

WSN Mining Advisory Committee

Date & Time Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 9:00 am

Location: Di-Corp - 35 Voodoo Crescent, North Bay, Ontario, Canada P1C 0B8
PPE Requirements: safety boots, eye and ear protection and high viz vest.

Lunch & Meeting: Boart Longyear Office – 1111 Main St W., North Bay, Ontario
PPE Requirements: safety boots, eye and ear protection and high viz vest.

Virtual Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/287975308312607?p=rO3pUIzd5WJ8uLRmP>

Member	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Michael Ferguson (Chair)	Prospectors & Developers
Jorge Bedoya	Ontario Mine Contractors Safety Association
Chris Bamberger	Contractors
Don Langlois (Vice-Chair)	Alamos Gold
Mitch Levesque	Prospectors & Developers
Louise Lowe	Diamond Drilling
Tyler Neeley	Hardrock

GUESTS:

Member	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Natalie Gilbert	Technica Training Coordinator

REGRETS:

Member	Representing Advisory Committee Role
Tiana Larocque	Manager, Integrated Solutions
Rob McVeigh	Softrock
Scott Secord	Provincial Mining Specialist, MLITSD
Kevin Watson	Ontario Mining Association

WSN:

Member	WSN Role
Lindsay Digby	Manager, Health and Safety Services
Tricia Valentim	Client Outreach Advisor

Full Agenda:

9 am – onsite for tour (make sure you have your PPE stated above)

12 pm – lunch brought in (please let me know if you have any dietary restrictions)

1 pm – meeting

Meeting Agenda – Start time 1 pm**1. Welcome and Safety Share – Chair**

- **Chair and Vice Chair Transition:** Michael confirmed his departure as chair after three terms, with Chris accepting the role of incoming chair and Don stepping up as vice chair. Michael expressed confidence in the new leadership and thanked the committee for their support.
- **Prospector Developers Representation:** Mitch was officially introduced as the new representative for prospector developers, taking over Michael's previous role to ensure continued representation for that sector.
- **Worker Representative Recruitment:** The committee discussed the ongoing challenge of recruiting worker representatives, considering options such as rotating multiple workers to fill the role and leveraging virtual attendance to increase participation..
- **Committee Structure and Terms of Reference:** The group considered amending the terms of reference to allow multiple workers to share the worker representative role, aiming to improve attendance and sector coverage, and agreed to revisit this at the next meeting.
- **safety Share:** highlighted a recent underground vehicle collision and discussed lessons learned, including the need for improved proximity detection and communication, while additional observations from plant walkthroughs emphasized the importance of vigilance and fresh perspectives in safety
- **Underground Vehicle Collision:** An incident was discussed involving a haul truck and a Toyota vehicle colliding underground due to missed radio communications and unclear intentions, resulting in no serious injuries but prompting an ICAM investigation.
- **Lessons Learned and Technology Solutions:** The investigation highlighted the need for proximity detection technology to reduce reliance on human communication and prevent similar incidents, with the committee recognizing this as a recurring topic.

- **Plant Walkthrough Observations:** Observations were shared from recent plant walkthroughs, noting that changes in plant layout can introduce new hazards and that regular, fresh perspectives help identify overlooked risks.
- **Cross-Plant Safety Audits:** The committee discussed the value of exchanging personnel between plants to provide new insights into safety practices, reinforcing the importance of not becoming complacent and continuously reassessing workplace hazards.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda – Chair

Approved

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minute- Chair

Approved

4. Ministry Mining Sector Updates (Scott Secord, Provincial Mining Specialist, MLITSD) – Tricia shared slides as per Scott's request.

Recent Fatality Overview: A fatal incident at a mine site was reviewed, where a face movement during dumping caused equipment to rise and fatally pin an operator, with the committee sharing the official release and noting ongoing investigations.

Injury and Incident Statistics: Q1 2026 data showed underground mines, quarries, and surface lines as the sectors with the highest critical injuries, with slips, trips, falls, and struck-by incidents being the most common mechanisms.

