



# Meeting Minutes

## WSN Sector Advisory Committee – Forestry, Paper, Printing, Converting

Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Location: Virtual

Attended	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Scotia Biloski	Logging
Dana Greenly	Corrugating
Jesse Kydd (Chair)	Sawmills, Veneer Plywood, and Wood Preservation
Robin McCullough	Silviculture
Victor McKee	Logging
Christina Merrett	Sawmill
Stewart Taylor (Vice-Chair)	Folding Cartons

Regrets	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Jenanne Graham	Folding Cartons and Paper Products

Guest	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Doug Cettina	Industrial Program Provincial Specialist, MLITSD

WSN	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Adrienne Allam	Manager, Health and Safety Services (Northwest Team)
Steve Gore	Industrial Hygiene Specialist
Tiana Larocque	Manager, Integrated Solutions
Harley Pettit	Health and Safety Specialist
Tricia Valentim	Client Outreach Advisor
Lindsay Digby	Manager, Health and Safety Services (Central South Team)

### 1. Welcome and Safety Share – Chair

Introductions and welcome

### 2. Review and Approval of Agenda – Chair

Approved

**Provision of Missing Meeting Materials:** Forward the information and links regarding the benefits of stretching and managing workplace stretch to the committee when sending out meeting materials.

(Tricia)

### 3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minute- Chair

Approved

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## 4. **Presentation:** FP Innovations Projects – Mithun Shetty

Mithun Shetty from FPInnovations presented recent research and safety initiatives relevant to forestry, pulp and paper, and converting sectors, including autonomous trucking, load securement, fatigue management, wildfire risk, and sawmill dust safety.

- **Autonomous Trucking and Load Securement:** Mithun detailed ongoing projects in autonomous trucking and platooning, including pilot corridors in Alberta, Quebec, and Ontario, and described collaborative research on automated load securement technologies to reduce musculoskeletal injuries, with both Victor McKee and Christina Merrett expressing interest in participating in pilot programs.
- **Fatigue Management and ELD Certification:** FPInnovations is involved in certifying electronic logging devices (ELDs) and evaluating fatigue management tools for forestry transportation, aiming to reduce operator fatigue and improve safety, with ongoing studies in partnership with industry and safety councils.
- **Wildfire Risk and Sawmill Dust Safety:** Research on wildfire risk includes early detection technologies and operational guidance for worker safety during fire seasons, while sawmill safety initiatives focus on combustible dust hazard analysis, dust collection system design, and explosion prevention, with findings shared through webinars and technical guides.
- **Cross-Sector Collaboration and Knowledge Transfer:** Mithun emphasized FPInnovations' role in bridging research and industry practice, offering to connect Ontario stakeholders with subject matter experts and highlighting opportunities for collaboration on emerging safety technologies, standards, and sector-specific challenges.

## 5. **MLITSD Update** – Doug Cettina, Industrial Program Provincial Specialist, MLITSD

Doug from the Ministry of Labour provided an in-depth overview of the upcoming 2026-2027 provincial health and safety campaigns, highlighting a shift from hazard-based to sector-based focus on farming, education, and retail, and discussed the rationale, expected outcomes, and the role of regional initiatives.

- **Campaign Focus Shift:** Doug explained that the Ministry of Labour is moving from hazard-based campaigns to sector-based campaigns for 2026-2027, focusing on farming, education, and retail due to high incidents and fatality rates in these sectors. The rationale is to address unique risks and under-serviced workplaces, such as temporary foreign workers in farming and non-traditional educational institutions.
- **Regional Initiatives:** Doug described how, in addition to provincial campaigns, regional offices can initiate their own targeted safety initiatives based on local needs, such as previous

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campaigns on wood dust in sawmills and ice arena safety, emphasizing the importance of local context and responsiveness.

- **Stakeholder Engagement and Resources:** The Ministry collaborates with health and safety system partners like WSN, PSHSA, and WSPS to provide resources and support to workplaces affected by campaigns, including free consulting for workplaces that receive ministry orders, and ensures that campaign information and results are disseminated through webinars and online resources.
- **Committee Input and Data Sharing:** Doug solicited feedback from the advisory committee on what information and reporting would be most valuable, such as injury trends, young worker data, and legislative updates, and committed to tailoring future ministry presentations to the committee's needs, with Tricia coordinating the collection of committee input.

## 6. WSN Update

### a. WSN Industrial Hygiene Project Review Year 1 - Steve Gore

WSN presented the results and future plans for the WSN industrial hygiene project, funded by WSIB, which aims to improve hazard awareness and assessment skills in forestry and mining through new e-learning modules, regional workshops, and hands-on training.

- **Project Outcomes and Training Modules:** Steve reported that in year one, the project trained 21 participants across forestry and mining, developed five core courses (industrial hygiene fundamentals, diesel particulate, noise, silica, wood dust), and demonstrated measurable improvements in hazard recognition and self-efficacy among participants.
- **Exposure Findings and Risk Assessment:** Data collected during site visits showed high rates of overexposure to wood dust and noise, underscoring the need for improved controls and the importance of training workers to recognize and mitigate these hazards, with ongoing support for organizations to implement sampling and risk reduction strategies.
- **Year Two Plans and Access:** For the upcoming year, WSN will launch e-learning modules (free to Ontario workers), host regional workshops in Sudbury and Thunder Bay, and select up to 10 organizations for advanced hands-on support, with registration prioritized for high-risk workplaces and broad encouragement for committee members to share the opportunity.
- **Legislative Updates and Technical Clarifications:** Steve clarified current occupational exposure limits for wood dust and discussed the rationale for possible changes, as well as the legal obligations for employers to provide respiratory protection when overexposures are identified, responding to questions from Jesse Kydd.

