



Return-to-Work Workshop in Prince George

On April 22nd, industry members attended a Return-to-Work (RTW) Workshop in Prince George, BC. Over 18 participants turned out to learn more about the new amendments made to Bill 41.

The workshop was led by Teresa Cheung and Elise Kobylanski, Client Service Managers from WorkSafeBC who specialize in RTW Consultation and Education Services. They work closely with employers to bring about sustainable changes in return-to-work practices, aiming to minimize the impact of disability on both employees and employers.

The workshop titled “Strategies for Successful RTW: Collaboration and Early Rehabilitation,” shed light on the best practices for a successful RTW program. It also emphasized the importance of Early Active Rehabilitation for achieving favourable RTW results. Teresa and Elise, also highlighted the need for effective collaboration and communication in the RTW process, noting the significant impact of teamwork in reducing disability-related time off and promoting a healthy work environment.

Participants gained insights into their roles with the new Return to Work: Duty to Cooperate and Duty to Maintain Employment amendments that came into effect January 1, 2024. Both the Duty to Cooperate and Duty to Maintain Employment establish legal obligations for BOTH workers and employers to collaborate in facilitating the worker’s return to work and maintaining the employment of the injured worker. Non-compliance with the amendments to Bill 41 can have serious consequences.

Supporting workers in their recovery at work following an injury is good for both workers and employers. By helping them stay on the job as they recover, employers retain skilled workers and reduce both their recruitment and training costs. And for workers, being able to perform some duties while recovering helps keeps them connected to their workplace, co-workers, and regular routines, and can prevent long-lasting disability.

For questions about the RTW process, contact the dedicated Return to Work Consultation and Education Services Support Line. This free service is

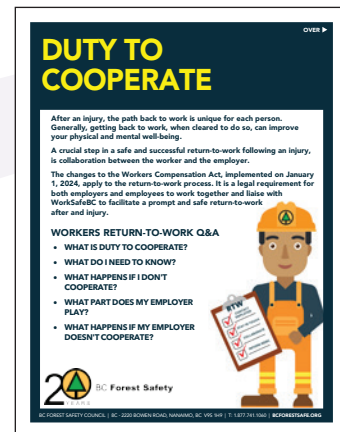
operated by a dedicated team of RTW Specialists, offering guidance, educational materials, and resources aimed at improving RTW outcomes.

Contact Information:

- **Phone** (Lower Mainland): 604-279-8155
- **Toll-free:** 1-877-633-6233
- **Email:** RTW-CES@worksafebc.com

BCFSC has also developed a useful Duty to Cooperate Crew Talk that is applicable for all sectors to help explain the new legislation.

[Click here to download.](#) 📄



Best Wishes to Tom Welton, Director, Health and Safety Services and Education Programs at Workplace Safety North, Ontario

We extend our best wishes to Tom Welton from Workplace Safety North on his retirement. Tom has been a valuable partner in our quarterly Wood Products Manufacturing Cross Country Safety Shares. These sessions bring the industry together to address safety initiatives effectively.

As Tom Welton steps into the well-deserved next chapter of his life, it’s a moment to reflect on and celebrate his extraordinary contributions, particularly in the realm of safety culture. Tom, through his unwavering commitment

and innovative approaches, has been instrumental in not just setting standards but in nurturing a culture where safety is woven into the very fabric of the workplace. As we wish Tom a happy and fulfilling retirement, we do so knowing that the seeds he has sown will continue to grow, fostering safe environments where people can thrive. Tom, may your retirement be filled with the same joy and passion you’ve brought to your work. Here’s to new adventures and continued impact, in whatever form they may take. 🌱

Safety Innovation – from Gorman Brothers

The Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) appreciates receiving safety innovations from industry to share. We'd like to highlight the recent innovation we received from Gorman Bros. This innovation addressed the issue of workers forgetting to lockout the air, the only lockout process required in this particular area, and would go straight up the ladder to a platform above. This resulted in violations in a routine lockout.

One of Gorman's millwrights developed a device that blocks off a section of the ladder preventing workers from accessing the platform. When the air is turned off, the cylinder retracts which in turn removes the *Lockout Required* sign from the ladder allowing the employee to access the platform. The cylinder has been set to a very low pressure to ensure there are no pinch points. If the sign hits a hand, it comes to a full stop.

This manufacturing safety innovation was developed by Steve Guderyan, a West Kelowna Gorman Bros millwright. A big thank you to Steve for this innovative safety idea and thanks to Garrett Brisbourne, Safety Coordinator with the Gorman Group for sharing the idea with industry.

[Click here](#) to read more about this manufacturing safety innovation.

If you have a safety innovation to share, submit it to Bill Laturnus, BCFSC Manufacturing Safety Advisor so we can share your idea with industry and continue to promote safety in the workplace. Email: blaturnus@bcforestsafe.org 




Garrett Brisbourne (L) and Steve Guderyan (R)

Canfor Tour

In March, the MAG team met for their quarterly meeting at Canfor in Radium Hot Springs, BC. The session included a guided tour of the sawmill which gave the group a chance to see Canfor's effective Nudge marketing strategy firsthand.



The signage strategy is designed to encourage positive behaviors and safety reminders using straightforward yet impactful messaging using effective signposts. The signage is strategically placed throughout the mill to help reinforce safety measures.

The visit also provided MAG members an opportunity to learn about Canfor's hand safety program. A special thanks to Canfor for sharing their on-site safety initiatives and offering us a glimpse behind the scenes of their lumber facility. 

Wood Products Manufacturing Cross Country Share April 4th - Humidity Dome

The latest Manufacturing Safety Share featured a presentation by Daniel Ruzic EHS Superintendent, BC Interior Operation with Interfor at Adam's Lake Mill and Zach Jolicoeur from Resolute Forest Products.

During Daniel's presentation, he shared Interfor's innovative use of a humidity dome during the 2023 Forest Fires in Adams Lake. He explained how the humidity dome disperses water over a large area, helping to reduce heat to avoid ignition. The humidity dome is effectively a humidity bubble that releases vapor into the atmosphere.

During Zach's presentation, he shared Resolute's fire safety plan and key safety initiatives within their woodlands operation.

For further details on Interfor's unique wildfire and Resolute's fire safety plan, listen to the presentation recording on the BCFSC YouTube Channel.

[BCFSC YouTube Video: Wood Products Manufacturing Safety Share](#) 

Wood Pellet Association of Canada's Safety Hero Award

Every day, WPAC members and their coworkers work tirelessly to ensure leading safety practices are implemented and embraced. To recognize this steadfast commitment, the Wood Pellet Association of Canada is launching its Safety Hero Award.

We are looking for nominations from you that recognize individuals in your operations who are making their facilities safer and keeping their employees and coworkers safe. Our Safety Hero Award poster can be [downloaded](#), printed,

and posted in your plant lunchroom and distributed through your own networks.

Every two months WPAC will celebrate the Safety Heroes among us who are making a difference to their company, coworkers, families, and communities with their commitment to safety. Winners will be profiled in WPAC's quarterly newsletter and will receive a \$50 Tim Hortons gift card. Please email your nomination(s) to Gord Murray: gord@pellet.org 