

Annual Report 2020-2021 Learning from the pandemic: Health and safety in the spotlight

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## About Workplace Safety North

An independent not-for-profit, Workplace Safety North (WSN) is one of four sector-based health and safety associations in Ontario. Headquartered in northern Ontario, WSN provides province-wide government-approved workplace health and safety training and services for the mining and forest products industries.

#### Vision

Every worker, home safe and healthy.

#### Mission

We are a force for positive action – anticipating and responding to the greatest needs of our clients, and bringing together our partners, members, and diverse communities to build safer, healthier, stronger workplaces.

#### Values

Compassion, integrity, respect, and team spirit shape who we are and how we work.



### Forestry

Forest Nurseries and Tree Planting Logging - Conventional and Mechanical

Milled Wood Products

Sawmills

Veneer, Plywood, and Wood Preservation

### Paper, Printing, and Converting

Corrugated and Solid Fibre Boxes

Folding Cartons

Paper Products

Printing, Platemaking, and Binding

Pulp and Paper

### Surface and Underground Mines

Diamond Mines Gold and Silver Mines Mine Drilling Mine Rescue Mining Support Activities Nickel and Copper Mines Salt Mines

Other Mines



Workplace Safety North

Works

# Message from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer



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# Has the pandemic made us stronger?

#### Health and safety in the spotlight

If the pandemic demonstrated one thing, it's how quickly we can shift gears when we really need to. The pandemic created the 'perfect storm' for innovation: a heightened sense of urgency; new product and service demands and opportunities; an openness to try new things; flexibility to work whenever, wherever, and however we could be most productive and most impactful.

After a year like no other, we offer an Annual Report like no other: a digital-first, visual spotlight on the speed and success with which we were able to innovate to meet and exceed client needs and staff needs when you needed us most.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the WSN team for passion in service delivery during unprecedented times, our Advisory Committees and Board of Directors for unwavering support and guidance, the province of Ontario for funding advances in workplace health and safety, and our clients for allowing us to be part of your work lives.

We come out of this stronger by working together.



**Sandra Haddad** WSN Board Chair



Paul Andre WSN President and Chief Executive Officer

# Statistical Overview and Industry Trends

### Workplace Health and Safety Snapshot for Ontario Forestry, Paper, Printing, and Converting Sector in 2021



#### Events resulting in lost-time injury or illness

Injury or illness severe enough to require one or more days lost from work



### Workplace Health and Safety Snapshot for Ontario Mining Sector in 2021



#### Events resulting in lost-time injury or illness

Injury or illness severe enough to require one or more days lost from work



# Achievement Highlights

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### **Essential Services**

#### For March 2020 stay-at-home order, only essential services and activities permitted

Workplace Safety North (WSN) sectors of mining and forest products were deemed essential and required ongoing OHS training and support to continue to operate. Ontario Mine Rescue was required to maintain response readiness.

Efforts were directed to moving legislated training to live virtual delivery, conducting internal risk assessments to identify controls required to protect staff from COVID-19, and developing other services to support other community needs during the pandemic.

## COVID-19 Response

- Focus on WSN business continuity by ensuring staff had the tools and means to work from home.
- Internal risk assessments conducted to identify controls required to protect staff.
- Mining conference changed to virtual event.
- Legislated training changed from in-person format to instructor-led virtual training programs.
- Develop COVID-19 audits for essential operations and services (schoolboard, mining operations).
- Provide training to WSN staff and develop policy and procedures to conduct qualitative fit testing for Long-Term Care homes.
- To support community needs, additional services were developed for audits and qualitative PPE fit testing.
- Conduct community COVID-19 risk assessments.
- Deliver virtual legislated training (at no charge at onset of pandemic) to support essential businesses.





950 Client consultations

1,843 Total consultation hours

6 Advisory Committees

4,224

Participant Training Days: Prevention Services

5,823

Participant Training Days: Mine Rescue

### 71

Firms participating in Health and Safety Excellence program

263

Firms active in Safe Workplace Ontario program

60

Long-term care staff tested for proper mask fits

90,000

Participant Training Days: Prevention Services

5,823 Participant Training Days: Mine Rescue





### 2

Audits and risk assessments for school boards and mining operations to prepare for re-opening

56 Free OHS training sessions

### 21

COVID-19 resource documents (guidance, checklist, infographics)

96

COVID-19 health and safety news articles, information, and events

273,185

COVID-19 communications distributed via email, video, social media, news releases

# Health and Safety Excellence program

The WSIB Health and Safety Excellence incentive program has provided a new opportunity for WSN as a program provider to engage firms supporting their advancement in health and safety program development.

