

WSN Mining Advisory Committee

Date & Time: Thursday, November 27, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Member	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Michael Ferguson (Chair)	Prospectors & Developers
Steve Wrixon (Vice Chair) *proxy Jorge Bedoya	Ontario Mine Contractors Safety Association
Chris Bamberger	Contractors
Don Langlois	Alamos Gold
Rob McVeigh	Softrock
Tyler Neeley	Hardrock
Louise Lowe	Diamond Drilling
Kevin Watson	Ontario Mining Association

ABSENT:

Tom Rannelli	Underground Drilling
--------------	----------------------

GUESTS: (CIM), (CIM), (MLITSD), Shawn Rideout (OMR)

Member	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Jason Belanger	CIM
Nelson Bodnarchuk	CIM
Glenn Lyle	CIM
Scott Secord	MLITSD

WSN:

Lindsay Digby, Manager, Health and Safety Services
Tiana Larocque, Manager, Education Services
Shawn Rideout, Chief Mine Rescue Officer
Cindy Schiewek, Executive Director, Health and Safety Services
Tricia Valentim, Client Outreach Advisor

1. Welcome and Safety Share

Battery Fire Risks (9V and Button Cell Batteries)

9V batteries can ignite if the anode and cathode come into contact with metal objects.

Recommended controls:

- Cover terminals with electrical tape
- Use protective connectors
- Store batteries so they cannot touch conductive surfaces
- Button/watch batteries present similar short-circuit risks and should be handled and stored with the same precautions.

Seasonal Slips, Trips, and Falls

Increased risk as icy conditions begin.

Reminders:

- Avoid complacency,
- proactively sand icy areas,
- Wear proper footwear with traction aids,
- Use three-point contact on stairs and railings.

BEV (Battery Electric Vehicle) Safety in Underground Mines

- Proper storage and transport procedures for BEV batteries are essential.
- Sites should maintain a clear plan for managing battery-related fire events, including thermal runaway scenarios.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

Approved

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minute

Approved

4. Serious Injury and Fatality Prevention Presentation:

Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM)

Guest Speakers: Jason Belanger, Nelson Bodnarchuk

Nelson Bodnarchuk, Jason Belanger, Kevin Watson, and Glenn Lyle provided a comprehensive update on the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) *Health and Safety Society's Fatality Prevention Initiative*, detailing the development of a centralized fatality database, industry partnerships, funding strategies, and plans for sustainable data collection and sharing.

Project Background and Motivation: Nelson Bodnarchuk explained the origins of the Fatality Prevention Initiative, highlighting the industry's progress in reducing injuries but persistent challenges with serious injury and fatalities. The initiative was motivated by the need to learn from past incidents and improve critical controls, with the Health and Safety Society at CIM raising funds and forming a volunteer leadership team to address these issues.

Database Development and Partnerships: The team described the creation of a centralized fatality database, starting with Canadian mining companies and aiming for industry-wide coverage. They outlined the process of selecting Internology as the vendor, negotiating contracts, and securing support from CIM Council and industry partners such as ICMM, with ongoing discussions about data privacy and usage agreements.

Sustainability and Funding Model: The team detailed the strategy for long-term sustainability, including self-funding through CIM membership fees, industry donations, and a multi-year contract with Internology to manage the platform. The initiative aims to hire dedicated staff for data management and ensure continuous data collection to keep the database relevant and valuable.

Bowtie Methodology and Industry Best Practices: It emphasized the importance of sharing bowtie analyses across companies to establish best practices and improve incident prevention. Cindy Schiewek confirmed that WSN is transitioning to bowtie methodology, moving away from traditional root cause analysis, and expressed support for the initiative.

Industry Survey and Stakeholder Engagement: The team announced an industry-wide survey led by Dr. Emily Tetzlaff to assess the alignment of the database with industry needs and gather feedback on data sharing concerns. Committee members were encouraged to distribute the survey and participate in future collaboration opportunities as they seek input from frontline Health & Safety professionals.

Special Request: Request that everyone shares and invite individuals in health and safety to take 10–15 minutes to complete this confidential survey. Responses will help to:

- Understand the challenges faced by accessing or sharing serious incident data
- Identify features and formats that would make the database truly useful
- Learn from what is working in other countries or industries
- Build trust and shared value in this cross-industry initiative

Why it matters:

This initiative aims to support your work, improve safety performance across the sector, and help achieve our shared goal of Zero Harm—where no lives are lost or changed due to preventable workplace incidents.

Link to survey: [Help Shape a National Database to Prevent Serious Injuries and Fatalities in Mining \(Page 1 of 12\)](#)

5. Ontario Mine Rescue Update – Shawn Rideout, Chief Mine Rescue Officer

Equipment Deployment: Shawn reported that Ontario Mine Rescue completed the province-wide deployment of MSA G1 SCBA units, replacing outdated SSR 90 units. Each mine site now has four units for underground and surface rescue operations, with custom bags for ease of transport and use.

Medical Assessment Revision: A new medical assessment for mine rescue volunteers was developed in collaboration with medical professionals, led by Dr. Perpic. The assessment includes updated physical testing, a comprehensive questionnaire, including a new drug and alcohol screening to identify dependency issues that could affect rescue operations.

Psychological Health and Crisis Management: Shawn explained ongoing efforts to address psychological health, including critical incident stress training and the development of a tiered support system for volunteers. Brianna Brohm is a WSN employee and Laurentian University student working her Master's project on critical incident stress with OMR, this project and future policies will formalize access to mental health resources.

