



# Technical Standards and Safety Authority

## Minutes of Ski Lifts Advisory Council Meeting on October 14, 2015

Minutes of the Ski Lifts Advisory Council (SLAC) meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held in Boardrooms 1433 and 1434, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Centre Tower, 3300 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario at 9:30 a.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, 2015.

**Present:** Bruce Haynes (Chair) Ontario Snow Resorts Association (OSRA), John Ball, Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance (CSIA), Ward Bond, Bond Ski Lift Installations/Loch Lomond Ski Ares, Murray Frankcom, Leitner-Poma Canada Inc., Dolly Gerior, Consumers Advisory Council (CAC), Dave Mathewson, Mount Pakenham Ski Area, Mark Rutherford, Brimacombe; and Alvin Weatherall, Blue Mountain Resort.

**In attendance:** Michael Beard, President and CEO (all items except 9 to 15), Maram Khalif, Council Coordinator (all items except item 15), David Lisle, Director (item 11), 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 12 to 15), Joshua Sorman, Team Leader (item 12), Supraja Sridharan, Advisor, (item 9), and Ellen White, Policy Advisor (all items except 15).

**Guests:** Richard Hustwick, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (all items except 15).

**Regrets:** Craig MacDonald, Caledon Ski Club, Kevin Nichol, Gougeon Insurance Brokers, Radu Petrut, Teora Engineering and Services Ltd., and Guy Stewart, Canadian Ski Patrol System – Ontario Division.

### 1. Constitution of Meeting

B. Haynes, Chair, called the meeting to order. Alvin Weatherall was introduced as the representative for Urban Centres sector.

As part of the safety moment, council viewed a safety video highlighting two areas: extending safety outside to the workplace and how incidents adversely affect the lives of others.

### 2. Council Chair's Report

The Chair highlighted the process of consultation for adoption changes to the ski lift code, as referenced in the Code Adoption Document (CAD). He noted the council would like consultation on the CAD to align with the industry's engineering submission deadlines.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

Council approved the agenda of October 14, 2015 meeting, as presented.

### 4. Review Action Items from Last Meeting

J. Palmer reviewed the outstanding action items from previous meetings, noting that highlighted items were completed.

D. Scriven provided an update on the outstanding action item related to the quantification of the public safety risk in relation to the exposed population. Currently, TSSA uses the Ontario population as the



## Technical Standards and Safety Authority Minutes of Ski Lifts Advisory Council Meeting on October 14, 2015

exposed population. He noted that TSSA would like to work with the ski industry to identify an estimated number of riders per season. Opportunities of sharing information between resorts and TSSA were discussed. The regional differences within Canada and the Eastern United States were also discussed.

### **5. Approval of the Minutes**

Council approved the minutes of the March 26, 2015 Ski Lift 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 informed the council TSSA has planned relocation of its Head Office in 2016, which will result in significant savings. The new location may also facilitate external meetings, including those initiated by the council members.

The possibility of a fee freeze for another year was also noted (which would extend the time to five years).

A video was shown highlighting the 2015 safety award recipients at TSSA's Annual General Meeting.

### **7. Priority Safety Issue: Aging Equipment**

There was no update under this item. Moving forward, this priority safety issue will be considered as business as usual.

### **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 was sent to all councils for request of feedback with a deadline of October 14, 2015. Council noted there was not enough time given to provide feedback or obtain more information of the specifics of the changes. The notice did not clarify if the MGCS was seeking consensus from the council as a unit or its individual responses. The consultation process was not clear and the deadline was too early for giving enough time for consideration.

### **9. Annual State of Public Safety Report and Ski Lifts Compliance Report**

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, which forms part of the record of the meeting, S. Sridharan provided an overview of TSSA's annual state of public safety, followed by R. Neate providing ski lifts safety program update. The Council discussed.



# Technical Standards and Safety Authority

## Minutes of Ski Lifts Advisory Council Meeting on October 14, 2015

### 10. Enforcement/Inspection/Reporting

D. Mathewson reported there has been no issues in regards to inspection over the summer. He also noted there were challenges with communicating with the industry at-large. Ontario Snow Resorts Association (OSRA) offered to help with disseminating information to the industry.

### 11. Priority Safety Issue: Public Education re – top of the hill data analysis

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, which forms part of the record of the meeting, D. Lisle provided a program overview, program results and outlined next steps.

Detail data analysis of top and the bottom of the hill were provided. The details of how data was collected were discussed.

Some members were interested in data regarding incidents involving loading and unloading of certain devices and developing appropriate preventive measures. A Risk Reduction Group was created in the past to further look into this issue; however, it is no longer active. The possibility of having a pilot program for this issue will be considered.

The council recommended that the industry and TSSA share detailed information about user behavior on certain devices offline. Some council members would like to follow up directly with D. Lisle prior to the next meeting.

The process in which TSSA establishes a contact for participation from Sparks Event Marketing at on-site campaign resorts was shared. The process works well and will be utilized the same way in 2016. OSRA's offer to assist in any capacity in the above process was acknowledged and appreciated. OSRA would also like to have some of the results of this research highlighted in its monthly newsletter. This can be arranged with D. Lisle offline.

Further discussion ensued around incidents involving mis-loading resulting in passengers hanging from chairs and ways to prevent this.

### 12. Training and Certification Advisory Board (TCAB)

J. Sorman provided an update around the recent activities of the TCAB. At the last meeting, TCAB focused on continuing education and approving curriculum including both technical and regulatory. The next step is to develop the first draft document. The implementation dates have not been set yet. The number of in-training mechanics is high and unmanageable by one certified mechanic. The need for direction was brought to the TCAB meeting. Setting a ratio for the number of in-training mechanics that are supervised by a certified mechanic will be discussed at the next TCAB meeting.

### 13. Mechanics/Licensing/Training/Education

K. Nichol sent his regrets for this meeting.

### 14. Questions on Information and Other Businesses

Membership renewal: council renewed their terms.



Technical Standards and Safety Authority  
Minutes of Ski Lifts Advisory Council Meeting  
on October 14, 2015

### 15. *In Camera*

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

*Discussions from in camera submitted by the Chair:*

- *Appeal on Inspectors ruling {re: Proposal to amend TSSA Act),*
- *Reporting on Injuries (threshold) and,*
- *Association involvement with TSSA on Education in planning and delivery*

### 16. Termination

The meeting was terminated at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2016