



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

Supporting the Future
of BC's Forest Industry

2023-2025

STRATEGIC PLAN



EVERY FORESTRY WORKER
GOES HOME SAFE - EVERY DAY



WHO WE ARE

The British Columbia Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) is the health and safety association (HSA) for forest harvesting, sawmills and pellet manufacturing in British Columbia.

We are an industry-funded health & safety association that works with forest sector employers, workers, unions, contractors and provincial government agencies to support implementing changes necessary to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries in the forest sector.

OUR VISION

Every forestry worker goes home safe. Every day.

OUR BELIEFS

- All forestry fatalities and injuries are preventable
- The safety of forestry workers is an over-riding priority
- Safety excellence is key to the long-term success of our industry
- Injury prevention is most effective when the overall industry owns and leads the change

WHAT WE DO

We support industry to eliminate fatalities and injuries through:

- Promoting Culture change
- Developing a competent and confident workforce
- Providing a foundation safety (business) management system

We deliver safety services covering the following areas:

- [SAFE Companies Certification](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Falling](#)
- [Log Hauling and Transportation](#)







BCFSC works with industry stakeholders to develop and advance the consistent application of safety solutions through education, advocacy, and sharing of health and safety information, and gauge the effectiveness of industry initiatives. We believe in creating strong relationships with our stakeholders, and that injury prevention is most effective when the overall industry owns and leads the change.

Our strategy is designed to drive innovation, influence, knowledge, and confidence in the forest industry, recognizing that **safety excellence is key to the long-term success of our industry**. We will work with industry and take a knowledge-based approach to safety to understand risks; and partner with our stakeholders to expand our reach and influence safe behaviour. Our efforts will be prioritized based on their value to improve worker safety by focusing on the areas of greatest risk.



SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF BC'S FOREST INDUSTRY

Forestry remains foundational to people and communities across BC, supporting over 100,000 jobs and contributing nearly \$13 billion annually to GDP and \$4 billion in revenues to all levels of government. The future for forestry as a renewable resource in BC is bright, particularly as consumers and jurisdictions turn to sustainably produced carbon-storing forest products as the building and packaging material of choice. The opportunity for BC to be a leader and support a safe, inclusive, sustainable, and competitive forest sector while providing good jobs for British Columbian is significant.

As forest policy modernization, reconciliation efforts and robust climate agendas continue to advance, the forest industry in BC is undergoing an evolution that will require new and different strategies to meet the future needs of BC's Forest Industry.

To that end, ensuring a culture where safety is treated as an over-riding priority and shared responsibility is critical to ensuring BC's Forest sector is positioned for success.



BC's Forest Sector is Undergoing an Evolution that Presents New Opportunities and Challenges for Worker Safety



INDIGENOUS NATIONS ACCESS TO FOREST TENURES

The British Columbia government is overhauling the province's forest sector with a focus on increasing First Nations access to forest tenures. The goal is to double the amount of tenures held by First Nations. Presently, about 10 per cent of allowable cut is in the hands of Indigenous Communities. BCFSC is committed to working collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples to support this goal, aligned with our vision of "Every Forestry Worker Goes Home Safe. Everyday".

BCFSC respectfully acknowledges the unceded territories of the many Indigenous Nations upon whose land we live, work and play, and are honoured to have the opportunity to engage and work with all Indigenous Nations across BC.



CLIMATE CHANGE

BC's forest resources are vulnerable to a host of impacts related to changing climate conditions, including fires, floods, landslides, and ecosystem shifts. These impacts are creating additional and different risks for workers that will require innovative solutions to adapt to a changing forestry environment.





