



Interior Logging Association

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THE ILA INSIDER

JANUARY 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE ILA! HERE'S TO A BETTER 2022!

SUBMITTED BY: TODD CHAMBERLAIN, ILA GENERAL MANAGER

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Happy New Year and welcome to the January 2022 edition of the ILA Insider!

Last year, as a result of COVID-19 restrictions and for the safety of our members, the Interior Logging Association was forced to cancel our annual Conference and Trade Show. Unfortunately, this meant we were not able to see many of you because of the cancellation and imposed travel bans. We were however still able to hold our Annual General Meeting in Vernon using video conferencing technology and social distancing rules. We are very grateful that our current Board of Directors are still leaving their names stand until the next AGM, and I am very appreciative for the assistance and support that they continue to provide as we make our way through these difficult times.

2021 provided us with a new set of challenges on top of a lengthy pandemic, fires and floods! But through it all, our members, as always, were the first to step up to assist their communities despite the continuous difficulties that come their way. This is just one of the many reasons why the ILA will continue to ensure that our members are represented with all levels of Government, so that their sacrifices do not go unnoticed.

I also would like to take this opportunity to welcome Meagan Preston, our Business Support Consultant back with us for another year. Myself and Nancy look forward to working with Meagan on our continued efforts to support our members where needed.

Lastly, I would like to extend my thanks to Nancy Hesketh, our Office Administrator, for everything that she has done to ensure that the best interests of our members are continually looked after.

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Kamloops this year for our annual Conference and Trade Show, keep checking back on our website for more details!

Wishing everyone a healthy, safe, happy, and successful 2022! From all of us at the Interior Logging Association.



EMBRACING A SUSTAINABLE BRAND NEW DAY FOR TIMBER HARVESTING

BC'S OLD GROWTH DEFERRAL UPDATE

SUBMITTED BY: CAM BROWN, MF, RPF



The management of BC's old forests has been a topic of discussion for decades because of the important timber and non-timber values these stands provide. Old growth stands look very different across BC as climate, trees species, and ecosystem dynamics vary considerably. Wet ecosystems with very limited natural disturbances (fire, wind, insects, disease) tend to contain a high percentage of old forests made up of large trees, while ecosystems where large scale fire or insects outbreaks occur frequently tend to contain younger forests and smaller trees. The province defines 'old' forest as stands over 140 years old in ecosystems with frequent disturbance events, and over 250 years old for all other ecosystems.

Significant study and planning around the management of old forests has occurred in BC's history (An Old Growth Strategy for BC - 1992, Biodiversity Guidebook - 1995, Clayoquot Scientific Panel Recommendations (1995), Landscape Unit Planning Guide - 1999, Coast Information Team (2001) - Ecosystem Based Management, etc.) with implementation of this work being regional and/or limited in scope. In 2019, the Government of BC commis-

sioned a strategic review of old growth management in the province. Al Gorley, RPF and Garry Merkel, RPF completed the review and issued a report in April 2020 titled, *A New Future for Old Forests*, which contained 14 recommendations aimed at improving how old forests are managed. At the core of the recommendations is adjusting BC's approach to old growth management to place a greater emphasis on maintaining ecosystem health and biodiversity. This is to be done while working with First Nations as full partners, considering input from local communities, and exploring the potential for zoning that allows for different management focus across the landbase.

Also in April 2020, the 'B.C.'s *Old Growth Forest: A Last Stand for Biodiversity*' report (K. Price, R. Holt, D. Daust) was released and received considerable media coverage. It indicated that 23% of BC's forests were old growth, but only 3% of this area contained stands with big trees. The perception that there was only 3% 'quality' old growth left in the province created a lot of public angst. During BC's September 2020 election campaign, our current premier committed to implementing all 14 recommendations from the strategic review.

In October 2021, COFI (Forsite) put out a report indicating that the approach used to define big tree old growth in *B.C.'s Old Growth Forest: A Last Stand for Biodiversity* report was flawed, and that at least 30% of the old growth in the province had big trees. The report also made it clear that a single definition of 'big trees' for the entire prov-

ince was not meaningful and recommended that local knowledge and expertise be used to develop and implement the recommendations from the strategic review.

