to **prevent workplace injury, disease, and death by engaging employers and workers**. Through these initiatives, WorkSafeBC aims to achieve a desired outcome to **reduce health and safety risks in BC workplaces**.

The importance of worker engagement

Workers have an important role in reducing risk and creating safer, healthier workplaces.

Workers have three key rights that must be supported and protected:

1. The right to know about hazards in the workplace
2. The right to participate in health and safety activities in the workplace
3. The right to refuse unsafe work

Workers also play a key role in an effective health and safety program. Workers can help support the safety of themselves and their fellow workers; provide invaluable insight into workplace health and safety; and report health and safety concerns, solutions, and suggestions for improvement.

How WorkSafeBC is supporting worker engagement

Through Worker Engagement and Joint Committees Initiative, WorkSafeBC is focusing on engaging workers directly during inspections and consultations. Some of the outcomes of this engagement will include:

- Helping workers understand their role in reducing risk
- Promoting joint occupational health and safety committee requirements that are in place for some employers
- Reviewing the requirements to evaluate joint occupational health and safety committees on an annual basis and how to engage the committee in this important discussion

What can employers do

In advance of a potential inspection or consultation, WorkSafeBC is encouraging employers to familiarize themselves with the [Joint health & safety committees](#) information and resources on worksafebc.com, including:

- When you need a joint health and safety committee / worker health and safety representative
- What joint committees and worker health and safety representatives do
- Mandatory training and annual education leave
- Evaluation of joint committees 🗣️