Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Consumers Advisory Council
Monday, November 17, 2025

Minutes of the Consumers Advisory Council meeting for the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at **9:00 a.m.** on Monday, November 17, 2025

Attendance

Present	
Ron Morrison	Rae Dulmage (Chair)
Jay Jackson	David Sobel
Sunaina Menezes	
TSSA	
Shakir Majeedi	Ammara Khan
Susy Ceolin	Alexandra Campbell
Iuliana Afanase	Gaya Nair
Regrets	
Kathryn Woodcock	Christine Simpson

Action Items

There were no open action items from the last meeting.

1. Constitution of Meeting

1.1. *Safety Moment presented by I. Afanase on seasonal ladder safety, emphasizing proper ladder selection, inspection for damage, stability, and maintaining three-point contact. The consumer representative for BPVOE AC suggested adding a reminder to lock the shelf on ladders for stability.*

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1. *The agenda was adopted as presented.*

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. *The council approved the minutes as presented.*

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4. Chair's Report

The Chair reported on the work of the Liquid Fuels Handling Code (LFHC) Technical Working Group (TWG), which has been meeting weekly since June 2025. Originally expected to conclude within six months, the project will likely extend into the following year due to the need for a comprehensive review. The Chair emphasized the importance of using plain language in code revisions to ensure clarity for consumers, gas station owners, and technicians.

The Chair also highlighted progress toward outcome-based regulation and ongoing efforts to achieve harmonization between provincial administrative authorities and national codes. Finally, the Chair expressed concern over the reduction of college programs in trades and fire safety, noting that these cuts are driven by funding constraints and program costs. The CAC has a critical role in advocating for adequate training capacity to maintain a skilled workforce and uphold consumer safety standards.

5. Verbal Reports

5.1. *Elevating Devices Advisory Council*

The consumer representative reported on the Elevating Devices Advisory Council (EDAC) and the EDADSKI plenary meetings held in October 2025. He discussed ON-Bill 2, the *Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025*, which will allow qualified workers from other provinces to work in Ontario without immediate TSSA certification, provided they notify TSSA. After a six-month grace period, workers must obtain Ontario credentials.

The Chair raised concerns about potential delays in interprovincial registration relating to the six-month grace period. A. Campbell confirmed that timelines in the legislation prevent such delays and that provinces who are signing MOUs are committing to streamlined processes.

The consumer representative also noted that 45% of escalator inspections between May 2024 and May 2025 were incomplete due to coordination issues. TSSA plans a pilot project in the GTA to reduce incomplete inspections by 20% through improved scheduling with the owner and contractor. He also discussed

industry concerns about outstanding minor infractions delaying property transactions, recommending systematic follow-up and closure of all safety tasks.

The consumer representative requested a list of certificate equivalencies with other provinces, and I. Afanase agreed to share the links with council members.

5.1.1. ***Action Item:*** *I. Afanase to share the links to TSSA's recognized equivalency list under ON-Bill 2 with all council members.*

5.2. *Amusement Devices Advisory Council*

A written statement from the consumer representative was read by I. Afanase. It addressed the use of the TSSA logo. The consumer representative emphasized the need for a process to confirm licensure status for amusement devices and its contractors, such as a public display of device numbers linked to a live database, similar to restaurant inspection records or WSIB clearance certificates, or a visible TSSA plate on the device or logo on the sign. The Chair supported this idea, noting parallels with elevator certificates and stressing the importance of transparency for consumer safety. He also noted the importance of getting the word out to municipalities.

5.3. *Boilers, Pressure Vessels, and Operating Engineers*

The consumer representative spoke about concerns raised at the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Advisory Council regarding college program closures in trades and fire safety. He noted that colleges often base decisions on program costs rather than provincial needs, creating a shortage of skilled technicians. He emphasized the need for collaboration between industry and educational institutions to align training capacity with workforce demand. The consumer representative also reported progress in improving compliance standards and inspection protocols but emphasized that achieving these improvements will require stronger coordination among owners, insurers, contractors, and TSSA to ensure all parties clearly understand their responsibilities.

5.4. *Natural Gas Advisory Council*

The consumer representative provided an update from an Enbridge presentation pertaining to its work on hydrogen blending initiatives and pilot

projects. The consumer representative clarified that TSSA is the final authority on code interpretations for its regulated areas, unlike building and fire codes, where municipal officials hold jurisdiction.

5.5. *Liquid Fuels Advisory Council*

The consumer representative commented on TSSA's progress in using data to modernize regulation but expressed concern about communication gaps between the ministries and the administrative authorities. He cited examples such as mobile refueling, dryer vent fires, and amusement device safety, noting that these issues are not adequately reflected on ministry websites. The consumer representative urged stronger collaboration to ensure timely public communication and warned of the risk of major incidents if these gaps persist. The Chair confirmed that TSSA's consultation on retail mobile fueling is live and encouraged members to participate.

5.6. *Propane Advisory Council*

The Chair reported on the Propane Advisory Council, noting the appointment of a new chair, Rob Loenhart of the Canadian Propane Association. Discussions focused on red seal trades, risk management programs, and harmonization with other provinces. The Chair stressed that safety must remain the top priority and acknowledged that these issues will require long-term effort. He also mentioned upcoming changes to carbon monoxide alarm requirements in residential areas.

6. OFM: Upcoming Changes to the Ontario Fire Code

The consumer representative for the NGAC briefed the council on significant changes to the Ontario Fire Code effective January 1, 2026. Key updates include enhanced carbon monoxide alarm requirements for residential occupancies, which will now require alarms on every level of a home and in any unit receiving forced air from fuel-burning appliances, even if the appliance is outside the unit. Public corridors heated by forced air will also require alarms. New requirements for care occupancies mirror those for residential spaces, with alarms needed in suites adjacent to service rooms or garages and in areas containing fuel-burning appliances.

The consumer representative also outlined updates to Part 4 of the Fire Code, adopting the National Fire Code with Ontario-specific modifications, and introduced new provisions for the storage of dangerous goods, including lithium-ion batteries. She emphasized that most operators are expected to already comply due to existing federal and insurance standards. Council members suggested leveraging technicians during appliance servicing to educate consumers on compliance and proposed outreach through retailers and contractors. Sunaina confirmed that battery-operated or plug-in alarms will be permitted for retrofits under the Fire Code.

7. TSSA Public Awareness Campaign

A. Khan and S. Ceolin presented an overview of TSSA's public awareness initiatives. The strategy focuses on influencing consumer behavior through accessible resources, consistent messaging, and partnerships with safety organizations. Highlights include the publication of the Public Safety Report and dashboard, which now feature spotlight sections and educational videos such as "Mind the Doors" for elevator safety. TSSA partnered with the Ontario Poison Centre, Parachute, and SickKids to amplify carbon monoxide safety messaging through media releases and social campaigns. The campaign also introduced a children's activity sheet to engage younger audiences and emphasized outreach to vulnerable populations.

Council members praised the shift from "trunk slammers" to "fraudulent fuels workers" in campaign language and encouraged continued efforts to address communication challenges posed by declining traditional media channels.

8. Adjournment

8.1. *The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:02 a.m.*