



Agenda

WSN Mining Advisory Committee

Date & Time: Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Member	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Michael Ferguson (Chair)	Prospectors & Developers
Steve Wrixon (Vice Chair)	Ontario Mine Contractors Safety Association
Chris Bamberger	Contractors
Don Langlois	Alamos Gold
Rob McVeigh	Softrock
Tyler Neeley	Hardrock

Regrets:

Member	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Louise Lowe	Diamond Drilling
Kevin Watson	Ontario Mining Association

Guests:

Member	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Scott Secord	Provincial Mining Specialist, MLITSD
Michel Levesque	Boart Longyear – Prospectors & Developers

WSN:

Member	WSN Role
Lindsay Digby	Manager, Health and Safety Services
Steve Gore	Industrial Hygiene Specialist
Tiana Larocque	Manager, Education Services
Tricia Valentim	Client Outreach Advisor

1. Welcome and Safety Share – Chair

Incident with Melted Plug and Safety Improvements: Incident was shared involving a melted plug that led to a fire, prompting the manufacturer to switch to silicone plugs during painting and steel plugs for shipping. Discussion on alternative solutions and contamination concerns took place.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda – Chair

Approved

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minute- Chair

Approved

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4. Presentation: FICOMM Sentry AI V4 Safety System Presentation

AI system designed to enhance safety around rotating drill steel and conveyor belting areas - Peter Burrell (Roc-tech), Derek Buchanan, and Nick St. Jacques from FICOMM, presented and discussed the Sentry AI V4 safety system, covering its development, technical features, applications, certification, and responses to participant questions about its use in mining environments.

- **System Overview and Development History:** Peter Burrell introduced the Sentry AI V4 system, explaining its evolution through four versions and its origins in response to the need for improved guarding around rotating equipment in mining. The system was developed in collaboration with Bort and other mining companies to address safety and production efficiency.
- **Technical Features and Operation:** The Sentry AI V4 uses dual cameras, including thermal imaging, to detect human presence in hazardous zones. It records video for incident reviews, creates configurable safety zones, and cannot be reset if a person is detected within the protected area. The system interfaces with machine hydraulics or air solenoids to stop equipment when necessary.
- **Applications and Case Studies:** The system has been implemented on various equipment, including shotcrete machines, drills, and conveyors, with successful deployments at sites such as Newmont, Discovery Silver, and Compass Minerals. The presentation included examples of how the system adapts to different machine types and environments.
- **Certification and Compliance:** Peter Burrell explained that the Sentry AI V4 is certified to Performance Level D, Category 3, and SIL 2 CL, following CSA and ISO standards as required by the Ministry of Labour. Installation requires a risk assessment and engineered integration with safety relays.
- **Q&A: Environmental and Power Considerations:** Participants asked about the system's performance in dusty environments and explosive atmospheres. Peter clarified that thermal imaging is used to see through dust, but the system is not intrinsically safe for explosive atmospheres. For equipment without electrical power, air-driven alternators can be used to supply power.
- **Q&A: AI Certification and Bypass Procedures:** Michael inquired about AI certification, and Peter explained that while AI-specific standards are not yet established, the system's coding and physical testing are documented for compliance. A supervisor-held key allows bypassing the system if conditions prevent operation, with visual indicators for safety personnel.

5. Ministry of Labour Mining Sector Updates – Scott Secord, Provincial Mining Specialist, MLITSD

Scott Secord from the Ministry of Labour provided a comprehensive update on mining sector safety data, recent incidents, compliance campaigns, and upcoming regulatory focus areas, with discussion and questions from committee members.

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- **Sector Safety Data and Trends:** Scott presented data on critical injuries and fatalities in the mining sector, noting a plateau in critical incidents and a fluctuating but low number of fatalities. He highlighted that most critical injuries occur in underground mines, with an increasing trend in surface mining plants.
- **Recent Fatalities and Compliance Campaigns:** A recent fatality involving a pressurized airline was discussed, which has influenced the focus of upcoming compliance campaigns on energy isolation and lockout/tagout procedures. The ministry is collaborating with WSN to prepare educational materials for these initiatives.
- **Injury Mechanisms and Demographics:** Slips, trips, and falls were identified as the leading cause of critical injuries, often resulting from minor elevation changes or weather conditions. Most fatalities occur among workers aged 45–65, with young worker fatalities being less common.
- **Lost Time Injury Rates and WSIB Data:** Scott reported a significant decrease in lost time injury frequency rates, attributing this to improved safety efforts and possibly changes in WSIB claim acceptance practices. It was noted by committee members that WSIB's stricter claim review may also contribute to the trend.
- **Fire, Hoisting, and Electrical Incident Reports:** The update included statistics on reported fires (notably in mobile equipment), hoisting events, and electrical incidents. Most mobile equipment fires originated in engine compartments, and electrical incidents included arc flashes and power line contacts.
- **Discussion on Data Interpretation and Future Presentations:** Committee members discussed the relationship between critical injuries and lost time claims, and Scott suggested inviting WSIB representatives to future meetings for further clarification on data and reporting practices.