As the new NDP government began to work on the 14 recommendations, they chose to act on recommendation #6 first: "Until a new strategy is implemented, defer development in old forests where ecosystems are at very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss." These deferrals should maintain important elements of biodiversity on the landbase while more detailed / localized old growth strategies are developed. To accomplish this, the province created a five-person Technical Advisory Panel and asked them to provide recommendations. The panel consisted of Garry Merkel RPF, Karen Price PhD, Rachel Holt PhD, Dave Daust MSc, RPF, and Lisa Matthaus MSc.

The panel's work was completed in mid-2021 and a subset of their recommended deferrals was endorsed by the BC government, and then released in Oct 2021 as Priority Deferrals. This release included a series of maps that highlighted 2.6 million hectares of old forest considered to all be "rare, at-risk, and irreplaceable". Stands were considered Priority Deferrals if they were outside of protected areas and met at least one of three criteria:

Ancient Forest:

- a. Stands significantly older than the minimum old age (>250 years when old age is 140, >400 years when old age is 250).

Remnant/Rare Old Forest:

- a. All old stands in Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) Variants with < 10% old forest.

- b. All old stands in BEC Variant / Landscape Unit combinations with < 10% old forest.

Big Treed Old Forest (and sometimes 'nearly old' forest):

- a. An area target was defined for each BEC variant in the province and the largest stands found in each BEC variant - including in protected areas - using the forest inventory (based on stand height and diameter) were selected until the area target was met or no eligible stands remained. It appears that no consideration of patch size or connectivity was used - only tree size.

- b. The target areas by BEC variant have not been released but preliminary documentation suggests it was based on capturing an area representing 30% of the expected 'natural' old forest. For example, if 50% of an ecosystem's forested area is expected to be old under 'natural' disturbance regimes, the area target would have been set at 30% of this area - or 15% of the forested area in this case (30% of 50% is 15%). The preliminary documentation also stated that this approach resulted in too large a deferral area at the provincial scale, so target areas were reduced in lower risk BEC variants. It is not clear how lower risk units were identified. In general terms, risk to biodiversity was assessed by how far current conditions have deviated from what would have been present under natural disturbance patterns.

It is important to note that all ecosystems (BEC variants) in BC

BC'S OLD GROWTH DEFERRAL UPDATE CONTINUED...

SUBMITTED BY: CAM BROWN, MF, RPF

were considered “at very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss” by the Technical Advisory Panel, as all three of the priority deferrals types were implemented in every BEC variant – irrespective of the amount of old forest present. Large forest stands were felt to be rare in all cases and the ‘Big Tree’ deferral type comprised most of the mapped deferral areas. It is worth noting that the panel’s report⁴ suggested that 56% of BC’s current old growth could be considered ‘Big Treed Old Growth’ (vs only 3% back in April 2020).

The selection and mapping of deferrals was completed using one hectare (100x 100m) squares called rasters which covered the entire province. Rasters were assigned attributes from the forest inventory polygon that coincided with the center of the raster. The use of these rasters resulted in map products that did not align well with operational forestry decision making, and appear to have resulted in many small, isolated deferral areas. In December, the province released an updated version of the deferrals that better aligns with forest inventory polygons to partially address this issue. Both versions of the deferrals did not consider tenure types or sizes, existing industry investments, operational issues such as preventing access to non-deferred stands, or zoning for biodiversity emphasis. They were also based on a version of the provincial forest inventory current to the spring of 2021, so deferrals are present in the 2021 fire areas.

While no detailed economic impact study has been re-

leased, the potential impacts of the proposed deferrals (assuming they were made permanent), can be estimated from the loss of Timber Harvesting Land Base (THLB) and the type of stands being protected from harvest. The ministry has estimated that 1.3 million ha (~50%) of the mapped Priority Deferrals occur on the THLB. This area represents approximately 6% of the provincial THLB, with all of it being high volume, older stands that contribute disproportionately to short term AAC calculations. Thus, the provincial AAC impact is likely in the 7-10% range (4 to 6 million m³ of AAC), but this impact would not be distributed evenly across the province or within tenures. Higher impacts are expected in wet /rarely disturbed ecosystems like on the coast or in the wetbelt interior. There are examples of small area-based tenures that have been heavily impacted. AAC impacts will be even larger if set-asides result in the isolation of otherwise accessible THLB areas.

