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EnviroFor News

Quickscribe Revamps Non-Legislation Resource Pages

We are pleased to announce some exciting updates aimed at enhancing accessibility to non-legislative, resource-based documents on Quickscribe. We have reorganized the interface and introduced new resource pages in the left navigation menu to simplify your search experience.

What's New?

Some of the newly revamped or added pages include:

- Forestry Revenue Manuals
- Guidance
- Legal Direction
- Policies, Plans and Procedures
- FPBC Bylaws

Although these resources are primarily tailored for the forestry sector, this new organization will better support resources from other sectors such as energy, wildfire policies, and general environmental planning and stewardship.

Alignment With Current Policy Priorities

These pages now more closely reflect how various resources are prioritized and displayed on the ministry sites, ensuring that the information is accessed in a more logical and relevant manner.

Easier Resource Access

Most resources are summarized with links directly to the Ministry's website, and many can now be found using our enhanced keyword search tools. Our goal is to streamline your ability to locate pertinent non-legislative documents, whether they are hosted on Quickscribe or linked externally.

Feedback Welcome

We invite you to share any thoughts, comments, or suggestions you have for further improvements. Please feel free to [contact us](#) at any time. Quickscribe would like to thank [Strategic Natural Resource Consultants Inc](#) for their contributions to this project.

Early Consolidations Now Highlighted

Quickscribe routinely publishes early consolidations of laws, showing how they will read when upcoming changes come into force. You may access these through the [Special Early Consolidations](#) page via the left navigation menu.

To ensure clarity, these documents are readily distinguished from current laws by displaying their text in red. With our new feature, sections that contain future changes are highlighted. We are confident this enhancement will help you swiftly identify which sections are subject to future changes.

Quickscribe Alerts Now Include Summaries of Bills


We are excited to announce an enhancement to your Quickscribe Alerts. Previously, summaries of Bills were accessible only via the [Supplemental Note](#) directly adjacent to a Bill on Quickscribe's [Bills page](#).


Starting today, these summaries will also be included in the BC Legislative Digest and Quickscribe Reporter. This new feature ensures you receive timely notifications of newly introduced legislation, while providing you concise insights into each Bill's intent, helping you quickly assess its potential impact on your area of interest. You may sign up to receive these and other customizable alerts at any time via [My Alerts](#).


New Bills

The following bills were recently introduced:

Government Bills

-  [Bill 5](#) – Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2025
- [Bill 6](#) – Supply Act (No. 1), 2025

 [Bill 7](#) – Economic Stabilization (Tariff Response) Act

-  [Bill 8](#) – Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025

Members' Bills

- [Bill M203](#) – Free Trade and Mobility Within Canada Act
- [Bill M204](#) – Perinatal and Postnatal Mental Health Strategy Act
- [Bill M205](#) – Mental Health Amendment Act, 2025
- [Bill M206](#) – Interpretation (Pacific Daylight Time) Amendment Act, 2025
- [Bill M207](#) – Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Repeal Act

For more information on the status of these or any other bills, visit our dedicated [Bills page](#), located on the left navigation. If you wish to be notified when these or other changes come into force, check out Quickscribe's customizable alerts via the [My Alerts](#) page. Quickscribe alerts are included with your subscription so feel free to select the alerts that work best for you!

Tip: [Log in](#) to [Quickscribe EnviroFor](#) prior to clicking Reporter links.



View the [PDF version](#) of the Reporter.

Quickscribe Alerts

Are you looking for a more custom notification that will advise you about important developments that impact your specific area of interest? Quickscribe offers numerous customizable alerts – visit the [My Alerts Page](#). Quickscribe alerts are included with your subscription, so feel free to select the alert that works best for you!

Want to Track Federal Laws?



For notification of federal amendments, we recommend using our Section Tracking tool to keep informed on changes to federal laws. Look for the paw icon adjacent to the sections you wish to track.

Looking for Previous Reporters?

We have archived the Quickscribe Reporter going back to 2004. Visit the historical [Reporter archives page](#).

