



Manufacturing Safety Advisory Groups

BCFSC works closely with industry safety groups and advisory committees to create resources and develop industry training to help keep workers safe.

We recognize the invaluable support these advisory groups provide and why it is so critical to have committee chairs leading the charge.

“One of BCFSC’s key beliefs is that injury prevention is most effective when the overall industry owns and leads the change.

Industry advisory groups are fundamental in supporting this belief and are the backbone of BCFSC’s programs and business plans. The chairs of the advisory groups play a critical role and provide leadership in the planning, organization, and operation of the activities. Without the leadership, guidance, time, and expertise that the chairs and members provide, industry would not benefit from the many programs and initiatives that support injury reduction and improved safety performance.

We would like to thank all of the industry advisory groups and chairs for their leadership on issues and their continued commitment to ongoing collaboration across industry. We truly believe that this level of commitment will be what drives our industry’s safety performance to the next level.”
- Rob Moonen – BCFSC CEO

BCFSC would like to acknowledge the exiting chairpersons for two of our advisory groups, MAG and WPAC, and welcome the new chairpersons stepping into these positions.

Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG)

MAG helps support industry to achieve continuous improvement in safety performance. The core goal is to achieve workplace environments free of injuries, incidents and near misses.

Previous Chair: David Murray (2019-2022)

David Murray has participated in the Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) since its inception and for the past three years he has skillfully chaired the initiatives delivered by this advisory group.

David has been a champion of the use of leading indicators such as Serious Injury and Fatality Reporting (SIFp), industry-wide sharing of Best In Class Practices, Lockout Verification, Mobile Pedestrian Interface and Supervisor Training. David’s commitment to promoting safety culture and his dedication to ensuring every worker gets home safe every day has been recognized throughout BC and Canada with safety results that are proven to significantly reduce incident risks for workers.

David’s leadership during the COVID pandemic was critical in promoting best practices for COVID controls shared across the MAG companies.

David was also the 2022 recipient of BCFSC’s MVP Award in Wood Products Manufacturing where he was recognized as a safety leader at the Vancouver Island Safety Conference last October.

“David has been an effective Chair in promoting collaboration and the use of Leading Indicators throughout the Sawmill Industry. We thank David and welcome Scott Wynn to the chair role as we continue our journey to reach our goal that ‘Every Worker

gets Home Safe Every Day’ ”
- Dave Lehane, BCFSC Board Chair & MAG Group Facilitator

“It’s been an honour serving as the MAG chairperson for the past few years amidst the pandemic. Our goal was to ensure our employees were able to safely work in our mills during COVID, while continuing to progress the wood product manufacturing safety agenda focused on inherent industry risks. I think we achieved this objective, and I am excited to see where Scott Wynn will take our group as the new Chairperson.”
- David Murray Exiting Chair, HR Safety and Environment Manager – Gorman Group

New 2023 MAG Chair: Scott Wynn



Scott Wynn will be taking on the role as the new Chairperson of MAG. He is currently working as an Occupational Health and Safety Specialist for Tolko Industries Ltd. supporting the lumber, veneer and plywood sector.

Scott was born in Kamloops and raised in Sorrento BC. He resides in Williams Lake with his wife of 12 years and enjoys all BC has to offer in the outdoors. His educational background includes a Certificate of Occupational Health and Safety and an Associate Certificate, Occupational Health and Safety Practitioner from BCIT. He also

Continued on page 16...

Continued from page 15...

holds a Gold Seal Certification from the Canadian Construction Association as a Construction Safety Coordinator.

Scott began his career in Adams Lake with Interfor as a Safety Charge Hand and then transitioned to Safety Coordinator for Interfor's Kootenay Operations. He worked with Interfor for eight years working with great mentors like David Murray. Since joining Tolko in 2015, Scott has continued to devote his efforts to improving safety in wood products manufacturing.

As the new chair of the MAG committee, Scott's goals are to continue to focus on the practical side of safety.

"This will be important as we are heading into a period of market difficulties. Efficient, economical and practical solutions will be key.

We need to understand the needs of the workplace and help workers and site management teams achieve their goals. Improving safety performance by providing practical and relevant resources is how we best support them in the near term. A good example of this currently is the free Wood Manufacturing Supervisor Training program provided in partnership by MAG and BCFSC."