First Nations were given 30 days to indicate if they accepted the mapped deferral areas or if they required further discussion. At the end of the 30 days, no First Nations fully accepted the deferrals as mapped, a few accepted portions of the mapping, the majority did not accept the mapping but indicated they would like to engage on old growth management strategies in their territories, and some had no response at all. Many nations expressed concern over the lack of engagement in the development of the deferrals, the 30-day review timeline, the inaccuracies in the map products, the lack of transparency on how the deferrals were created, and the lack of information on economic impacts.

Without agreement from First Nations on the deferral areas, the

status of the current deferral maps is in question. But there is no question that the government led deferral process has motivated licensees and First Nations to explore alternatives to status quo management of old forests. The development of locally relevant old growth strategies appears strongly supported by all parties, but these strategies will not happen quickly. This means that there is still a need to identify deferral areas to ensure key elements of biodiversity remain as these strategies are developed, likely best done as a first step in a local/regional old growth planning process with First Nations at the table.

Article Reference Links:

¹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/stewardship/old-growth-forests/strategic-review-20200430.pdf>

² https://www.cofi.org/wp-content/uploads/BC_OldGrowth_2021Status-Report_Oct21-2021.pdf

³ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/old-growth-forests/deferral-areas>

⁴ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/stewardship/old-growth-forests/summary_for_g2g_package.pdf



Biography:

Cam holds a BSF from UBC and a Masters in Forest Engineering from Oregon State University. He currently manages Forsite’s Resource Management and Technology group from their head office in Salmon Arm. He is an RPF in both BC and SK, and has worked in the Canadian forest sector for over 25 years – mostly in consulting roles focused on strategic planning, resource economics, forest inventory, and sustainability assessments.





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ILA RECEIVES AN ADDITIONAL GRANT FROM ETSI-BC TO HELP MEMBERS FOR A ONE YEAR TERM

SUBMITTED BY: TODD CHAMBERLAIN, GENERAL MANAGER, ILA



The ILA is pleased to announce that we have successfully secured a second grant through Economic Trust of the Southern Interior BC (ETSI-BC) to continue to assist struggling ILA Member businesses. This new grant will allow us to continue to retain Meagan Preston, our Business Support Consultant, for a one-year part-time term.

This new grant will allow us to continue to support our members and affiliates with assessing your current business challenges, and exploring solutions

and opportunities to pivot and grow or stabilize in this current economic climate.

This would include supporting our members in finding and applying for funding through grants and loans, as well as assisting our members in establishing partnerships for mutual success.

Furthermore, it is our intention to continue to work on initiatives with the BCFSC and NVIT for workforce attraction and industry specific training to bring quality individuals into the forestry sector.

Over the coming year, she will be available to assist you absolutely free and the ILA will be releasing information on opportunities for funding and partnerships as they become available.

With the announcement

of the Federal Election, fires, and floods, funding opportunities that were anticipated to emerge in the Fall inevitably slowed drastically or halted.

However, we do anticipate to see an upswing in funding initiatives to help the economy recover.

Our consultant has been busy working with some companies already on their needs including funding, exit and pivot strategies, buying/selling or finding funding for required items, new equipment implementation, policies and procedures as well as many other business support services.

In the last several months a connection has also been made with other organizations running parallel projects in hopes of being able to pair companies who have work, with contractors that require work.

If you would like to reach out to Meagan directly, please contact her either via email at:

ILAassistance@gmail.com

or on her cell phone at 250-280-8897.

While the conversations and information from each business will be handled in the strictest of confidence, we will continue to pay close attention to consistent trends and difficulties in the industry with the hope of driving change and leveraging more assistance in the coming year.

As always, our General Manager Todd Chamberlain is also available to assist you with any issues you may be facing, or with any questions you may have via email at:

todd@interiorlogging.org

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WSBC CHANGES LOG LOAD SECUREMENT REGULATIONS

SUBMITTED BY: BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL



BC Forest Safety

Safety is good business

In 2015, forest industry representatives approached WSBC to discuss the potential to amend the Log Load Securement Regulation to better align with National Safety Code Standard 10 - Cargo Securement and how it has been applied by CVSE within the BC log hauling sector. The intent was to seek better alignment so that log truck drivers were not subject to two separate and significantly different sets of regulations and expectations with regards to load securement. The other benefits of this alignment are log truck drivers are generally familiar with CVSE requirements and changes made to the WSBC regulation would provide drivers more flexibility in choosing load securement methods.