Workplace Event Classification: It was clarified that loss of consciousness incidents are classified as workplace events, not non-work-related, and also it was explained how increased work hours contributed to a decrease in injury rates despite more covered workers.

Enforcement Actions and Campaigns: The ministry's recent campaign resulted in 1,180 orders and 102 stop-work orders across 386 workplaces, with a focus on energy isolation and lockout/tagout, and ongoing partnerships with IHSA and WSN for training and awareness.

5. WSN Update Lindsay Digby & Tricia Valentim

- a. WSN provided updates on the mining sector's technical advisory committees, including progress on ground control, workplace environment, and mining equipment projects, as well as new reference materials, hazard alerts, and upcoming workshops.

- **Ground Control Projects:** The ground control committee completed a reference document for trigger action response plans in seismically active mines and is updating the mine design manual and ground support technical data sheets in collaboration with Canmet Mining.
- **Workplace Environment Initiatives:** The workplace environment committee finalised airborne hazard management materials and is developing noise hazard infographics, with a first draught expected in August and review in September.
- **Mining Equipment Committee Activities:** Following a period of transition, the mining equipment committee is rebuilding its team and expects to finalize a mobile equipment commissioning checklist by September, with Ron St Jean as the new liaison.
- **Hazard Alerts and Industry Guidance:** New hazard alerts were issued on run-of-material events and muck ejection, and the committees are supporting WSN in raising awareness and providing practical guidance to the sector.

b. **Training, E-Learning, and Supervisor Development Programmes:** WSN detailed ongoing and upcoming training initiatives, including the supervisor Common Core accelerated programme, e-learning modules on various hazards, and coaching for performance, with feedback from pilot sessions leading to programme improvements.

- **Supervisor Common Core Programme:** The accelerated pathway allows supervisors to complete the Common Core certification in four to five days, with both classroom and virtual options, and includes practical evaluations and continuous improvement based on participant feedback.
- **E-Learning Expansion:** A growing library of e-learning modules covers airborne hazards, mental health, sodium cyanide awareness, vehicle hazards, and fit for duty, with new offerings such as Mental Health 101 and fatigue management being developed.
- **Coaching for Performance:** WSN introduced field-based coaching and assessments for supervisors, with plans to expand through a train-the-trainer model to reach more organizations and support ongoing competency development.

- **Program Feedback and Adjustments:** Feedback from pilot sessions led to modifications in group size and content delivery, and the committee emphasized the importance of reducing redundancy and ensuring practical relevance in training.
- c. **Strategic Planning and Committee Accountability:** WSN outlined upcoming strategic planning activities, including integrating advisory input into WSN's planning process, shifting professional development to a virtual format, and increasing accountability for committee members to audit training programs and provide feedback.
- **Strategic Planning Workshop:** The next meeting will include a strategic planning session for advisory input into WSN's overall strategy.
 - **Training Programme Audits:** Members are now accountable for auditing at least one WSN training program per year and providing feedback, with tracking and benchmarking introduced to ensure participation.
- d. **Fit for Duty and Occupational Hygiene Initiatives:** The committee discussed the broad scope of fit for duty, including fatigue, psychosocial factors, and substance use, with new e-learning modules in development, and shared updates on occupational hygiene challenges and contractor engagement.
- **Fit for Duty Program Development:** WSN is developing an e-learning fit for duty program covering fatigue management, psychosocial risks, and substance use, with input from recent conferences and ongoing research into functional movement.
 - **Fatigue Management and Risk Assessment:** The group discussed legislative requirements for fatigue management, the science behind circadian rhythms, and the need for risk assessment blueprints, noting that more data and resources are expected as the topic gains prominence.
 - **Occupational Hygiene Challenges:** Don and Lindsay highlighted the complexities of managing occupational hygiene, especially for contractors working alongside mine employees, and the importance of reducing reliance on PPE by improving workplace controls and communication.
- e. **Conference and Event Planning:** WSN recapped the successful annual health and safety conference, announced changes to streamline advisory roles for future events, and provided updates on upcoming competitions, workshops, and webinars, encouraging feedback and participation.