Wood Pellets Association of Canada Safety Committee (WPAC)

The WPAC Safety Committee is dedicated to improving the pellet industry's collective environment, health, safety, and sustainability performance; to create a reputation with regulatory authorities and the public as an industry that is highly effective at managing environment, health, safety and sustainability; and to learn and share best practices regarding the environment, health, safety, and sustainability.

Previous Chair: (2014-2022) Scott Bax CEO - Peak Renewables

Scott has worked across the forest products industry in diverse leadership roles including forest management and harvest operations, mill operations and residual based renewable energy products (aka, wood pellets) for over two decades. He is currently the CEO at Peak Renewables and prior to that, was the Chief Operating Officer at Pinnacle Renewable Energy (now Drax).

He was Chair of the WPAC Safety Committee for nine years and in this role, he was dedicated to striving for safe wood pellet plants by improving better safety processes and reducing hazards and risks to industry workers. A leader in pellet safety and operations, Scott was recognized as one of the Top 36 Most Influential Leaders in the Biomass Industry in 2016. He is also a BCFSC Board Member.

2023 New Chair: Julie Griffiths MSc, P. Geo - Shaw Renewables



Julie Griffiths will be taking on the role as the new Chairperson of WPAC. She currently works as a Quality, Sustainability, and Environmental Program Coordinator for Shaw Renewables and is responsible for quality and sustainability programs, certifications, environmental and greenhouse gas reporting, and various process control/standardization projects.

Julie grew up in Moncton, New Brunswick and became interested in the forest industry while working with the Environmental Science Field School at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. She has an Advanced Major in Earth Sciences and a Master of Science from Dalhousie University. Julie and her family reside in Fletchers Lake, Nova Scotia and enjoy travelling and all things nature.

Throughout her career with Shaw, Julie has embraced safety as the #1 priority. It has been at the forefront of everything in her daily work life from conducting job risk assessments, identifying near misses and hazards, and attending safety committees and toolbox safety meetings.

As her career progressed, her interests in the wood pellet industry grew and she began to transition to Shaw Renewables in 2015. In 2022, Julie became the Chair of the Dust and Fire Management Team for Shaw Renewables, which is committed to a goal of zero fires through continuous fire prevention improvements. Over the years, she has worked with the WPAC team on a variety of projects and fully embraces the safety committee's goal to put the industry at the front line of safety by improving on the industry's collective safety performance. When the opportunity arose, she was keen to take on the role as the Safety Committee Chair.

One of Julie's objectives as Chair will be to engage committee members to participate and share safety learnings. *"The pellet industry is still relatively new, so we need to grow our safety culture, together. I would like to see more engagement from industry and to make sure everyone is aware of the great work that the committee does. Safety is never finished, we don't just walk across the finish line, and say "ok, we did it", it's about continuous improvements and the best way to do this in a newer industry is through shared knowledge."*

Continued on page 17..

Continued from page 16...

Gordon Murray, Executive Director of the Wood Pellet Association of Canada addressed the change.

“Scott Bax has stepped down as chair of WPAC’s safety committee after nine years at the helm. This is an astonishingly long tenure for a volunteer position. Scott made an enormous impact by leading the safety committee’s establishment, identifying key priorities and driving enthusiasm across the Canadian pellet sector. I have the greatest respect for the job he did and I’m glad he will continue to participate as a committee member.

We’re fortunate now to have Julie Griffiths of Shaw Renewables taking on the chair role. Shaw has a great reputation as a safety leader amongst Maritime producers. She’ll bring a vast knowledge and

enthusiasm to the WPAC safety committee. We’re looking forward to her leadership and give her our strong support.”

As the past Chair of the WPAC Safety Committee, Scott Bax had some inspiring words for the new Chair.