EnviroFor Reporter Categories

[ENERGY & MINES](#)

[FOREST & ENVIRONMENT](#)

[OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY](#)



ENERGY & MINES NEWS

New Hydrogen Facility Regulation in Force

On April 1, the new [Hydrogen Facility Regulation](#) came into force. As we wrote in the previous Reporter, this new Regulation establishes two classes of hydrogen manufacturing facilities that are not co-located with a facility for manufacturing ammonia or methanol:

- Class 1 Hydrogen Facility, having an aggregate weight of hydrogen less than 4.5 tonnes, and
- Class 2 Hydrogen Facility, having an aggregate weight of hydrogen equal to or more than 4.5 tonnes, with a capacity to produce less than 100,000 tonnes of hydrogen per year.

The Regulation outlines the processes for application, permitting, operation, emergency management and decommissioning for both classes of hydrogen facilities.

The application process for smaller facilities with minimal potential impacts on public safety and the environment will be simplified and focused on well-established standards used widely in the hydrogen industry. Larger, more complex projects will see an approach similar to other major projects regulated by the BCER.

Read the [information update](#) provided by Geoff Turner, Executive Director, Energy Transition and Intergovernmental Relations with the BC Energy Regulator.

British Columbia Introduces Changes to Mineral Claims Registration

The British Columbia Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals ("Ministry") [has confirmed](#) that the new [Mineral Claims Consultation Framework](#) ("MCCF") took effect yesterday, on March 25, 2025. The MCCF had initially been released in draft form on January 7, 2025 for consultation with industry and Indigenous communities. The Ministry has published both an [MCCF policy](#) and [MCCF consultation guidance](#) and updated the [Mineral Titles Branch website](#) to reflect the changes.

The MCCF, which replaces the automated mineral claim registration system with a new application-based process, responds to the 2023 British Columbia Supreme Court ("BCSC") ruling in [Gitxaala v British Columbia \(Chief Gold Commissioner\)](#) ("Gitxaala"), and seeks to ensure that the Province of British Columbia (the "Province") fulfills its duty to consult in respect of the registration of

mineral and placer claims.

In *Gitxaala*, the BCSC determined that the Province was required to revise its current mineral tenure regime to facilitate consultation with Indigenous groups prior to registration. The decision provided the government 18 months, until March 26, 2025, to consult and design such a regime. An overview of the *Gitxaala* decision can be read in our [2024 Mining in the Courts Year in Review](#) publication. Read the [full article](#) by Daniel Bornstein, Daphne Rodzinyak, Rachael Carlson and Gwenyth Wren with McCarthy Tétrault LLP.

Carney Kills the Fuel Charge: Impacts on the Oil and Gas Sector

Mark Carney wasted no time after being sworn in as Prime Minister of Canada on Friday, dismantling the federal consumption-based carbon tax, the fuel charge, by way of an order-in-council on the same day. The new Federal Government described the policy as part of changes "...refocusing pollution pricing on industrial carbon pricing by effectively eliminating the fuel charge and removing the requirement for a consumer carbon price." Notably, the Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS) will remain, and it is only the regulatory Fuel Charge being removed. This raises questions about the future regulation of industrial facilities, how the price on carbon will be impacted over time, and if there can still be a reduction on emissions in Canada.

The changes were implemented by way of amendments to the [Fuel Charge Regulations](#) and were in effect as of Friday March 14, 2025. Read the [full article](#) by Owen Clarke and Laura Jochimski with Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

New Direction Ensures Affordable, Stable Electricity Rates

In response to the economic and trade uncertainty faced by people and businesses across British Columbia, the Province is taking action to provide stability in BC Hydro's electricity rates during these unpredictable times, while keeping rate increases below cumulative inflation.

"We must take urgent action to protect British Columbians from the uncertainty posed by rising costs while building a strong, robust and resilient electricity system for the benefit of B.C.'s long-term energy independence," said Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions. "That is why we are submitting a rate stability [direction](#) to the B.C. Utilities Commission to set BC Hydro's rate increases for the next two years. This move guarantees certainty and reaffirms our commitment to keeping electricity rates well below the North American average and cumulative inflation, while growing our clean-energy advantage." Read the BC government [news release](#).

Updates to Natural Resource Taxes

The following update to natural resource taxes was recently posted:

Mining taxes

- **March 4, 2025**

The provincial government announced its 2025 Budget on March 4, 2025. As a result, amendments to the mineral tax were made. Learn more at [B.C. Provincial budget tax changes](#).

For more information, visit the BC government [website](#).