WSBC was open to discussing options and as a result the regulation went through a lengthy review and amendment process. That process is now complete and WSBC implemented the new regulation on Dec 1, 2021.

Some key changes to the regulation:

Definition of a wrapper: chain, wire rope, synthetic rope or webbing, together with a tensioning device, that is wrapped securely around a log load on a log transporter, and not attached to the log transporter. It is also worth noting that wrappers are no longer required to be tagged with mean breaking strength or working load limit.

On Highway Transport : A log load must be secured in accordance with the federal cargo securement standard. National Safety Code Standard 10 as it is applied in BC requires the aggregate working limit of tiedowns/wrappers used to secure each stack of logs to be at least 1/6 of the weight of the stack. With a minimum two tiedowns/wrappers required for each stack of logs such that the logs are secured effectively.

Table 1. On Highway

Log Length	Securement Devices	Minimum WLL	Type of Device	Number of Devices
*Short wood	Wrappers or Tiedown	2000 lbs	5/16 " wrapper	minimum 2
*Long wood	Wrappers or Tiedown	3000 lbs	3/8" wrapper	minimum 3

Includes 9 axle configuration.

Given the above, options for securement consider load/stack weight. This means that 5/16-inch wrappers will be a viable option for short wood/cut to length and 3/8-inch wrappers will be necessary for long wood. The application of NSC 10 in BC provides flexibility in selecting load securement methods however it is critical that load stack weight and working load limit be considered when selecting the number and type securement devices. It is worth mentioning that the above table does not consider all potential short wood combinations/lengths, but those most used by industry.

Story continued on page 8.....



WSBC CHANGES LOG LOAD SECUREMENT REGULATIONS CONTINUED...

SUBMITTED BY: BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL

Off Highway Transport : If the longest log that is to be secured by the wrappers or tiedowns is no more than 10.7 m (35 ft) long, at least 2 wrappers or tiedowns are required, each of which has a working load limit (WLL) of at least 8.9 kN (2000 lbs).

If the longest log that is to be secured by the wrappers or tiedowns is more than 10.7 m (35 ft) long, at least 3 wrappers or tiedowns are required, each of which has a working load limit (WLL) of at least 13.3 kN (3000 lbs).

Table 2. Off Highway

Log Length	Securement Devices	Minimum WLL	Type of Device	Number of Devices
< or = 35 feet	Wrappers or Tiedown	2000 lbs	5/16 " wrapper	minimum 2
> 35 feet	Wrappers or Tiedown	3000 lbs	3/8" wrapper	minimum 3

Off Highway options for securement are based on log length. When using cable wrappers, 5/16 inch will be a viable option for short wood loads while 3/8 inch will be required for long wood loads. As they **exceed** the 2000 lb and 3000 lb requirements respectively.

From an operational standpoint the changes to part 26 provide more flexibility in load securement options and an opportunity to identify and implement new load securement options, tools and techniques that can be effectively utilized by industry and most importantly log truck drivers.

If you are involved with the transport of logs on or off highway in BC it is important that you review both NSC 10 and WSBC regulations in detail as there are other requirements that have not been discussed as part of this article.

A copy of the WSBC regulation can be located at : <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-26-forestry-operations>



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**EMBRACING A SUSTAINABLE BRAND NEW DAY
FOR TIMBER HARVESTING**

NEW FOREST WORKERS ESSENTIAL PROGRAM COMING TO THE NICOLA VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SUBMITTED BY: INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business



The Interior Logging Association is pleased to be working closely with the BC Forest Safety Council and the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology to assist in the development and delivery of a new program specific to the Forestry Industry called the Forest Workers Essentials Program.

