BC **Forest Safety**

2026 BCFSC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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D'Arcy Henderson – Sr. Vice President, Timberlands and Chief Operating Officer, Mosaic and BCFSC Board Chair

D'Arcy Henderson is a seasoned executive, with over 20 years of leadership experience and deep expertise in Western Canada's forest sector. Known for delivering results through his focus on innovation and sustainability, D'Arcy leads Mosaic's timberlands operations, driving operational efficiency while upholding dedicated commitment to safety and environmental stewardship.

D'Arcy holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of British Columbia and is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) in British Columbia. He also serves as the Board Chair of the BC Forest Safety Council, reflecting his dedication to advancing industry safety standards.

Gordon Murray – Executive Director, Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC)

Gordon has been Executive Director of the WPAC since 2008 and is recognized as an industry leader throughout Canada in pellet safety and operations. In 2014, he established WPAC's Safety Committee and through collaboration with industry operations, has made incredible strides in improving safety culture and implementing safety management processes across the pellet industry.

Gordon has more than 30 years' experience in various logging and wood manufacturing operations as a manager, owner and financial consultant for both large-scale forest product manufacturers and independent operations. He holds Bachelor of Science (Forestry) from UBC and is a registered professional forester and a chartered professional accountant.

John Betts - Executive Director, Western Forestry Contractors' Association (WFCA)

John has been the Executive Director of the Western Forestry Contractors' Association since 1998. He first planted in trees as a Junior Forest Ranger in Ontario in 1968. After working as a logger on the West Coast in the 70s, he returned to planting trees and began his own silviculture firm which he operated throughout the 1980s.

Before his role with the WFCA, he consulted in public affairs, was a free-lance journalist and reported for the Nelson Daily News. In 2020, John was made an honorary member of the Association of BC Forest Professionals.

Peter Lister - Executive Director, Truck Loggers Association (TLA)

Peter is a seasoned executive with extensive experience in forestry and marine transportation. In 2008, he became General Manager and National Research Director at FERIC, later serving as Vice President at FPInnovations, leading national research and industry collaboration to improve safety, technology, and environmental outcomes. In 2016, Peter joined Seaspan Marine as Senior Vice President, overseeing business development, sales, and commercial operations.

Peter holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering from UBC and is a registered professional engineer in BC. He also serves as Vice-Chair of the Pacific Salmon Foundation and is a member of the Institute of Corporate Directors.

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Jeff Bromley – Chair, Steelworkers Wood Council

Prior to being elected Steelworkers Wood Council Chair in 2019, Jeff was a rank-and-file IWA member. In 1994 he was hired as an operator at the Elko Sawmill at age 25. Then in 2008, was elected 3rd Vice-President of Local 1-405. He graduated from the USW's Leadership Development Program in 2010 and two years later, in 2012, he was elected Financial Secretary and has served the local union in a full-time staff role ever since.

Jeff earned his Associate Degree at East Kootenay Community College (now College of the Rockies) majoring in history with a minor in political science.

Rob Schweitzer, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), BC Wildfire

Rob is a Registered Forest Technologist with the Forest Professionals of British Columbia and has been with the Ministry of Forests since 1991. In 2016, he returned to the BC Wildfire Service, bringing with him a wealth of experience from various roles across the province. Before rejoining, Rob worked in divisions such as Engineering and BC Timber Sales, eventually stepping into a management role in Kamloops in 2010.

With over 35 years of combined experience in wildfire response and natural resource management, Rob offers a broad perspective on the complex challenges society faces in adapting to the growing threat of catastrophic wildfires. Rob has been a strong advocate within the program for expanding mental health support and advancing research into firefighter exposure, helping to shape a more resilient and informed approach to wildland fire management.

Reid Hedlund – Chairman, Interior Logging Association (ILA)

Reid was a member of the Forest Safety Task Force and chaired the Forest Industry Safety Association from 1999 until 2004.

A logging owner since 1979, Reid bids on crown and private land contracts. He studied automobile mechanics at Okanagan College and completed a mechanics trade apprenticeship.

Lana Kurz - Senior Director, Safety, Risk & Environment Interfor, Canadian Operations

Lana is the Senior Director of Safety, Rick & Environment Management for Interfor Corporation, Canadian Operations. Lana has 30 years of operational experience in the forest industry and has spent her career in silviculture, harvesting and sawmill manufacturing in the US Pacific Northwest also across Canada.

She holds a Forest Technology Diploma from Selkirk College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resources Management from UNBC and is a registered professional forester.

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Ross Lennox – Vice President, Operations at Canfor Pulp

Ross has worked with Canfor for 23 years and has held a variety of leadership roles in woodlands, safety and manufacturing in Mackenzie, Prince George and Vanderhoof. In his current role, Ross works with an exceptional leading Canfor's corporate forestry activities, including strategic fibre analysis, forestry innovation, certification, strategic forest policy, as well as Canfor's Indigenous Engagement Strategy.

Ross grew up in the Kootenays and graduated from UNBC with a BSc. in Natural Resources Management (Forestry) in 1999 and achieved his Registered Professional Forester (RFP) designation in 2002.

Mark Cookson – Woods Operations Manager, Western Canada for West Fraser

Mark is a seasoned forestry professional with extensive experience in operations management and woodlands oversight across Alberta and British Columbia. Based in Quesnel, he currently serves as the Woods Operations Manager at West Fraser, a position he has held since May. In this role, Mark is responsible for overseeing woodland operations, ensuring sustainable practices, and optimizing resource management.

Previously, Mark was the Woodlands Manager at Blue Ridge Lumber Inc. and held various roles at Weldwood, including Silviculture and Planning Supervisor and has a BSc in Forestry from the University of Alberta and a Forest Technology diploma from NAIT.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Cherie Whelan – Chief Executive Officer, BC Forest Safety Council

Cherie is a seasoned health and safety leader with over 20 years of experience across energy, forestry, construction and government. She previously served as BCFSC's Director of SAFE Companies where she led provincial prequalification and audit programs, supported thousands of forestry employers and helped refine safety systems to improve efficiency, accountability and operational value. Prior to her current role, she was the CEO of the Newfoundland and Labrador Construction Safety Association where she expanded training access, advanced youth safety education and championed data driven injury reduction strategies.

Her earlier investigative and auditing work with Suncor, TransAlta and the Government of Alberta shaped her commitment to collaborative, transparent safety improvement. Nationally recognized for her contributions, Cherie holds a BBA, the CRSP designation and is a certified OHSAS and OHSMS Lead Auditor.