BC Energy Regulator Announcements

The following BC Energy Regulator announcements were posted recently:

- [TU 2025-03](#) – Hydrogen Facility Regulation Introduced
- [TU 2025-03](#) – New Notification Process to Streamline Minor Well Changes
- [TU 2025-04](#) – Changes to Post-Incident Management in CM-IS
- [TU 2025-05](#) – Updates to Streamline Facility Changes
- [TU 2025-06](#) – Reporting of Produced Well Fluids

Visit the BC-ER [website](#) for more information.



ENERGY & MINES

Act or Regulation Affected	Effective Date	Amendment Information
Direction No. 9 to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (41/2025)	NEW Mar. 17/25	see Reg 41/2025
Direction to the British Columbia Utilities Commission Respecting the Customer Crisis Fund Program (163/2021)	Mar. 3/25	by Reg 32/2025
Dormancy and Shutdown Regulation (112/2019)	Apr. 1/25	by Reg 26/2025
Drilling and Production Regulation (282/2010)	Apr. 1/25	by Reg 26/2025

Emergency Management Regulation (217/2017)	Apr. 1/25	by Reg 26/2025
Fee, Levy and Security Regulation (8/2014)	Apr. 1/25	by Reg 26/2025
Hydrogen Facility Regulation (27/2025)	NEW Apr. 1/25	see Reg 27/2025
Liquefied Natural Gas Facility Regulation (146/2014)	Apr. 1/25	by Reg 26/2025
Low Carbon Fuels (Technical) Regulation (295/2023)	Apr. 1/25	by Reg 24/2025
Pipeline Regulation (281/2010)	Apr. 1/25	by Reg 26/2025
Processing Facility Regulation (48/2021) (formerly Oil and Gas Processing Facility Regulation)	Apr. 1/25	by Reg 26/2025
Requirements for Consultation and Notification Regulation (50/2021)	Apr. 1/25	by Reg 26/2025
Security Management Regulation (181/2022)	Apr. 1/25	by Reg 26/2025
Service Regulation (199/2011)	Apr. 1/25	by Reg 26/2025



FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Province to Strengthen Invasive Species Legislation

The Province is proposing key amendments to the [Wildlife Act](#) in this Spring's legislative session to address the spread of aquatic invasive species. Once enacted, the proposed amendments will enable the Province to create regulations under the *Wildlife Act* to:

- Prohibit the transport of watercraft over land with the drain plug in place.
- Require inspection of all watercrafts entering BC from another jurisdiction prior to being launched in provincial waters.
- Require vehicles transporting watercraft to stop at designated inspection stations.

Read the [full article](#) from UBCM.

When, Where, and Why Does FPBC Take Action on Unlawful Practice?

A recent story in the media has drawn attention to Forest Professionals BC's enforcement actions against an ecologist in Whistler. The story was prompted when another party shared a copy of a cease and desist letter FPBC sent following repeated complaints the ecologist is infringing on a reserved practice that is protected by the [Forest Professionals Regulation](#). The complaints also expressed a concern for the safety of the public, given that the ecologist is publicly advocating for alternative fuel management that is inconsistent with established and proven practices.

FPBC's review of the circumstances substantiated these concerns and identified that the ecologist is not simply expressing a personal opinion but is actively providing professional advice to community organizations in a manner that contravenes provincial law. Given the potential risk to public safety, the concern for the use of appropriate science in the protection of interface communities, and the protection of our reserved practice, this case created an elevated cause for concern.

But before we review the specifics of the matter, it's important to understand the legal context that guides our decisions as a regulator. Our profession has always had protections in place regarding the practice of professional forestry; however, those protections were made more specific at the passing of the [Professional Governance Act](#) (PGA). Read the [full article](#) by Casey Macaulay and Garnet Mierau in the *BC Forest Professional* Spring 2025 issue.

Federal Government Publishes State of PFAS Report and Risk Management Approach

The Government of Canada published the final "State of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) report" ([State of PFAS Report](#)), the "Risk management approach for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), excluding fluoropolymers" ([Risk Management Approach](#)) and a proposed Order adding a toxic substance (the class of PFAS excluding fluoropolymers) to Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the [Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999](#) (CEPA) ([Proposed Order](#)) in the *Canada Gazette* on March 8, 2025. These documents are open for public consultation until May 7, 2025.