- New OHS materials developed for Excellence program:
- WSN provider brochure and supporting resource material on new program webpage
- Overview Guide for staff and Client Journey process chart
- Guidance Templates four separate templates for key steps in the program
- Client Support Guides four separate guides to complement each template

Health and Safety Excellence program Approved provider wsib 2021

# Cont me Chief Prevention Office Evidence-based Initiatives

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# Risk Assessment and Root-Cause Analysis

WSN has been working jointly with the MLTSD since 2015 conducting industry-led risk assessments (RA) and root-cause analyses (RCA).

With the support of industry experts representing both workers and management, these workshops have taken a leading indicator approach to the identification of the highest risks in a specific sector.

WSN continues to build leading-edge resource and training material using this evidence-based approach, focusing on leading indicators that have the greatest impact on injury prevention.



#### Risk Assessments and Root Cause Analyses completed in Ontario industry sectors

Date	Sector	Purpose
2014 Jun	Underground Mining	Risk Assessment
2017 Dec	Ground Control	Root Cause Analysis
2018 Sep	Mobile Equipment	Root Cause Analysis
2019 Nov	Water Management	Root Cause Analysis
2014 Sep	Low-Rise Residential Construction	Risk Assessment
2015 Jul	Roofing	Risk Assessment
2020 Sep	Working at Heights	Root Cause Analysis (Phase 1)
2015 Mar	Hospitals	Risk Assessment
2016 Sep	Surface Mining	Risk Assessment
2015 Nov	Greenhouse-Flowers	Risk Assessment
2018 Nov	Working at Heights	Root Cause Analysis
2016 Mar	Greenhouse-Vegetables	Risk Assessment
2017 Sep	Sawmills	Risk Assessment
2018 May	Substance Use	Root Cause Analysis
2018 Feb	Logging	Risk Assessment
2019 Jan	Distracted Driving	Root Cause Analysis
2019 Mar	General Freight (Transportation)	Risk Assessment
2020 Feb	Driver Fatigue	Root Cause Analysis
2019 Nov	Pulp and Paper	Risk Assessment
2020 Sep	Inadequate or Improper Lockout	Root Cause Analysis

Risk-based approach to improving Ontario workplace health and safety

Groundbreaking analysis gathers industry-generated predictive information to better prevent workplace injuries and illnesses

Conducting industry-specific risk assessments and digging further to find out the root causes of those risks has given health and safety associations much clearer insight into the top risks in the workplace.

# New Train-the-Trainer program

The RA-RCA initiative was further advanced through a joint MLTSD-WSN training session which resulted in the development and presentation of new RA-RCA Train-the-Trainer program. This training has allowed WSN staff to take the lead in RA-RCA workshops into the future.

WSN also continues to support this research with a comprehensive communication strategy including the development of sector-specific infographics, technical papers outlining workshop outcomes, and focused communication through social media and webinars.



### Safe Driving on Forest Roads

Based on the results of the logging industry risk assessment, which identified distracted driving as the top risk, WSN developed a new training course called, 'Safe Driving on Forest Roads' to address the unique hazards encountered when operating motor vehicles on forest roads.



New free custom webinar for public recreational users

135

COVID-19 resource documents (guidance, checklist, infographics)

Training packages purchased by third-party trainers

872

Views of webinar workshop video

## Safe use of machinery

Based on the results of the pulp and paper industry risk assessment, which identified inadequate or improper lockout as the top risk, WSN distributed infographics and information to its member firms, and scheduled a joint webinar in May 2021 with MLTSD to review findings.



## Ground control

Based on the results of the mining industry risk assessment, WSN undertook the following prevention activities for the top underground mining risk category: ground control.

