



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of Ski Lifts Advisory Council Meeting

held on March 21, 2016

Minutes of the Ski Lifts Advisory Council (SLAC) meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held in Boardrooms 1433 and 1434, 14th Floor, Centre Tower, 3300 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario at 9:30 a.m. on the 21st of March 2016.

- Present:** Craig MacDonald, Caledon Ski Club (Acting Chair), John Ball, Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance (CSIA), Murray Frankcom, Leitner-Poma Canada Inc., Dolly Gerrior, Consumers Advisory Council (CAC), Kevin Nichol, Gougeon Insurance Brokers, and Alvin Weatherall, Blue Mountain Resort.
- In attendance:** Michael Beard, President and CEO (all items except 15), Maram Khalif, Council Coordinator (all items except item 15), David Lisle, Director (item 11), Dean McLellan, Investigator (item 9), Jim Palmer, Regional Supervisor (all items except 15); Roger Neate, Director (all items except 15), David Scriven, VP Research and Corporate Secretary (all items except 15), Ellen White, Policy Advisor (all items except 15), and Peter Wong, VP Operations (all items except 15).
- Guests:** Richard Hustwick, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (all items except 15).
- Regrets:** Ward Bond, Bond Ski Lift Installations/Loch Lomond Ski Ares , Bruce Haynes (Chair) Ontario Snow Resorts Association (OSRA), Dave Mathewson, Mount Pakenham Ski Area, Mark Rutherford, Brimacombe, Radu Petrut, Teora Engineering and Services Ltd., and Guy Stewart, Canadian Ski Patrol System – Ontario Division.

1. Constitution of Meeting

The Chair, B. Haynes sent his regrets. C. MacDonald served as the Acting Chair for the meeting.

As part of the safety moment, Council viewed a safety video highlighting the dangers of distracted walking while using digital. A few ski resorts have developed policies prohibiting the use of personal cellphones by their operators.

2. Council Chair's Report

Due to the warmer weather this ski season, Council shared challenges experienced by the industry.

3. Approval of Agenda

Council approved the agenda of March 21, 2016 meeting, as presented.

4. Review Action Items from Last Meeting

J. Palmer reported to Council that there were no outstanding action items from the last meeting.

The data sharing item from previous meetings, specifically about the number of riders in Ontario, was discussed. Statistically, the difficulties of obtaining the exact number were noted. Blue Mountain has significant data that can assist TSSA in determining an estimate of number of riders in Ontario for potential use in annual safety reporting.



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5. Approval of the Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the October 14, 2015 Ski Lifts Advisory Council meeting as presented, as a true and correct record of said meeting.

6. TSSA President & CEO's Report

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, members received the President and CEO's report regarding TSSA's key activities over the last quarter, which was treated as read.

M. Beard highlighted TSSA's new location effective end of June 2016: 345 Carlingview Drive, Toronto.

He also provided a high level update on TSSA's 20/20 initiative focusing on technology and infrastructure changes. He noted how the engineering process may be improved through the new system by making submissions and checking the status of a design review online.

7. Engineering Process

Written process and reporting criteria changes: M. Frankcom provided comments on the process of submitting engineering designs for review. He noted that while the process has been improved; the industry continues to believe that the commitment to a 4 to 5 weeks turnaround time for engineering design submissions could be reduced, depending on a job's requirements.

R. Kremer reiterated that there have been no backlog or delays to any submissions as a result of the enhanced process.

Council discussed ways to shorten the standard status of submissions, including a suggestion that inspectors conduct preliminary inspections while a decision was still pending on the engineering review.

It was noted that TSSA's 20/20 technology initiative is intended to further enhance processes, including design reviews. .

8. Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS)

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, members received MGCS' report regarding ongoing activities with TSSA, which was treated as read.

A notice to amend the *Technical Standards and Safety Act* in terms of the appeal limit is still in progress. The Ministry recommended 90 days as the appeal limit. The decision of the Government will be shared once it becomes available.

Tony Dean's Review of the Ontario College of Trades (OCOT) has been released since the last Council meeting. OCOT has developed a panel to review the recommendations.

9. Incident Reporting Criteria

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, members received the current incident reporting form and its guideline for discussion.



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A. Weatherall reported to Council that the industry found the current requirement for incident reporting challenging. He noted the incident reporting guide was different from Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines and as a result caused confusion. The nature of the injury and the definitions in the regulation were further discussed. He reiterated that changing the guideline would result in better data.

Further discussion ensued around how other ministries, such as the Ministry of Labour may deal with incidents in the workplace. Other jurisdictions' guidelines were also discussed in comparison to Ontario's.

Changing the guideline in relation to minor injury and critical reporting will require a regulation change and the possibility of regulation review for the ski lifts industry was deemed not likely at this point in time.

ACTION: A. Weatherall will discuss and refine the areas requiring changes from the industry. He and D. McLellan will have a follow up discussion to ensure the industry understands the incident report form and its guidelines.

10. Enforcement and Inspection Reporting

There was no update under this item.

11. Priority Safety Issue: Public Education

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, which forms part of the record of the meeting, D. Lisle provided background information on user behaviour as the primary root cause for the majority of reported incidents in ski lifts in Ontario.

TSSA established a solid user engagement campaign involving face to face interactions to deliver important safety messages and the result are still under analysis and will be shared at the next meeting.

The industry acknowledged the professionalism of those attending the sites to collect information.

Council discussed challenges with observational methods of collecting data and how to quantify the behaviour observed and the potential to distinguish safety messages for core users and beginners. In addition, the positive role that core users can play as positive role models was noted.

It was noted that the research and education program was under review and feedback to improve the program was encouraged.

12. Training and Certification Advisory Board (TCAB) – Continuing Education

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

13. Mechanics/Licencing/Training/Education

K. Nichol reported the TCAB will meet in April and information will be shared at the next meeting.

14. Questions on Information and Other Businesses

Membership renewal: Council renewed their terms.



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15. In Camera

Council members met *in camera* without TSSA's staff and guests.

16. Termination

The meeting was terminated at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2016 at the new location: 345 Carlingview Drive.