



Gary Bauer Retires from Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC)

During the March meeting, Gary Bauer announced his retirement from FTAC after many years as a dedicated member. Gary was one of the founding members of FTAC and worked on numerous initiatives with the Committee.

Gary addressed the committee saying that “Bill Bolton asked if I would be interested in joining FTAC. Some of the meetings had about 100 people and they got pretty riled up and very interesting. I’ve met a lot of interesting people over the last 20 years, and worked with some great people during that time, way too many to mention! It’s time that I moved on, passing the torch to the younger generation.



Big mistake we made in 2003 when we started certifying fallers, we didn’t certify the bullbuckers. We had all these fallers out there that had certification but the people that were supervising them had no certification. We realized about 7 years that we had made this mistake, and that’s when in 2010 we developed the bullbucker certification.

The key to keeping our people safe is to have good, trained people, and to have good people supervising. People that can make hard decisions, that know how to mentor people, and people that know how to talk to people and have hard conversations. Combination of these three things will keep our people safe out there”.

Gary thanked the group for having him as a member.

Co-Chair Dazy Weymer commented “Gary and I have been involved with FTAC from the very early days. I kind of think both of us got involved largely because of industry deaths and the devastation that goes along with each one of them, all in the hopes that we could maybe do something to prevent future accidents from occurring.

An advantage of having a group like the FTAC is the diversity of experiences and the opinions that are shared. I’ve always appreciated that Gary often looks at things through a slightly different lens. That and the fact that he is never afraid to speak his mind. I do feel that sometimes people have ideas that might not be in line with what the main group seems to be thinking and may not speak up. Whenever Gary had ideas that maybe went a little bit against the flow, the rest of us always had an opportunity to hear those ideas, which I very much appreciated.

There is no doubt that Gary’s heart is in the right place for what this group stands for – preventing accidents and getting fallers home safely. He has put in his time, made a big contribution and he will be missed. Thank you, Gary, for everything that you have done”.

Scott Rushton went on to say “Thank you for your time, energy and passion that you have put in over the years, never mind just with the FTAC group. It takes a special person to have your passion, so I thank you for that”.

On behalf of FTAC and the BC Forest Safety Council, we wish Gary all the best in his future endeavours! 🎉



Celebrating 20 Years of Dedication and Safety: A Look Back at BCFSC's Journey

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we take a moment to reflect on the dedication and hard work that have shaped the British Columbia Forest Safety Council (BCFSC). The recommendations set forth by the Forest Safety Task Force in their 2004 report laid the groundwork for BCFSC's mission to reduce fatalities and injuries in BC's Forest sector. These recommendations continue to be the cornerstone of our efforts today.

The early days were challenging at times but also exciting with everyone striving to improve the forest industry's abysmal safety record. Figuring out the path forward was no small feat. Bill Bolton was the dedicated Falling Manager, and a senior advisor for Forest Worker Development initiatives. He was a pivotal leader, particularly in improving hand faller safety. His endless energy, passion and good humor were instrumental in navigating the challenges of those formative years. Together with BCFSC Directors and staff, Bill achieved remarkable milestones. Here are some falling program highlights that Bill helped develop and implement during his time with BCFSC:

- **New Faller Training:** BCFSC's New Faller Training Program and the support of the up to 180 days of on-the-job training.
- **QST Program:** Direction and oversight of the Qualified Supervisor Trainer (QST) program.
- **Supervisor Training:** Creation and implementation of the BCFSC Falling Supervisor Training Course, leading to eventual certification.
- **Faller Certification:** Direction and oversight of the BCFSC Faller Certification process.
- **Faller Blasting:** Efforts to improve access to faller blasting and blasting training for certified fallers.
- **Fatalities and Investigations Support:** Providing crucial support in the event of fatalities and investigations.
- **Chainsaw Training:** Development and implementation of the Basic Chainsaw Operator Program, along with other chainsaw initiatives.
- **Faller Industry Alignment:** Collaboration with WorkSafeBC, the Oil & Gas sector, and the BC Wildfire Service.
- **Falling Technical Advisory Committee:** Establishment of a committee to provide industry input into BCFSC Falling Programs.
- **Key Testimony:** Providing essential testimony in coroner inquests and inquiries, leading to recommendations for worker safety.