This program will be delivered utilizing funding obtained by NVIT, and will likely be a 6 week program (modified from 12 weeks to fast track workers while still providing exceptional instruction) with both classroom and in field instruction. Curriculum for this program will include guest speakers, certification courses, a mentoring program, First Nations education of respecting the land during logging processes, and equipment simulators where available. Some of the planned sites students will be exposed to will be in all areas of forestry includ-

ing logging operators, log yards and mill sites, road construction, Silviculture, and possibly equipment dealers and repair facilities.

The goal of this program will be to produce individuals who are trained, engaged, and ready for a career in the Forestry sector as soon as they have completed the course. Successful applicants will be interviewed and vetted prior to entry in to the program to ensure long term employment success and retention. In addition, students will be paired with businesses that require employees, and are willing to mentor individuals with the skills, abilities and desire to work in their areas of expertise. The goal is that at the end of the mentorship period, and upon successful completion of the program, that the student will be retained for employment.

Currently, details around required certification (S-100, WHMIS, First Aid with Transportation endorsement etc.) are being considered, as well as class sizes with a minimum cohort of 8 students per session, possible mentors, participating companies and contractors, prerequisite level of education, and funding to reimburse mentors for their time to assist in the training and employment of these workers are being established. It is important we start drawing paths to employment within the industry for those with few to no post-secondary requirements in order to attract a variety of workers.

Currently, we know there will be a shortage of more than 20,000 forestry workers in the industry in the next 10 years. It is the collective hope of these 3 bodies that by working together, we can begin to fill

those gaps by attracting and retaining the right workers who want to remain in the industry long term. This new program, along with others like the Logging Truck Driver Training Course and MELT will continue to help us attract safe, skilled and enthusiastic employees.

If you are interested in more information about this program, are interested in being a mentoring company or individual, or require employees, we would encourage you to contact Todd Chamberlain at todd@interiorlogging.org or on his cell phone at 250-308-8100.

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

SUBMITTED BY: CHRIS DUNCAN, MNP



2021 was quite the year for the forest industry. Lumber pricing surged to record highs mid year fuelled by high demand from customers looking to spend vacation and travel money at home instead due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic.

Sawmills reaped the benefit of these record lumber prices and turned-out record profits. Logging contractors on the other hand only saw marginal increases to logging rates and continued to operate in an environment of inflating costs.

Costs increased in all areas for contractors in 2021, equipment and parts costs increased further eroding

profit margins, while the labour market grew tight, and contractors needed to get competitive or creative to attract the right talent to their operations.

The ongoing pandemic continued to keep health and safety costs high as safety measures changed on a regular basis through out the year.

Production was hampered by mother nature in the second half of 2021. A record heat wave dried our forests to a point many Oldtimers had never seen in the forests before. When the rains came in the fall mother nature reminded us who the boss is again with record

rainfall and flooding washing away infrastructure.

Finally, the government announced old growth deferrals across the province in response to organized environmentalist actions. The measures are another nail in the coffin for many small forestry reliant communities across BC and have helped to extinguish or halt additional investment in BC by major forestry companies.

All in all 2021 sounds like the verge of the apocalypse for the forest industry in BC however, for all of us that have been around forestry in BC long enough we know that this is the battle we fight every day in the woods to ensure the forests continue to provide a sustainable livelihood for our children and their children.



Chris Duncan, CPA, CA, is a Partner and the National Leader of MNP's Forestry and Forest Products Services group, based on Vancouver Island. Drawing on more than a decade of experience, Chris has deep industry experience delivering business advice to logging contractors, value-added wood processors and other forest industry-related businesses.

CleanBC Heavy-duty Vehicle Efficiency Incentive Program Now Open

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EMBRACING A SUSTAINABLE BRAND NEW DAY FOR TIMBER HARVESTING

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE COVID-19 CLOSURE RELIEF GRANT

ARTICLE SHARED FROM NEWS.GOV.BC.CA



Businesses can now apply for the COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant, a new program the Province has fast-tracked to support B.C. businesses ordered to temporarily close their doors due to recent public-health measures.

“This is not the way any of us wanted to start the new year with more strain on our businesses, families and communities,” said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation. “Our government will be there to help hard-hit businesses that have had to shut down and get them some necessary support to help pay their bills. We can get through this together as quickly as possible by going back to the basics – bringing back our COVID-19 safety plans for all businesses, recommitting to our daily health checks and continuing to follow all public-health measures.”