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## b. Integrated Solutions Department Update – Tiana Larocque

- **Data on Enrollment Numbers:** An update on WSN’s integrated solutions, including new and upcoming e-learning offerings, resource development initiatives, and plans for sector-specific tools and events, with committee input on critical injury reporting and musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) resources.
- **E-Learning Offerings and Development:** Tiana highlighted current and forthcoming e-learning modules covering topics such as industrial hygiene, mental health, fit for duty, legislative updates, and sector-specific hazards, with advisory committee members encouraged to participate, provide feedback, and share access codes for free registration.
- **Resource and Event Planning:** WSN is piloting interactive hazard alerts and safety talks, developing compliance pulse checks based on ministry orders, and planning events such as a small business health and safety session in North Bay and an MSD awareness webinar, with Dana contributing to content development.
- **Critical Injury and SIF Reporting:** In response to Christina’s question, Tiana agreed to incorporate new research on serious injury and fatality (SIF) prevention into upcoming critical injury resources, ensuring alignment with current data and committee priorities.

## c. WSN Update – Adrienne Allam

Adrienne Allam presented an overview of WSN’s team structure, recent staffing changes, consulting services, and outreach activities, including the impact of no-fee training for forestry firms and the range of support available to clients.

- **Team Structure and New Hires:** Adrienne introduced new team members, including Harley Pettit, and described the regional distribution of specialists supporting forestry, mining, and related sectors, as well as recent retirements and management changes.
- **Consulting and Training Services:** WSN offers a variety of consulting services such as emergency response team training, guarding audits, Safe Workplace Ontario program support, and supervisor coaching, with committee members sharing positive experiences and encouraging broader awareness of these offerings.
- **No-Fee Training Initiative:** A no-fee training program for forestry firms ran from January to March 2026, resulting in significant uptake; the management team will review the possibility of extending or modifying the initiative based on sector needs and feedback from members.

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- **Event Participation and Outreach:** WSN staff are participating in various industry conferences and expos and are available to present at contractor safety meetings or other events, with Tricia actively engaging in client outreach and sector-specific activities.

## 7. Review of Action Items and Recommendations (Tracker) – Chair

Review of ongoing committee action items, including professional development suggestions, course auditing, recruitment for advisory committee representation, event notifications, and the development of a SharePoint-based resource hub.

- **Recruitment and Representation:** Efforts are ongoing to recruit worker representatives from underrepresented sectors such as logging, silviculture, transportation, and wood products manufacturing, outlining current gaps and inviting referrals.
- **Safe Driving on Forest Roads and Cross-Committee Collaboration:** The committee agreed to revive the Safe Driving on Forest Roads Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), with Robin C. McCullough volunteering as liaison and Tricia coordinating next steps for subcommittee work and cross-committee collaboration.

## 8. Review of Advisory Committee HUB – Tricia Valentim and Tiana Larocque

**Resource Hub and Event Calendar:** A SharePoint-based resource hub has been launched to centralize meeting materials, committee documents, and an event calendar, with committee members granted read-write access and invited to contribute resources and feedback.

**Sharing of Meeting Minutes and Terms of Reference:** Include the newly approved terms of reference in the meeting minutes and upload them to the SharePoint hub for committee access. (Tricia)

## 9. Professional Development Activity Discussion

- a. Future professional development opportunity – eLearning - Tiana Larocque

**Professional Development Suggestions:** The committee discussed future training needs, such as mental health, conflict management, and the application of AI in health and safety, with Dana and Stewart noting both opportunities and organizational challenges related to AI adoption.

- b. Open discussion around audited training program – Chair

**Course Auditing and Feedback:** Members were encouraged to audit WSN courses, provide feedback, and share e-learning opportunities within their organizations, with Tricia and Tiana facilitating access and tracking participation.

## 10. Health and Safety Information Exchange/Sector Update - Chair

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**Sector Updates and Information Exchange:** During the roundtable, updates were shared on training access challenges, sector economic conditions, and a new psychosocial risk assessment research project for tree planters in BC.

- **Training Access and Fee Relief:** Inquired about extending the no-fee training period due to scheduling constraints, and Adrienne confirmed that WSN management will review the initiative and communicate any changes to the sector.
- **Psychosocial Risk Research:** Robin C. McCullough described a new research project funded by WorkSafe BC to assess psychosocial risks among tree planters, involving Ontario-based researchers and fieldwork in BC, with implications for worker support and sector collaboration.

## 11. Next Meeting: June 11, 2026 – HOST SITE REQUEST (Date can change if needed)- Chair

Please let Tricia know if you are interested in hosting the next meeting. The date can change according to your schedule. As a thought, if we have not heard back can we change the date, I would love to attend but am otherwise committed.

## 12. Adjournment - Chair