



**BC Forest Safety**

# **The Importance of Fostering Collaboration and Partnerships in difficult times**

81<sup>st</sup> Annual TLA Convention - January 14, 2026

- BCFSC is the industry-funded, health and safety association (HSA) for forest harvesting, sawmills and pellet manufacturing in BC. We work with forest sector employers, workers, unions, contractors and provincial government agencies to support changes necessary to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries in the forest sector.
- We believe all forestry fatalities are preventable, and that lasting change for injury prevention is most effective when it is industry-led.
- Our strategy fosters innovation, influence and confidence across the industry, recognizing that safety excellence is essential to long-term success. We take a knowledge-based approach to safety to understand risks; and partner with our stakeholders to expand our reach and influence safe behaviour.
- Our efforts are prioritized based on the highest-risk areas to achieve our vision where every forestry worker goes home safe. Every day.



# The Challenge

**BC Forestry: Endless changes, constant woes...**

Don MacLachlan, Resource Works – Tree Frog , Jan. 5

**BC forest industry faces a “triple whammy”**

Alice Palmer – Tree Frog, Jan. 5

**The road to BC Forest Competitiveness is a Long One...**

David Elstone – Spar Tree Group, Dec. 2025



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# The Risks

## Operational risks intensify during downturns

**Changes bring new hazards.**

Periods of economic strain push employers to adjust operations:

- Unpredictable/intermittent work schedules, curtailments, and closures.
- Operating with leaner crews, amplifying fatigue and burnout.
- Delaying preventive maintenance or equipment upgrades.
- Reassigning less experienced staff to skilled roles.
- Abbreviating onboarding for new hires.
- Economic turbulence heightens anxiety around layoffs, workloads, and job security.



# The Risks

## **Operational risks intensify during downturns**

**Each scenario introduces heightened risk.**

With potentially reduced focus on planning, coordination, supervision and training:

- Risks are compounded by having multiple harvesting phases conducted within single operating areas.
- Stress and distractions increase, hazard awareness drops, making preventable incidents more likely.
- Critical procedures may be skipped or misunderstood.
- Workers may lack the competency to use equipment correctly.



National Post  
Dec. 6 2005

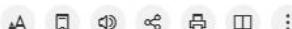
NATIONAL POST  
6 Dec 2005

## Forest industry seeks end to B. C. 'slaughter'

41 KILLED THIS YEAR



NATIONAL POST



BY JASON KIRBY  
6 Dec 2005

VANCOUVER • "In the past eight years, falling trees accounted for 1,574 accidents, 75 lives and the permanent maiming of 108 workmen. Employers and workmen can ill afford the sacrifice they are offering up annually to this persistent force of human..."

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# The Opportunity

## Foster Collaboration and Partnerships

During challenging times, the collective actions by industry (licensees, tenure holders, prime contractors, contractors, and workers) become even more important and define the culture and set the tone of how work gets done.

As leaders, managers, and supervisors, it's important to remember what gets recognized, gets repeated and what we permit, we promote.

As leaders, co-workers and colleagues, we all have a role to play to help mitigate risks – if you see something, say something and do something.

Work with your team of workers, suppliers, subcontractors, and clients. Communicate the challenges you face so they are aware and use their knowledge and experience to come-up with potential solutions. This may alleviate some of the pressure and help to focus on safe operations.



## Words of Wisdom from the Past

“The past results of say 25 years have shown us that logging safety is a successful joint venture between management and labour, at camp level, if it is a determined, continuous program. The program fails when one side or the other let down their guard and allows the tell-tale warnings of careless acts to slip by unnoticed.”

Excerpt from Article by Bill (W.D.) Moore, British Columbia Lumberman Magazine – November 1981.

Bill Moore was TLA President in 1965.





# Introducing Connection to Care

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Your mental health and wellbeing matters.

BCFSC is proud to announce the launch of Connection to Care, a free, confidential mental health support service designed to help forestry workers across BC.

This initiative officially began on January 5th, 2026, and will run until December 31st, 2027, offering vital upstream mental health care to thousands of workers in the forest sector.



# Connection to Care

In partnership with:



**BC Forest Safety**

BC ASSOCIATION  
**of CLINICAL  
COUNSELLORS**



**BC MUNICIPAL  
SAFETY** Association

This program is proudly supported by:



Western Forestry  
Contractors' Association



**BC Forest Safety**

# Connection to Care

The on-going economic challenges and present level of uncertainty have exacerbated mental health challenges for BC's forestry workers.

Many small employers, who represent 95% of the sector, continue to be challenged with providing appropriate levels of support.

Small employers also do not typically have access to Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) that provide accessible and confidential counselling support for workers. In addition, with many of BC's forestry employers located in small communities, there are limited options for counselling.



# Connection to Care Overview

- This initiative is aimed at providing access to upstream mental health care to BC forestry workers.
- Connection to Care is a phone service providing free, anonymous, and confidential support to BC forestry workers.
- This free service prioritizes confidentiality to diminish stigma and make it easier for employees to seek mental health assistance as a call-in service.
- Focused on an early intervention approach, the program primarily strives to act as a resource to stop mental health issues from worsening, ultimately reducing their impact.
- By focusing on proactive mental health care, we can help prevent issues before they become more serious, fostering a healthier and more productive life and work environment.





As an industry, we've demonstrated that when we work together, we can accomplish great things. Let's ensure that we continue to focus on what's in our control to meet our collective goal of ensuring every forestry worker goes home safe. Every day.

Thank you for your collective efforts.

