

This newsletter is to inform you of recent changes & trends regarding health and safety.

The Turning Point is a monthly newsletter covering topics from various industries and sectors. The Turning Point will respond to your inquiries and inform you of current services and updates regarding

Raising the Standard Consulting Inc.



## **INQUEST CALLS FOR IMPROVED REGULATIONS, SAFETY PROTOCOLS, EDUCATION FOLLOWING WORKER'S DEATH**

A coroner's inquest into the 2020 death of miner Edouard Gallant at Impala Canada Ltd.'s Lac des Iles Mine in northwestern Ontario has issued a series of recommendations aimed at strengthening mine safety regulations, protocols, and education.

Gallant died on May 27, 2020, when he was overwhelmed by blasted ore saturated with concrete and water that breached protective barriers at the base of a mining shaft used for ore and mining waste transfer.

The jury's recommendations, released this week, are intended to help prevent similar incidents in the future. The recommendations are directed to Impala Canada, which owns the mine; SRC Mining, Gallant's employer; and the Ontario Ministry of Labour. These organisations have six months to respond in writing about the degree to which they have implemented the recommendations or to provide feedback on their substance.

"Obviously, opening up some of these issues, especially after this amount of time, is always difficult for families," said Jai Dhar, the lawyer who led the proceedings for the Ontario Coroner's Office, according to a CBC report.

"But I do hope that it does bring some closure to the family of Mr. Gallant and really serves that purpose of helping them feel like some positive change will happen in the future, so that other families don't have to go through what they did."

A series of events led up to the incident. Impala Canada had identified deterioration in an ore pass, a vertical underground opening used for ore transportation within the mine. The company hired SCR Mines Technology to repair the ore pass. SCR's rehabilitation process involved scaling the walls, installing ground support, and shotcreting the ore pass walls in six-foot vertical sections.

The tragedy occurred during the repair work when an unusual amount of shotcrete rebounded off the walls, and water collected on top of the muck. On the day of the accident, SCR initiated a muck drawdown, during which an SCR worker entered the loading pocket platform to remove lockout locks to evacuate additional muck. Unfortunately, the flow of muck was not controlled by the guillotine gate, causing the muck, saturated with shotcrete, to overwhelm the protective barriers and fatally injure the worker.

It was also revealed the Lac Des Iles Mine had an underground water management plan in place, but it did not include procedures to guard against the addition

and accumulation of water in ore passes during repair activities.

Impala Canada was fined \$350,000 in 2023 for Gallant's death and another 2020 incident that critically injured a worker. The Lac des Iles Mine is scheduled to close in May, with the company citing low palladium prices as the reason, according to the CBC report.

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## FIFTY YEARS ON, BCRSP SHARPENS ITS FOCUS

“I always had this idealistic notion: I don’t just want to go home at the end of the day the way I came in. I want to go home better, because somebody challenged me or taught me something.”

For Larry Masotti, newly appointed Chair of the Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals (BCRSP), that sentiment frames both his career and his vision for the profession. Occupational health and safety, he argues, is not a static set of rules but a living practice. More like a river that carves its banks over time than a fixed structure. To lead effectively, he believes, requires navigating both the steady currents of established practice and the rapids of emerging risks.

### **Building on Fifty Years**

Masotti notes how much the profession has expanded. “A decade ago we may have talked about slips and falls and pinch points. We still do, of course, but now the spectrum also includes inclusion, diversity, equity, mental health, psychological safety at one end, with robotics, drones, artificial

intelligence, and 3D printing at the other.” The challenge, he argues, is ensuring health and safety professionals are prepared for both. Lifelong learning, he says, “has never been more pronounced.”

That awareness informs his priorities. Outreach remains central, both to support the growth of BCRSP’s designations and to ensure employers recognize their value. He also highlights the importance of collaboration across allied fields, pointing to a new alliance of organizations ranging from ergonomists to occupational hygienists. “In a unified front, we raise the profile of occupational health and safety in this country,” he explains. And long-term, he remains focused on professionalization: title protection and broader recognition of health and safety as a distinct profession at both provincial and federal levels.

The 50th anniversary celebration in Niagara Falls next May will serve as a touchstone, both for certificants and

those considering the field. “Although we’re celebrating with certificants, we’re also inviting aspiring non-certificants who might want to find out what this is all about,” he says.

### **Priorities: Outreach, Alliance, Professionalization**

Masotti’s own career reflects the evolution of the field. After decades at Workplace Safety & Prevention Services, he now leads Minerva Canada, promoting health and safety education in universities and colleges. Retirement was never truly on the table. “Health and safety has given me so much I did not want to leave it,” he says. “I realized you cannot be in part-time, you’re either in or you’re out. I decided I wanted to be in.” That decision has shaped a leadership style grounded in collaboration and critical thinking. For him, effective professionals must be equally at ease “on the plant floor and in the boardroom,” bridging technical realities with strategic discussions.

Visibility, both at home and abroad, is part of that bridge. Masotti sees board members and volunteers as ambassadors, encouraging them to speak publicly about certification and career pathways in the field. Internationally, BCRSP maintains agreements with credentialing bodies in Australia, the UK, and the US, with more on the horizon. “All in the interest of learning and elevating the profession globally,” he says.