I would like to welcome Julie Griffiths as the committee’s new Chair. Julie is an amazing person who has been regularly involved in the committee. She brings a tremendous wealth of knowledge and network to the role and a passion for people and safety. I had the amazing opportunity to Chair the Safety Committee for the last nine years. In our early days, we quickly found we needed focus on improved alignment with the regulators and collaborate on paths forward to safe outcomes each and every day. We chose to

*set clear goals, focus on member engagement, work collaboratively with regulators and to grow our knowledge through the involvement and expertise of others. Above and beyond, **we agreed we would not compete on safety. We agreed, together we could achieve more.** As the Safety Committee moves forward through 2023 and beyond, we will see it continue to accomplish great things that make our industry safer each and every day through resource development and sharing insights. Please join me in welcoming Julie to her new role.*

Read more about Julie’s philosophy on safety leadership and her new role as WPAC Safety Committee Chair in her interview in [Canadian BioMass Magazine](#). 📖

Weekly Shares on Manufacturing Safety Support a Strong Safety Culture

Every Tuesday and Thursday, BCFSC sends subscribers two safety resources to help workers stay safe on the job. On Tuesdays, the BCFSC sends out a Crew Talk with safety-related information to help support a short (five minutes or less) safety conversation at the beginning of meetings, pre-job/shift meetings and/or JOHSC meetings.

Every Thursday, BCFSC sends out a Manufacturing Safety Alert that provides information on recent incidents and industry best practices in forest products manufacturing.

If you haven’t done so already, BCFSC encourages you to subscribe to these weekly safety shares to keep current with the latest industry information and safety topics to help build a strong foundation of safety culture in your organization.

To subscribe to the weekly Manufacturing Safety Crew Talk and Safety Alert, visit the BCFSC website.



We also welcome all incident or near miss submissions. If you have an incident you’d like to share, please forward the information to Bill.Laturnus@bcforestsafe.org. BCFSC will review and remove all identifying information to protect the privacy of the worker and the company.

Download the [BCFSC Crew Talks](#)

Read the [Manufacturing Safety Alerts](#) 📖

WorkSafeBC's Strategy to Promote Safe Working Environments in the Wood Products Manufacturing Industry

WorkSafeBC's Wood Products Manufacturing High Risk Strategy was developed to reduce the risk of serious injuries in the wood products manufacturing industry. This strategy was created using injury data from BC wood products manufacturing operations to identify the most significant risks to workers. The data revealed machine safeguarding, powered tools, hand tools, material handling, falls, mobile equipment, combustible dust, and musculoskeletal injuries (MSI) to be the highest risk factors.

During their presentation to the BCFSC trainers last October, in addition to the WorkSafeBC overview on the Forestry High Risk Strategy, they also provided an overview of the Wood Products Manufacturing High Risk Strategy specific to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation section 10.12 - Working with Energized Equipment as it relates to sawmills. This overview shed light on the importance of critical controls in working with energized equipment. WorkSafeBC explained that their approach involves working with employers and employees to identify hazards, assess risks and implement suitable and compliant control measures. This includes communicating critical control measures to workers and monitoring their effectiveness. This works begins with employers assessing their critical control strategies by focusing on:

- Safeguarding and lockout inspections have a greater focus on traditional lockout situations as well as normal operations safeguarding.
- In circumstances where energized equipment is required to complete a task, it is imperative that employers can demonstrate why, what, and when the energy is required.
- The risk assessment and procedure will dictate how workers can perform the task safely.
- The critical controls for these situations are:
 - Identification of tasks requiring removal of safeguards
 - Identification of tasks requiring energy to troubleshoot, clean, or maintain equipment
 - Identification of energy sources required to be energized vs those to be locked out
 - Risk assessment of the tasks requiring energy
 - Safe work procedures developed for the tasks
 - Training and competency assessments of the workers in energized work procedures
 - Authorization process prior to completing work in an energized environment
 - Monitoring and supervision

WorkSafeBC has developed a series of self-evaluation tools to help manufacturers identify, control, and manage specific risk areas. These resources include self-evaluation tools, manuals, and guides for safeguarding and lockout, combustible dust, falls from elevation, Musculoskeletal injury, mobile equipment, and slips, trips, and falls and others. Employers, joint health and safety committees, and anyone operating machinery and equipment can access these valuable tools and resources by visiting the WorkSafeBC website.

The Wood Products Manufacturing High Risk Strategy is a crucial step towards promoting a safer working environment in the wood products manufacturing industry. By working with employers and employees to identify hazards, assess risks, and implement these critical controls measures, WorkSafeBC can help reduce the risk of serious and ensure the health and safety of all workers. 🌱