Interprovincial Interest and Standardization: Since the rollout of the new medical assessment, Shawn noted outreach from companies in Manitoba and BC interested in adopting the Ontario standard, indicating broader industry impact and willingness to share resources.

6. MLITSD Update Guest Speaker – Scott Secord

Scott Secord from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) presented mining sector safety data, including critical injuries, fatalities, occupational illnesses, and fire incidents, and outlined current and upcoming ministry campaigns. Presentation slide deck was shared.

Critical Injury and Fatality Statistics: Data showing a steady increase in critical injuries, with underground mines and surface plants being the most affected. The leading cause of critical injuries is slips, trips, and falls, followed by loss of consciousness, with one fatality reported in 2025 due to a pressurized airline incident.

Occupational Illness Trends: Noise-induced hearing loss and hand-arm vibration syndrome were identified as the most common occupational illnesses, with ministry ergonomists conducting campaigns to address these issues in mining workplaces.

Fire Incident Analysis: The ministry recorded 90 fires in the first half of the year, with 43 involving mobile equipment, primarily diesel vehicles. Clarified that most BEV fires were traditional electrical fires rather than thermal runaway events, emphasizing the importance of maintenance and pre-operational checks.

Safety Campaigns and Future Focus: The main campaign for the year targeted slips, trips, and falls, with over 325 workplaces visited. The upcoming campaign will focus on energy isolation and lock/tag out procedures, with plans for webinars and information sessions in partnership with WSN.

7. Review of Action Items and Recommendations (Tracker)

- Note around the Advisory Committee Terms of Reference which has been refreshed from WSN and will send them out to the Chairs of the committee for review and input into next steps.
- Review of the committee's action tracker, discussing the project status updates: The traffic management tool project remains on hold pending review of OMA survey results. Professional development activities, including suicide prevention training and course auditing, are scheduled for future discussion, with Tiana and Lindsay providing updates on survey distribution and feedback collection.
- Kevin Watson was welcomed as a new committee member, and there was discussion around recruitment in new members with a highlight on seeking a worker representative. Members were encouraged to forward candidate names to Tricia for consideration.
- **Random Testing Program Update:** Follow up with Vale to provide an update on the implementation and results of the random testing program once it has started. (Don)

8. Professional Development Activity Follow Up Discussion

a) Mental Health Survey Follow Up

If you took the course in October and have not received it yet, please check your Inbox and Junk files for it as it was sent out on November 5, 2025.

b) Future professional development opportunity

- eLearning courses (Tiana follow up)

Tiana will be listing all the courses available and it will go out in correspondence with the committee in the new future now that the courses have been placed on the site.

9. Annual Commitments & Project Follow Up

COMMITMENTS

- a. Members will audit a minimum of one training program per year
- b. Leverage TAC feedback through participation at meetings
- c. Active promotion of available (but under-utilized) WSN resources
- d. Providing ongoing feedback on products, themes of focus, and solutions through surveys throughout the development process
- e. Share insights into themes of focus (e.g. technological advancements) to be elaborated on at WSN events

PROJECT

Mobile Equipment Interaction Program: Provide input on development, review feedback, and support follow-up communications; include items in committee survey. Tiana will be communicating with future needs in the new year.

10. WSN Update

- a) Marketing/Communications & Education Services Department Update – Tiana Larocque (presentation slides attached)
 - i. **Website Usability and Resource Access:** Committee members participated in a scavenger hunt to test the WSN website's usability, providing feedback on search functionality and resource navigation. Suggestions included improving the search bar and consolidating resources for easier access, with plans for a future advisory committee hub in SharePoint.
 - ii. **Compressed Supervisor Common Core Launch:** WSN will launch accelerated Supervisor Common Core programs in April, offering generic, underground hard rock, and underground soft rock modules. Monthly sessions will be available in Sudbury and Timmins, with quarterly offerings in Thunder Bay, and participants will receive branded miner's lunch boxes as part of the program.
 - iii. **Mental Health Training Modules:** WSN is integrating two IHSA-developed mental health courses into its learning management system: a three-hour module on suicide prevention and a 20-minute micro-learning module on occupational mental health.
Action (Tiana): Committee members will receive access and are encouraged to provide feedback (as per previous update under Commitments).
 - iv. **Mining Compliance Pulse Check Resources:** WSN released the first Mining Compliance Pulse Check, a quarterly resource summarizing top compliance orders from MLITSD and providing self-assessment tools and best practices. The next installment will focus on slips, trips, and falls and will be available in January.

- v. **Course Auditing and E-Learning Expansion:** WSN will expand its e-learning portfolio and provide committee members with coupon codes to audit both in-person and online courses. A list of priority courses for review will be distributed, and feedback will be used to enhance training offerings.
- vi. Agenda 2026: Data on enrollment numbers (Tiana)

11. Health and Safety Information Exchange/Sector Update

CDDA Update: The Bring it to the Surface Program is proud to announce that the Ontario Mining Association will now be powering the program. More information on the Partnership in 2026.

Seasonal Safety Reminders: Members highlighted the risks associated with holiday travel, icy conditions, and increased stress, urging colleagues to prioritize safety, avoid impaired driving, and take extra precautions both at work and home.

Personal Safety Experiences: Several participants shared personal stories of injuries and near-misses related to slips, trips, and falls, reinforcing the need for vigilance and proactive hazard management.

12. Next Meeting: Need to confirm 2026 dates

A Doodlepoll will go out with dates and times for quarterly Mining Advisory Committee meetings. January will have the invites go out for the full year to book in calendars ahead of time.

13. Adjournment