Businesses that were ordered to fully close on Dec.

22, 2021, including bars, nightclubs and lounges that do not serve full meals, gyms, fitness and adult dance centres and event venues that can no longer hold events, can apply for relief grants of between \$1,000 and \$10,000. Funds from the program, which is expected to support more than 3,000 businesses, can help with expenses such as rent, employee wages, insurance, maintenance and utilities.

“There is no denying these are extremely challenging times for our industry,” said Sara Hodson, president, Fitness Industry Council of Canada. “Supports like the COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant are very welcome at this time as many B.C. business owners need all of the financial supports available to us. The fitness and health industry has been committed to doing everything we can to keep people healthy and safe throughout this pandemic. We look forward to reopening and being able to once again provide the es-

sential physical and health benefits of exercise to all British Columbians.”

The total grant amount per business will be based on the number of employees and follows a formula similar to the previous Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant that supported businesses in the spring of 2021. To apply for a grant, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/business-relief

This \$10-million provincial program complements existing federal government programs, including the recently expanded Local Lockdown Program and the Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit.

The Local Lockdown Program provides wage and commercial rent support for businesses and other organizations, regardless of their sector, that have been affected by regional provincial health officer orders. This program is a way businesses, charities and non-profit organizations can be eligible for up to 75% of wage and rent support. The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit provides \$300 a week in income support to eligible workers who are directly affected by a COVID-19-related public health order and who have lost 50% or more of their income.

“B.C. businesses have remained resilient throughout the pandemic and have adapted in more ways than one to keep people safe and

healthy,” Kahlon said. “I continue to urge everyone to support local businesses where you can, and know that our business community needs us, as we need it. Let’s work together, and we will get through this once again.”

On Jan. 7, 2022, B.C.’s public health officer ordered all businesses to reactivate their COVID-19 safety plans to help keep employees and communities safe during the rapid spread of cases related to the COVID-19 Omicron variant.

Learn More:

For more information on the COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant, including the application process and eligibility, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/business-relief

For more information on COVID-19 safety plans, visit: <https://worksafebc.com/covid-19>

For more information on B.C.’s COVID-19 recovery supports, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/economic-recovery/business-supports>

For more information on federal supports, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses>

For information on industry-specific COVID-19 safety protocols, visit: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/>

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE COVID-19 CLOSURE RELIEF GRANT CONTINUED...

ARTICLE SHARED FROM NEWS.GOV.BC.CA

[covid-19/industry-specific-information](https://www.strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/covid-19/industry-specific-information)

For more information on StrongerBC, visit: <https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/>

Business relief grant eligibility criteria, pay structure

To be eligible for the COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant, a business is required to:

confirm it has been fully closed by the provincial health officer's recent orders;

confirm that it was registered with BC Registries before Nov. 1, 2021;

produce up-to-date business validation documents (2020 or

newer), such as a municipal business licence, liquor and/or food primary licence, notice of assessment, insurance policy, statement of business registration or lease agreement;

confirm majority ownership and operations and payment of taxes in B.C.; and

confirm that the business has been following and will continue to follow all public-health orders and guidelines.

Businesses that offer online rentals or online

services, but their physical location is fully closed, are eligible to apply.

New applicants will need to provide direct-deposit information. This will not be needed if the business was approved for the Circuit Breaker Business Relief or the Small- and Medium-Sized Business Recovery grants, and banking information is the same.

Eligible businesses that closed as a result of the provincial health officer orders will receive funding based on number of staff at the time of closure. The breakdown is as follows:

Businesses with no employees or contracted staff: \$1,000

One to four employees or contracted staff: \$2,000

Five to 99 employees or contracted staff: \$5,000

100 or more employees or contracted staff: \$10,000.

Applications will be accepted from Jan. 12, 2022, at 10 a.m. (Pacific time) to Feb. 28, 2022.

If your business meets the criteria of this grant and you require assistance applying, please contact the ILA Business Support Consultant via email at ILAaassistance@gmail.com or on her cell phone at 250-280-8897.