6. WSN Update

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

WSN presented the results and future plans for the WSIB-funded industrial hygiene research project, discussed e-learning module development, and addressed participant questions about data collection, program scalability, and the new Ontario Occupational Exposure Registry.

- Project Overview and Rationale:** Steve Gore explained the project's goal is to address the shortage of qualified industrial hygienists in Ontario's natural resource sectors by developing a scalable competency framework and training programs, with third-party evaluation of research done by the Institute for Work and Health.
- Year One Results and Lessons Learned:** In the first year, 10 organizations participated, with measurable improvements in knowledge and self-efficacy among trainees. Challenges included high

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participant turnover, geographic barriers, and the need for more scalable training and delivery methods.

- iii. **Year Two Improvements and E-Learning Expansion:** For the second year, WSN is launching standardized e-learning modules to increase accessibility and reach, followed by hands-on workshops and site-based mentoring for selected organizations. The program aims to engage more participants and streamline data collection.
- iv. **Data Collection and Program Evaluation:** The project uses pre- and post-training assessments, surveys, and site visits to measure knowledge gains, self-efficacy, and the effectiveness of implemented controls. Feedback from participants is used to refine training materials and processes.
- v. **Discussion on Occupational Exposure Registry:** The new Ontario Occupational Exposure Registry was discussed, clarifying that it is a voluntary tool for workers to track their own exposures and is not a legislative requirement for employers. MLITSD confirmed that employer reporting obligations remain unchanged.

b. Integrated Solutions Department Update – Tiana Larocque

i) Agenda 2026: Data on enrollment numbers (Tiana)

WSN presented data on course registrations, highlighting mining-oriented programs and discussing the process for committee members to audit courses and provide feedback. The group discussed class size thresholds, course viability, and the importance of fiscal responsibility.

c. WSN Update – Lindsay Digby

- i. **Course Delivery and Cancellation Policies:** WSN explained that course cancellation decisions depend on enrollment, location, and client needs, with efforts made to avoid cancellations and maintain reliability for sector-based clients. It was noted that funding is tied to key performance indicators, influencing program delivery.
- ii. **Product Development and Upcoming Offerings:** The team outlined ongoing and upcoming training program updates, including new e-learning modules, mental health series, and revisions to existing courses such as Working at Heights and Mining Train-the-Trainer, with opportunities for committee members to participate as subject matter experts.

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

- a. **Action Item Review and Follow-Up:** The committee reviewed outstanding action items, including auditing WSN courses, promoting underutilized resources, and providing feedback on program development. Members were encouraged to participate in surveys and share insights on technological advancements.

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- b. Membership Recruitment and Leadership Changes:** Steve Wrixon will be stepping down as Vice-Chair as he is leaving his current employer and position and moving into a new career position. Michael will be stepping down as Chair as he has completed his tenure. The committee discussed outreach strategies for filling these roles and other vacancies, including worker representative positions. Tricia outlined the nomination and selection process.
- c. Annual Evaluation and Feedback:** Tricia announced that an annual evaluation link would be sent to members, encouraging open and honest feedback to guide committee improvements and better serve the sector.

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

Advisory Committee Hub Introduction: WSN introduced a new SharePoint-based advisory committee hub, designed to centralize meeting resources, training calendars, and event information, and solicited feedback from members to improve its usefulness and functionality.

9. Professional Development Activity Discussion

- a. Future professional development opportunity – eLearning - Tiana Larocque
- b. Open discussion around audited training program – Chair

10. 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. Tiana will be communicating with future needs in the new year.

11. Health and Safety Information Exchange/Sector Update – Chair

Health and Safety Information Exchange and Member Updates: Committee members shared updates on industry trends, technology adoption, leadership development, and organizational challenges, with a focus on the evolution of safety systems and workforce training.



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- a. **Technology Evolution and Industry Needs:** Members discussed the rapid advancement of AI-based safety systems, the importance of proximity detection, and the need for ongoing education on new equipment features and automation in mining.
- b. **Leadership and Workforce Development:** Members emphasized the growing importance of leadership training and succession planning, and highlighted efforts to improve knowledge retention and reduce reliance on single individuals for critical safety roles.

12. Next Meeting: June 3, 2026 – HOST SITE REQUEST – Chair

13. Adjournment - Chair