- **Conference Feedback and Venue Selection:** The committee agreed to use the Holiday Inn as the venue for next year's conference, consolidating advisory roles to streamline planning and feedback collection.
 - **Upcoming Events and Competitions:** Announcements included the Ontario Mine Rescue Competition, industrial hygiene research project updates, and upcoming workshops on ground control, seismic risk, and auxiliary mine ventilation.
- f. **AI and Technology in Health and Safety:** The committee engaged in a discussion about the implications of AI in safety, including its use in barrier systems, regulatory challenges, and the need for clear problem definition before adopting AI solutions.
- **AI Applications and Concerns:** Members discussed the use of AI in safety systems such as collision avoidance and barrier guards, highlighting the challenges of validation, regulatory compliance, and the importance of human oversight.
 - **Sector Trends and Conference Themes:** Recent conferences have focused heavily on AI, with the committee recognizing the need to clarify objectives and ensure targeted solutions when considering AI adoption in the mining sector.
- g) **Administrative Updates and Information Sharing:** WSN provided updates on new joint health and safety certification standards, the launch of a centralized advisory committee hub, and ongoing efforts to improve certificate access and information sharing among members.
- **Certification Standard Changes:** The new JHSC standard effective July 1st pauses certification until a refresher is completed, with ongoing challenges in certificate access for employees discussed and feedback to be relayed to management.
 - **Advisory Committee Hub:** A new centralized hub for committee resources and meeting information was launched, with members encouraged to provide feedback on its development and use it to support worker representatives and information dissemination.
- h) **Random Testing Program Update:** Don provided an update on the status of the random testing program at Vale, noting delays due to workforce training and collective bargaining, with plans to invite a team member to present on the process at a future meeting

- **Program Implementation Delays:** The random testing initiative at Vale was delayed due to overlapping workforce training and collective bargaining activities, with an update expected at the next meeting.
- **Future Presentation Plans:** The committee expressed interest in having a Valley team member present on the implementation process, challenges, and lessons learned once the program is operational.

i) Sector and Program Updates: Members shared updates on occupational hygiene, contractor challenges, and the Bring it to the Surface mental health initiative, including new partnerships and upcoming presentations.

- **Bring it to the Surface Initiative:** The Ontario Mining Association contributed \$50,000 to the Bring it to the Surface program, which launched an EFAP for the diamond drilling industry and partnered with WSN to deliver Mental Health 101, with further outreach and presentations planned.
- **Contractor and Occupational Hygiene Issues:** Members discussed the difficulties contractors face in managing occupational hygiene in mines, especially when hazards are created by other work groups, and the need for improved communication and hazard awareness.

6. Professional Development Activity Discussion – Tricia Valentim
Strategic Planning session – October 7, 2026. Day before next meeting, October 8.

7. Annual Commitments & Project Follow Up

- 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

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

9. Next Meeting:

- a. October 7 – Strategy Planning Workshop
- b. October 8 – Meeting & AGM

10. Adjournment – Chair

Follow-up tasks

Worker Representative Recruitment: Send out another message to seek worker representative(s) for the advisory committee, considering the option of having multiple-rotating workers to improve attendance. (Tricia)

Worker Representative Recruitment: Discuss the possibility of recruiting multiple-worker representatives and review the terms of reference to accommodate this approach at the next meeting. (Tricia)

JHSC Certification Certificate Access: Bring feedback to the management team regarding difficulties employees face in accessing Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) certificates and explore options for providing easier access or paper copies. (Lindsay)

Advisory Committee Hub Development: Send an email to advisory committee members requesting feedback on what features and content would be most beneficial for the advisory committee hub platform. (Tricia and Lindsay)

Random Testing Program Update: Obtain an update from the relevant team at Vale regarding the status and process of the random testing program and consider inviting a team member to present at the next meeting. (Don)

Audit of WSN Training Courses: Get a count of how many committee members have audited at least one WSN training course this year and report the results to Tricia. (Tiana)