- Enhance ground control audit
- Review of risk registry, risk ranking, and root cause analysis
- Engage industry Ground Control Technical Advisory Committee
- Respond to mine operations requesting ground control training, advice, and audits
- Update Ground Support manual for the supervisory common core course
- Review and disseminate to WSN staff Unusual Occurrence Reports of falls of ground and rockbursts

New OHS materials developed

9

Training sessions delivered

18

Firms consulted WSN

400 Total consultation hours

15

New online resource links to mining risk assessments and root cause analysis



## Workplace Mental health

Based on the effects of the pandemic on mental health in the workplace and at home, workplace mental health has moved to the forefront for Ontario workplace safety.

In May 2020, WSN launched a new Feed Your Brain lunch and learn free monthly webinar series, 'COVID-19 Conversations,' designed to help businesses and communities cope with changes caused by the pandemic.

Over the seven sessions, featuring guest speakers who were community and business leaders, WSN helped share experiences we were all going through, greatly helping people feel less alone and more in control, as evidenced by the large number of attendees more than a thousand—and the survey feedback they provided.

### 37

New OHS materials on COVID-19 and mental health

15,720

OHS material distributed via downloads, email, and pageviews

85%

Of attendees learned something new at 'COVID-19 Conversations' mental health webinars

### 86%

Average webinar rating as 'good' or 'excellent'

92%

Of attendees were likely or very likely to attend another 'COVID-19 Conversations' webinar



# Ontario Mine Rescue



### **Ontario Mine Rescue**

All underground mine operators are required to maintain a roster of actively trained mine rescue volunteers capable of responding in sufficient numbers across all working production shifts.





# Mine Emergency Incidents (2020)

During mining emergencies, 670 underground mining workers were trapped as part of refuge-in-place protocol, unable to evacuate the mine due to the emergency hazard.

#### Miners Forced to Take Refuge: 670

Of the 670 miners, eight were at the highest risk of exposure to the uncontrolled hazards of a mine fire, gas contamination or fall of ground situation.

#### Miners Requiring Evacuation: 8

Two mine workers were extricated by mine rescue teams from uncontrolled fall-of-ground (rock fall) entrapments after sustaining major life-threatening critical injuries.

#### **Trapped Miners Requiring Extrication: 2**

One miner succumbed to injuries sustained in a mining accident before mine rescue teams could complete their rescue operation to deliver the worker to advanced medical care.

Mining Fatalities Associated with Mine Rescue or Recovery Operations: 1

### 71

Firms participating in Health and Safety Excellence progre

263

Firms active in Safe Workplace Ontario program

60

Long-term care staff tested for proper mask fits

90,000

Participant Training Days: Prevention Services

5,823 Participant Training Days: Mine Rescue





**OHS Act and Industrial Regulations** 

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An online course

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# **Education Programs**

Based on COVID-19 restrictions for training, WSN staff worked quickly to adapt in-person training into a virtual format to meet the immediate needs of resource sector employers.

Instructor-led Virtual Training Programs

Staff trained on Zoom technology and new virtual training programs using a new team approach requiring both an instructor and a producer.

Advanced virtual training offerings increased from a handful to more than 25 programs by year-end.

Gained internal and external support for the high quality and effectiveness of WSN virtual training.

Maintained training program availability to meet client needs during pandemic restrictions and challenges.





# New and updated training material

In addition to its extensive training catalogue, WSN developed and introduced:

Full suite of Chief Prevention Office (CPO)-approved Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) virtual training including Part 1, Part 2 General, and Refresher – English.

**Expanded JHSC French-language programing** to include a full suite of CPO-approved training programs (JHSC Part 1, Part 2 General and Refresher).

CPO-approved JHSC Part 1 self-paced e-learning program.

Safe Driving on Forest Roads self-paced e-learning program.

**Transitioned full suite of WSN Mining Common Core training** programs to a virtual format.

Transitioned Mining Train-the-Trainer program to a virtual format.

Updated Working Safely with Propane video in English and French.