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS TRANSITIONING BACK TO COVID-19 SAFETY PLANS

ARTICLE SHARED FROM: AL JOHNSON, HEAD OF PREVENTION SERVICES, WORKSAFE BC



Earlier in the pandemic, employers were asked to create and implement detailed COVID-19 safety plans. On July 1, 2021, those plans were replaced by a more general focus on Communicable Disease Prevention as the province began to reopen.

On January 7, 2022, the pro-

vincial health officer announced an order requiring employers to reinstate those site specific, prescriptive COVID-19 safety plans to address the elevated risk currently facing us with the Omicron variant. While communicable disease prevention plans and COVID-19 Safety Plans share some of the same

fundamental principles, COVID-19 Safety Plans are formal, written plans with more rigorous controls and are more appropriate for periods of elevated risk.

The COVID-19 safety plan will supersede the basic principles of communicable disease prevention during this period of elevated risk by incorporating more specific protocols for preventing COVID-19 transmission. These may include occupancy limits, physical distancing, and barriers.

I want to ensure you have the most recent information to help you through this transition, so we can best protect our workers and workplaces from COVID-19.

What employers need to do

Many employers had COVID-19 Safety Plans earlier in the pandemic, and others may have maintained all or many of the measures from their COVID-19 Safety Plans. All employers are advised to review their COVID-19 Safety Plans



RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS TRANSITIONING BACK TO COVID-19 SAFETY PLANS CONTINUED...

ARTICLE SHARED FROM: AL JOHNSON, HEAD OF PREVENTION SERVICES, WORKSAFE BC

to ensure that they are current and aligned with all guidance and orders from the provincial health officer.

With the involvement and participation of workers, employers should review and update their COVID-19 Safety Plans to ensure they remain effective at reducing the risk of exposure, including:

Reviewing existing procedures and worker protections

Where needed, enhancing those protections to the extent practicable

Communicating with workers to ensure they understand their role in controlling the risk

If workers test positive for COVID-19, they need to follow the guidance of the BC Centre for Disease Control around taking care of themselves, self-isolating, and notifying close contacts.

Evidence shows that vaccination is the best control measure available to pre-

vent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. Employers are encouraged to consider staff-vaccination policies based on their own due diligence.

Although employers may face challenges operating with a reduced workforce due to COVID-19 at times, they must continue to protect the health and safety of workers who remain at work. In times of staff shortages, employers should have a contingency or business continuity plan to ensure their business can continue to operate in a safe manner with consideration of factors such as level of training and supervision needed.

With this new order in place, and as part of our regular inspectional work, WorkSafeBC Prevention Officers will look for updated COVID-19 safety plans at worksites.

What workers need to do

Workers play an important role in preventing the transmission of COVID-19 by participating in the review of the COVID-19 Safety Plan. Each worker should be aware of and follow their workplace health and safety respon-

sibilities and protocols outlined in the plan, including guidance on self-managing COVID-19 symptoms as outlined by the BCCDC.

Workers have the right to refuse work if they believe it presents an undue hazard. An undue hazard is an “unwarranted, inappropriate, excessive, or disproportionate” hazard. For COVID-19, an “undue hazard” would be one where a worker’s job role places them at increased risk of exposure and adequate controls are not in place to protect them from that exposure.

For more information, see our

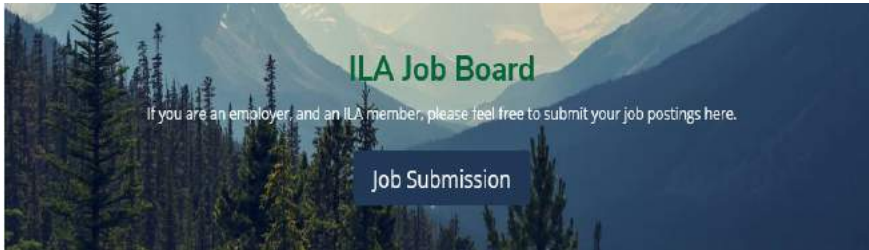
COVID-19 information for workers.

We’re here to help

The COVID-19 section of worksafebc.com has been updated to include information about the recent order, a revised template for completing a COVID 19 safety plan, and industry-specific protocols.

Workers and employers with questions or requiring additional advice or direction can call WorkSafeBC’s Prevention Information Line at 1.888.621.7233 to speak directly with a prevention officer.

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