The State of PFAS Report concludes that the class of PFAS, excluding fluoropolymers, are entering or may enter the environment in a quantity or concentration or under conditions that have or may have immediate or long-term harmful effects on the environment

or its biological diversity, and that constitute or may constitute a danger in Canada to human life or health. The publication of the State of PFAS Report and Risk Management Approach follows drafts of these reports originally published in May 2023 and updated in July 2024. Read the [full article](#) by Sarah Gilbert, Julia Schatz and Samantha Chenatte with Bennett Jones LLP.

Pest Management Regulatory Agency Opens Pre-Consultation Period on Proposed Changes to the Pest Control Products Regulations

On March 7, 2025, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) published two consultation documents as part of its ongoing work to clarify which categories of pest control products are subject to the [Pest Control Products Act](#) (PCPA) and the [Pest Control Products Regulations](#) (PCPR) passed under it, which products are exempt and which may be authorized (without registration being required). The PMRA is seeking further stakeholder input on the amendments being proposed. The comment period is open until May 6, 2025. Read the [full article](#) by Julia Schatz and Samantha Chenatte with Bennett Jones LLP.

The BC Cumulative Effects Framework: A Guide for Forest Professionals

Every tree harvested, road built, forest burned, or stream crossed leaves an impact on the land. These impacts may seem isolated at first, but over time they accumulate and can lead to cumulative effects that shape ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and BC's natural resources. But how do we measure these complex cumulative effects? And how can forest professionals use this information to provide advice and make informed decisions?

BC's Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF) was developed to address these needs. Since its establishment in 2016, it has become a leading framework that proactively assesses, reports, and supports the management of cumulative effects from human activities and natural processes using the best available public information. Forest professionals can utilize CEF information including reports, data, and tools to better understand cumulative effects and to incorporate this information into practice.

This article serves as a guide for forest professionals on the use and application of the CEF within your practice. It will explore the key components of the CEF, what type of information is available, and how forest professionals can apply this in their work. Read the [full article](#) by Melissa Lucchetta and Darcie Fodor in the Spring 2025 *BC Forest Professional*.

Environmental Appeal Board Decisions

The following Environmental Appeal Board decisions were made recently:

[Environmental Management Act](#)

- [Consolidated Envirowaste Industries Inc. \(The Answer Garden\) v. Director, Environmental Management Act](#) [Final Decision – Allowed In Part]
- [Kask Venture Corp. v. Director, Environmental Management Act](#) [Settlement Order – Appeal Abandoned Without Costs]

[Water Sustainability Act](#)

- [Glenda Centrone v. Assistant Water Manager](#) [Dismissal Order – Appeal Dismissed]
- [Paradise Hixon Motel Ltd. v. Assistant Water Manager](#) [Summary Dismissal Decision – Appeal Dismissed]
- [Nicholas Vanderveen, Nelliese Klop, Anna Klop & Luke Neels v. Assistant Water Manager](#) [Dismissal Order – Appeal Dismissed]

[Wildlife Act](#)

- [Xin Yue Xiao v. Regional Manager, Wildlife Act](#) [Dismissal Order – Appeal Dismissed]

Visit the Environmental Appeal Board [website](#) for more information.



FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT

Act or Regulation Affected	Effective Date	Amendment Information
Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation (30/2019)	Mar. 17/25	by Reg 38/2025
Carbon Tax Act	Mar. 31/25	by 2025 Bill 8, c. 5, section 6 only (in force by Royal Assent), Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025
	Apr. 1/25	by 2025 Bill 8, c. 5, sections 1 to 5, 7 and 8 only (in force by Royal Assent), Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025
Protected Areas of British Columbia Act	Mar. 31/25	by 2025 Bill 3, c. 2, sections 1 to 5 only (in force by Royal Assent), Protected Areas of British Columbia Amendment Act, 2025



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

Workplace Safety and Criminal Negligence

Most construction projects are inherently risky and failure to adhere to safety protocols can result in criminal liability. In 2004, the [Criminal Code](#) was amended to modernize the criminal law's approach to establishing criminal liability of corporations and employees for workplace deaths and injuries. This amendment came into place after 26 miners lost their lives in an explosion in Nova Scotia. Pursuant to these amendments, corporations can be convicted of criminal negligence when:

1. a representative or representatives of the organization acting within the scope of their authority were a party to the offence; and,
2. a senior officer responsible for the aspect of the organization's activities relevant to the offence, departed markedly from the standard of care that could reasonably be expected to prevent the representative from being a party to the offence.