# Information Resources

### 302

New occupational health and safety materials developed

856,923

Occupational health and safety materials distributed

176,786

Video views

18 New videos

17,600 Total watch time hours





### Information Resources

233,580

Website sessions

481,348 Page views

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**134,599** 

Website user events: 75,783 downloads, 55,850 outbound links, and 2,966 emails

1,293

Top download Enhanced Safety Measures infographic

101,455

Views of top landing page: WSN homepage

### Connection

#### More than 2,400 people attended 15 virtual health and safety events.

WSN staff quickly pivoted to change annual mining health and safety conference to a virtual event; and hosted a year-long COVID-19 Conversations webinar series that helped us connect and share our unique experiences during the pandemic.



### **EVERY WORKER**

Health and safety news to bring every worker home safe and healthy



Workplace safety infographics provide COVID-19 prevention guidance Plus new checklist, and French and English guidance documents to help protect forestry and mining workers

Ontario health and safety associations, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, released sector-specific guidance...

2,412 Participants attending 15 online events

20,649

Total number of newsletter and social media followers

92%

Would attend another 'COVID'-19 Conversations event

125

Earned media stories promoting safer workplaces

14%

Online audience growth rate

Read more
## Governance and Industry Advisors

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### Industry Advisory Committees

April 2020-March 2021

Helping make Ontario workplaces safer

WSN Advisory Committees are made of up industry volunteers who meet quarterly to discuss industry issues and provide guidance on WSN programming and resource material.

Board and committee volunteers help WSN fulfill its safety mandate and maintain closeness and familiarity with the day-to-day realities of Ontario resource industries.

Companies participate in WSN-sponsored research, planning, and events – all of which have helped to build solid working relationships with industry. This collaborative approach helps increase awareness, knowledge and consistency with regards to the occupational health and safety needs of Ontario.

### Forest Products Advisory Committee

Mark Lovell (Chair) Manager, Health, Safety and Environment Jones Packaging, London

**David Berry** (Vice-Chair) Human Resources Manager Resolute Forest Products, Thunder Bay

**John Bell** Regional Health and Safety Coordinator – Ontario EACOM Timber Corporation, Timmins

Jenanne Graham Manager, Health, Safety and Environment Jones Healthcare Group, London

Marilyn Findlay Health and Safety Manager Domtar, Dryden

**Mike Fitzpatrick** Multi-Plant Health and Safety Cascades Containerboard Packaging, Vaughan

Jesse Kydd Senior Environment, Health and Safety Specialist RYAM Lumber, Cochrane Jocelyn Lagacé

Health and Safety, and Loss Prevention Manager EACOM Timber Corporation

**Stewart Taylor** Health and Safety Manager Graphic Packaging International, Cobourg

Mark Tranter Corporate Health and Safety Coordinator Atlantic Packaging Products, Scarborough

#### Provincial Forestry Tripartite Committee

WSN participates in an industry-led Provincial Forestry Tripartite Committee which plays an integral role in development of Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) modular training programs for the forestry industry.

### Mining Advisory Committee

**Dennis Sobey** (Chair) Manager, Health and Safety Kirkland Lake Gold, Cochrane

**Clare Foladore** (Vice-Chair) Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator Vale – Exploration, Sudbury

**Chris Bamberger** Manager, Operations, TL3 Mine Cut and Fill Manitoba Operations, Vale

**Michael Ferguson** Engineering Manager - Capital Equipment Boart Longyear, North Bay

**Mike Huard** Mill Operator-President of USW Local 7580, Newmont, Porcupine Gold Mine - Timmins

Dan Laing Project Manager, Mining Sector Stantec, Sudbury

**Don Langlois** Manager Health, North Atlantic Operations Vale, Sudbury Louise Lowe Executive Director Canadian Diamond Drillers Association, North Bay

**Darren Toner** Health, Safety and Environment Manager Vale, Sudbury

**Gonçalo Valentim** Production Worker Creighton Mine, Vale, Sudbury

**Steve Wrixon** General Manager Health and Safety Cementation Canada Inc., North Bay

The WSN Mining Advisory Committee also oversees four Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) made up of volunteers from the mining industry: ground control, mobile equipment, workplace environment, and mine rescue. TACs also help spearhead research partnerships with universities. Thank you to the many volunteers and your sponsoring organizations – your contributions are critical to advancing health and safety.