Several of Bill's former colleagues shared their insights on Bill's invaluable contributions to faller safety:

Jake vanDort, BCFSC Certified Faller *"Not only a shining example of how a safety advocate should carry themselves, but Bill is also genuinely dedicated to workplace safety. I've learned many technical lessons from Bill but perhaps the biggest lesson was learning how to win people over and get them to "buy in". Bill would choose the loudest opponent during one of his many excellent presentations and engage them by asking them how they would rectify the situation. Afterwards he would praise their solutions and continue to include them by asking their opinion. By the end of the presentation Bill had usually gained yet another ally in his movement to forward awareness of new occupational health and safety innovations. Bill to me is a mentor, guiding light, and great friend."*

Wade Marling, OSO WorkSafeBC *"I am proud to say that I had the opportunity to work with Bill Bolton at WorkSafeBC from 2013 until 2018. While working with Bill in the Fort St John region, he provided me mentoring and guidance to ensure I worked to my full potential and provide the workers, supervisors, and employers the best possible service that we could. Prior to working with Bill Bolton while he worked for WorkSafeBC, I worked with Bill when he was working at the BC Forest Safety Council. Bill played the key and # 1 role in implementing faller certification and the application of the BC Faller Training Standard. There is no other person in British Columbia that has done more advocating for the safety of fallers than Bill Bolton. Bill has become a true family friend and I look forward to working with Bill in the future. Congratulations on your amazing career Bill."*

Jeff Mackenzie, BCFSC Certified Faller & QST *"A number of years ago I was asked to participate in a Dacum with a number of falling supervisors. Bill was the chair of this project, to determine what roles and responsibilities a falling supervisor does. It was clear from the start of this process that he had a passion and commitment to safety*



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when it concerned hand falling. Since then, I've had the pleasure of working with and sharing experiences with him on a professional level and a personal one."

Allison Thompson, BCFSC Manager, Training and Standards "I will always appreciate the time I spent working with Bill. His vision and enthusiasm were truly infectious, inspiring everyone to do whatever it took to bring his plans to life. Along the way, Bill shared his knowledge and trained us, guiding each new initiative. Every day, we moved one step closer to the much-improved safety record the industry enjoys today."

Gary Banys, BCFSC Training Logistics Coordinator "I started working at the BCFSC in March 2005. Bill was my manager, and we were launching the Faller Certification Program. His experience and credibility as a faller, combined with his knowledge as an OSO with WorkSafeBC, gave BCFSC a solid foundation to build programs that are still relevant to this day. In those early years, it was sometimes challenging to convince the falling sector of the benefit and need for certification (which also called for improvements for supervisors). Bill was always up to the challenge and over time, he proved convincing and established himself as a fierce advocate of faller safety. Bill truly cared about the fallers and was never shy about expressing his views. He could talk the talk because he walked the walk, and I consider myself fortunate to have worked with Bill for many years. He's someone I call a friend to this day."

Terry Anonson, OSO WorkSafeBC "Although it's been many years since falling certification and standardized new faller training was implemented, it is not lost to me and many others in the industry that Bill was the driving force behind this important process and we all to this day give full credit to Bill and his effort for drastically improving faller safety and preventing needless faller injuries and fatalities."

"Working with Bill either in the field certifying fallers or inspecting fallers or working with Bill in meetings or workshops, Bill's number

one agenda was always faller safety first and he was fearless in achieving that objective, regardless of the roadblocks in front of him"

"It was always a good learning experience working with Bill. His coaching and mentorship with respect to the falling standard and faller safety has always guided and helped me through my role as a safety officer in the falling industry. Thanks Bill"

Mikael Jonsson, BCFSC Certified Faller & QST "Everybody knows that Bill was the "spear leader" of the BC Faller Training Standard. To me he was a great mentor but also a great listener which made him a great team player. He was open minded and still sticking to his principles. We are all better/safer fallers thanks to Bill's contribution to the BC Faller Training Standard."

As we celebrate this 20-year milestone, we honour the progress Bill made and the unwavering commitment to safety that continues to drive BCFSC forward and thank him for his contributions to faller safety. His dedication and leadership were exactly what we needed to succeed. Here's to many more years of dedication and achievement in forest safety. 🍀