He also emphasizes that the most

significant changes facing health and safety are cultural as much as technological. The growing attention to inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility, and decolonization marks, in his view, a fundamental shift. “Even accessibility isn’t only physical accessibility, it’s neurodiversity and things of that nature. It’s much more complex. And given the fact that we’re finally talking about it, we’re all learning.” Alongside this, he points to the increasing recognition of psychosocial hazards and mental health, once resisted as part of workplace safety but now firmly on the agenda.

Technology, meanwhile, continues to accelerate change, from AI and wearables to drones for inspections. For Masotti, adaptability is the critical skill. “Change is the only constant. Once a professional learns to deal with change, they become adaptable, open to it, and realize there are pros and cons to any process or procedure.” He stresses that interpersonal “human skills” are equally vital, quoting Alvin Toffler: “The illiterate person of the 21st century will not be the person who cannot read or write, but the one that cannot unlearn, relearn, and learn.”

### **Raising the Profile, Renewing the Energy**

Masotti stresses that the credibility of BCRSP’s certifications rests on continuous oversight rather than one-time achievement. With ISO certification in place, the organization’s processes are subject to regular audits and constant review.

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## LAFARGE FINED OVER \$670,000 FOR WORKER'S FATAL INJURIES

British Columbia employer Lafarge Canada Inc. has been fined \$674,445.93 after one of its workers sustained fatal injuries in the workplace.

The incident happened at the firm's cement manufacturing facility.

When a large fan at the site failed, debris broke through the fan housing and struck a nearby worker, according to WorkSafeBC. The worker sustained fatal injuries.

WorkSafeBC's investigation determined that the fan's impeller had been repaired and refurbished about five months prior to the incident.

"The firm failed to ensure the installation, inspection, testing, and repair of its equipment was done as specified by the manufacturer or a professional engineer. The firm also failed to ensure that, if equipment was dismantled and subsequently re-assembled, it was checked by a qualified person and determined to be safe before operation," said WorkSafeBC.

"In addition, the firm failed to ensure the health and safety of all workers at its workplace, and failed to provide workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety. These were all high-risk violations."

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## **TRANSOCEAN FINED \$50K OVER WORKPLACE INJURY 6 YEARS LATER**

Six years after a worker was injured during crane operations in Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore, their employer — Transocean Canada Drilling Services — has been sentenced.

In a provincial courtroom in St. John's on Tuesday morning, Judge Lois Skanes fined the company \$50,000 for breaching the Canada–Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Marine Installations and Structures Occupational Health and Safety Transitional regulations.

The incident happened Sept. 6, 2019, when a worker was pinned between a steel adapter weighing 1,400 kilograms and a rail during crane operations on board the Transocean Barents oil rig.

On top of the fine, Skanes ordered the company to give an additional \$15,000 to the College of the North Atlantic for safety related programming for heavy equipment operators.

"I'm satisfied that this fine and direction of pay address the sentencing provisions, particularly to the legislation including the Criminal Code," Skanes told the courtroom.

In 2022 the provincial offshore industry regulator, now called the Canada–Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Energy Regulator, laid two charges against the company.

Skanes said the company had been convicted for one breach on July 10.

A second charge was dismissed.

### **‘Serious, permanent and irreparable’**

Skanes also detailed the injuries and harm done to the worker, who was in the courtroom on Tuesday along with supporters.

“In the present circumstances, the offence caused not only the risk of harm but actual harm to [the worker],” she said, adding the injuries were “serious, permanent and irreparable.”

Skanes said the man was taken by helicopter to the Health Sciences Centre in St. John’s, where he was treated for numerous injuries including broken ribs, a broken clavicle and damage to organs like the pancreas and liver.

Skanes referenced the man’s victim impact statement, in which he detailed spending months in hospital in pain and after being discharged, being readmitted to hospital in relation to an injury to his pancreas.

“In addition to the physical injuries which cause him to be unable to return to work, [the man]’s family have and continue to suffer ongoing mental distress and crippling financial losses,” she said.

Skanes said the crane operator ran the machine in accordance with the company’s policy, but those policies didn’t align with regulatory requirements and led to the incident.

- Transocean facing 2 charges over 2019 workplace injury
- Braya, contractor plead guilty to safety charges in fatal Come By Chance refinery explosion

She said workplace safety was squarely the responsibility of Transocean as the employer.

Skanes added Transocean doesn’t have a record for this type of violation and the Crown said the company was co-operative in the investigation and took corrective action to reduce future injuries.

### **‘Relatively pleased’**

One of the company’s lawyers, Alex Templeton of McInnis Cooper, told reporters he believed Transocean would be “relatively pleased that it’s a reasonable sentencing.”

But he added Transocean took issue with the reasons behind the conviction and it would be for the company to decide if it files for an appeal.

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# Raising The Standard



## **RTS CRSP Prep Course**

During this 3 day course, we will act as your personal tutor and ensure that your efforts are effective and timely by providing guidance, action plans, training programs and system evaluations. The studying, research and learning can only be done by the participant. However, if you are committed, we can ensure that you will receive your designation.

## **RTS Industrial Truck Training**

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**For more information please contact Hailey Mesner at [hmesner@rtsconsulting.com](mailto:hmesner@rtsconsulting.com)**

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We want to build relationships with our clients to help create lasting change in their organizations. Contact us today to build a safer tomorrow.

With Aloha,

Stanford Brown, B.Sc., CSP, CSHP, CRSP, CHSC, Senior Consultant, President & CEO