### **Ontario Mine Rescue Technical Advisory Committee**

Iain McKillip (Chair)

Timmins District Industry Representative Glencore Kidd Operations

#### Andre Lefebvre (Vice Chair)

Active Mine Rescue Volunteers' Representative Glencore, Sudbury INO, Fraser Mine

#### **Jim Ahrens**

Southern District Industry Representative Compass Minerals, Goderich Mine

#### **Brad Bastien**

Onaping District Industry Representative Glencore Sudbury INO, Fraser Mine

#### Norm Begin

Alamos Gold, Island Gold Mine Algoma District Industry Representative

#### Shaun Carter

Government MLTSD Representative Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

#### Dan Demers

Kirkland Lake District Industry Representative Alamos Gold, Young Davidson Mine **Ted Hanley** V.P. Mine Rescue and Emergency Services

**Greg MacMillan** Sudbury District Industry Representative Vale Canada, Creighton Mine

Jamie Mortson Industry Representative McIntyre and Associates Ontario Mine Contractors Safety Association

Ron Ouellette Red Lake District Industry Representative PureGold Mining, Madsen Gold Mine

Gord Paddock Thunder Bay District Industry Representative Impala Canada, Lac des Iles Mine

Shawn Rideout Ontario Mine Rescue Chief Rescue Officer

Shawn Shail Mine Rescue Officer Representative

### **Board of Directors**

Sandra Haddad (Chair) Haddad and Associates , Sudbury

#### Lydia Renton BSc CIH ROH FAIHA (Vice-Chair)

Director – Corporate Occupational Hygiene and Safety BluMetric Environmental , Ottawa

John Benoit BA CRSP-NP Northern Representative-Retired Sudbury

**Tim Bremner** President Foraco International , North Bay

**Gaëtan Carrier** Health and Safety Worker's Representative Ryan Mill, Hearst

Marilyn Findlay CRSP Health and Safety Manager Domtar Pulp, Dryden

Marshall Greensides CRSP Plant Manager Cascades Containerboard Packaging, Burlington **Clyde Healey** BA CHRP Northern Representative-Retired, Sault Ste. Marie

**David Kelly** Underground Maintenance Mechanic and Mine Rescue Volunteer Compass Minerals, Goderich

**Normand Lavallee** FCPA, FCA, FCMA, C.Dir. Associate Vice President, Financial Services Laurentian University, Sudbury

John O'Brien B.Admin CRSP JOB Training and Development, Thunder Bay

Andrew Tempelman BSc Process Technician

## Staff Highlights

GOAL 1: RGET NG THE AREAS OF GREATEST NEED

GOAL 2: HANCING SERVICE DELIVERY

THE VOICE FOR WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

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## Staff Service Loyalty Milestones

**1 Year** Christa Joseph Judit Nelson Nadine Trodel

### 5 Years

Megan Johnson Mike Krell Jason Leger Mike Parent Shawn Rideout Allison Roy Dan Rulli Cindy Schiewek Shawn Shail

### 10 Years

Robert Marin

### 15 Years

Lorraine Champagne Brant Schewe Kelly Ann Smith Michelline Souter

40 Years

Cindy Trnka

## Healthy Workplace

In 2022, WSN received the Platinum Canada Award of Excellence from Excellence Canada in the Healthy Workplace category. This level builds on the achievements and outcomes from the previous three levels with a focus on establishing sustainable practices.

### Wellness Wednesdays

A 'Wellness Wednesdays' series was offered to staff throughout the pandemic, and included sessions on yoga, cooking, financial and retirement planning, true colours, resilience, gardening, coping with pandemic-related stress, well-being, plus a meditation series.

### 2020 Employersupported volunteer hours

Seventeen WSN staff contributed 126.5 employer-supported hours toward helping those in need and community causes important to them, including delivery of Meals on Wheels, membership on professional Boards, and helping with youth recreational events and environmental initiatives.

### SAFETY CONVERSATIONS SHOULD BE THIS NATURAL

Workplace Safety Nort

# Strategic Directions

The strategic plan builds on WSN strengths in three intersecting themes for impact: sector focus, system collaboration, and digital optimization.

View Workplace Safety North Strategic Plan



Sector Focus

System Collaboration

**Digital Optimization** 



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