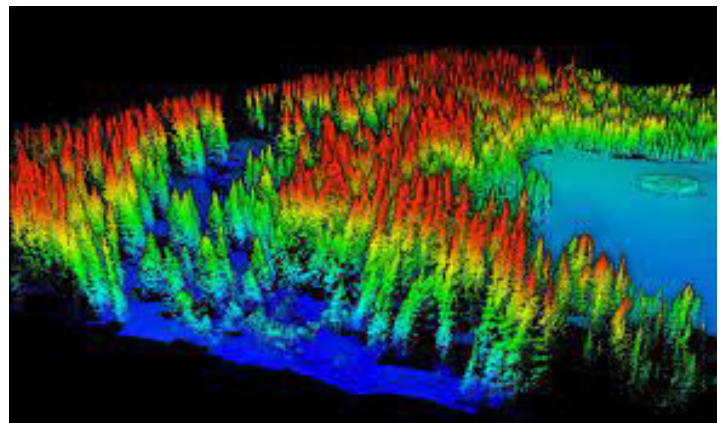
FORESTRY LANDSCAPE

BC's forest companies are reducing waste and creating products for the future that we can reuse. Renewable BC wood is in demand, providing carbon-friendly building solutions for the world including increased biofuel and fibre utilization. While these changes are positive, they also have the potential to create emerging risks for forestry workers that need to be effectively managed. In addition, changes to where and how forest management activities occur (i.e., timber harvesting, road layout, silviculture activities) will also require innovative solutions to ensure emerging risks are identified and controlled.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Employers in most regions and industries of the province are challenged with recruiting and retaining quality staff due to the tight labour market. The population of BC is changing, and with that comes the need to change how we communicate and interact with our employees, clients, stakeholders, and the public. For example, individuals born between 1984 and 2000 are now the largest demographic in the labour force and will compose more than 75% of employees by 2027. Working in a sector that demonstrates a collective commitment to worker safety and well-being will be critical to attract new entrants and retain the existing workforce. As well, awareness of the rights of Indigenous Peoples are on the increase, bringing new values, expectations, needs, and norms that we will need to reflect in our interactions on every level.





OUR STRATEGY

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<p>Promoting cultural change to ensure safety is treated as an over-riding priority and a shared responsibility</p>	<p>Developing a competent, confident workforce where workers are well trained, well supervised and refuse to work unsafely</p>	<p>Encouraging and supporting companies to have effective safety and injury management systems in place</p>	<p>Promoting a safety conscious legal regime in which the laws, regulations and compliance programs encourage and support safety</p>
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with key industry stakeholders and Indigenous communities Develop and promote communications of BCFSC and industry initiatives Facilitate and support industry advisory group model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase access to training materials and programs to permit industry to train more people Refine existing training programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and strengthen Indigenous participation in the forest industry Research, identify and promote new technologies Improve and expand in-field support and advocacy services Improve distribution and awareness of industry current best practices, guidelines and standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop industry guidelines and best practices Improve incident data management and analysis to inform injury prevention strategies Improve collaboration with regulators, government agencies and other stakeholders
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STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry senior leadership supports and promotes strategies to improve worker safety Industry advisory group activities and initiatives are well-supported and aligned with overall strategic objectives Industry senior leadership and advisory groups are involved in setting go-forward safety goals for industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervisors and workers are competent and fully trained for the work they are performing Industry and training institutions actively use the BCFSC learning management system to train and assess workers for forestry occupations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCFSC is a forest sector partner of choice for Indigenous Nations Employers embrace new technologies aimed at improving worker safety and safety management system reporting requirements Employers actively use in-field support and advocacy services Employers are aware and educated on current best practices, guidelines and standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry is recognized by regulators as authoritative source for standards and best practices Regulators and government agencies proactively share information and collaborate on industry-led solutions
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As we continue to adapt to changing circumstances, we have identified 8 strategic focus areas. These focus areas were selected and prioritized through a lens of relevance and value to industry to achieve our vision of *Every forestry worker goes home safe. Every day.* These 8 strategic focus areas are:

PROMOTING CULTURAL CHANGE

1. Develop and promote communications of BCFSC and industry initiatives

BCFSC will be recognised as an industry leader for value-added health and safety and training resources.

2. Engage and inform industry

BCFSC will engage in partnership with key industry stakeholders and organizations to collaboratively develop and advance industry best practices.

DEVELOPING A COMPETENT, CONFIDENT WORKFORCE

3. Refine existing training programs

BCFSC will be recognised as an industry leader for value-added health and safety and training resources.

4. Increase access to training materials and programs to permit industry to train more people

BCFSC will increase access to training materials and programs to support improved learning outcomes for new entrants and existing workers.



ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING COMPANIES TO HAVE EFFECTIVE SAFETY AND INJURY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN PLACE

5. Support Indigenous participation in the forest industry

BCFSC will work closely with Indigenous organizations to support worker awareness of safety issues, develop tailored safety programs, and improve access and availability of training programs.

6. Research, identify and promote new technologies

BCFSC will research and promote new technologies aimed at eliminating and reducing existing and emerging risks to workers and develop new technologies aimed at simplifying incident and safety management system reporting requirements.

7. Improve and expand in-field support and advocacy services

BCFSC will provide targeted outreach and support to employers and workers engaged in high-risk activities.



PROMOTING A SAFETY CONSCIOUS LEGAL REGIME

8. Develop industry guidelines and best practices

BCFSC will engage with industry to develop industry guidelines and best practices to enhance the consistent application of safe work practices for high-risk activities.

Within each of these focus areas we have existing strengths which support us in the ongoing delivery of our safety mandate through our programs, resources, and services. To advance these further over the next three years, we have created a number of work plan initiatives including annual targets, to translate our strategic focus areas into measurable outcomes. These initiatives will help improve our ability to deliver BCFSC's Strategic Focus areas.

For information on BCFSC's workplan, please go to: [Reports & Workplans – BC Forest Safety Council](#)



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