Consequences of criminal negligence include fines for both the individual and the corporation, and up to life in prison. Since 2004, a construction company and its employees have only been charged with criminal negligence three times in BC. A criminal negligence trial was recently heard in BC Supreme Court. Read the [full article](#) by Satinder Sidhu and Simon Wu with Clark Wilson LLP.

2025 New or Revised ACGIH Threshold Limit Values and BC Exposure Limits (January)

from WorkSafeBC:

The [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#) provides that, except as otherwise determined by WorkSafeBC, an employer must ensure no worker is exposed to a substance exceeding the Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) prescribed by the [American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists](#) (ACGIH).

Twice a year, the ACGIH publishes a list of substances for which they have set new or revised TLVs. When WorkSafeBC adopts the new or revised ACGIH TLVs as regulatory exposure limits for chemical substances, these exposure limits are referred to as B.C. Exposure Limits (ELs).

An EL is the maximum allowed airborne concentration for a chemical substance for which it is believed that nearly all workers may be exposed over a working lifetime and experience no adverse health effects. ELs may be set out as an 8-hour time-weighted average concentration, a 15-minute short-term exposure limit, or a ceiling limit. Read the [full news release](#) by WorkSafeBC.

Emergency Planning for Hazardous Substances

Amendments to Part 5 of the [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#) came into effect on February 3, 2025. These amendments provide clarity and specify what emergency plans must include. "Emergencies can happen suddenly and without warning," says Diana Janke, senior prevention advisor. "The more prepared you are for them, the better you'll be able to respond in a way that reduces the chance of injury."

What it means for employers

BC's employers are already required to develop response plans for emergencies involving hazardous substances. The amendments now require them to:

- Prepare a written emergency response plan that is appropriate to the hazards of the workplace and clarifies roles and responsibilities during an emergency.
- Conduct training and drills annually or when a plan is revised.
- Engage staff in the emergency response plan process.

Read the [full article](#) by Steven Gilstead, published in the Spring 2025 WorkSafeBC Magazine.

OHS Advisor: New Support for Employers and Workers

WorkSafeBC has created a new occupational health and safety (OHS) advisor role to expand services for employers and workers.

OHS advisors will assist employers and workers in understanding their requirements under the Workers Compensation Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation and guide them to available tools and resources designed to assist in the development and maintenance of effective health and safety policies and programs.

An OHS advisor can offer guidance and advice on identifying hazards, assessing risks, and implementing compliant health and safety controls in your workplace. They can also help you prepare for new regulatory requirements. OHS advisors are there to provide support and guidance, and unlike WorkSafeBC prevention officers, they do not conduct workplace inspections or issue orders. Read the [full article](#) in the March 2025 issue of Forest Safety News.

OHS Policies/Guidelines – Updates

OHS Policies – Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

March 14, 2025

OHS Policy R5.48-1 has been amended (effective March 14, 2025) to reflect the current exposure limits for substances listed on the new or revised Threshold Limit Values for January 2025 from the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.

- [R5.48-1 Controlling Exposure – Exposure Limits](#)

Guidelines – Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

March 14, 2025

- Part 5 Chemical Agents and Biological Agents

Table of Exposure Limits for Chemical and Biological Substances

The table has been updated to reflect changes to OHS Policy R5.48-1 (amended March 14, 2025). Deletions are shown as strikethrough; additions and revisions are highlighted in green.

OHS Regulation: Three-point seat belts on mobile equipment

The following amendments to the [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#) are in effect March 31, 2025 [[B.C. Reg. 283/2024](#)].

Part 16 Mobile Equipment

- [16.2 Application](#) (amended)
- [16.21 Seat belts](#) (amended)
- [16.21.1 When minimum 3-point seat belts required](#) (enacted)

Visit the [WorkSafeBC website](#) to explore this and previous updates.



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Act or Regulation Affected	Effective Date	Amendment Information
Electrical Safety Regulation (100/2004)	Mar. 4/25	by Reg 118/2025
Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (296/97)	Mar. 31/25	by Reg 283/2024

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