



# Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Ski Lift Advisory Council

Meeting on November 22, 2022

Minutes of the Ski Lift Advisory Council meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at 10:00 a.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.

**Present:** John Ball, Canadian Ski Instructor Alliance; Tom Cavers, Beaver Valley Ski Club; Brian Edwards, Edwards Insurance Brokers; Murray Frankcom, Leitner Canada; Craig MacDonald, Caledon Ski Club; Dave Mathewson, Mount Pakenham Ski Area; Candice Micucci, Canadian Ski Patrol System; Kevin Nichol (Chair), Ontario Ski Resorts Association (OSRA); Mark Rutherford, Brimacombe; Robert Sheridan, Blue Mountain Resorts LP.; Sarah Simons, Kenny Engineering Inc., Christine Simpson, TSSA's Consumer Advisory Council.

Vanessa Caira, Supervisor, Authorizations; Alexandra Campbell, VP, Communications & Stakeholder Relations; Sandra Cooke, Ombudsman; Kristian Kennedy, Manager, Stakeholder Relations; Rob Kremer, Manager, Engineering, Elevating Devices Safety Program; Roger Neate, Director, Elevating Devices Safety Program.

**Regrets:** Ward Bond, Bond Ski Lift Installation

## 1. Welcome & Constitution of Meeting

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### a) Safety Moment

For the safety moment, a video was shown about ice storm safety.

## 2. Adoption of the November 16, 2022 agenda

Council adopted the agenda as presented.

## 3. Approval of March 23, 2022 minutes

Council approved the minutes as presented.

## 4. Review of Action Items from Last Meeting

K. Kennedy noted that there were no action items in the previous minutes.

## 5. Chair's Update

The Chair treated his annual report as read.

## 6. Council administration

### a. Membership renewal – Brian Edwards (Feb. '23)

K. Kennedy noted that B. Edwards will renew his membership for three years.

The Chair asked M. Frankcom about his membership status in relation to his relocation out of Ontario. He indicated that he still represents Ontario through Leitner-Poma Canada (National).

**Action:** Update Sarah's surname to Kenney.

## 7. Labour Disruption Update and Ski Inspections Update

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R. Neate provided a verbal update. TSSA is catching up on the inspection scheduling that built up while the strike of TSSA inspectors was happening. There is a significant backlog. TSSA is prioritizing new installations, alterations and continues to focus on high- and medium-risk devices. TSSA will have to defer many inspections this year because of the backlog.

M. Rutherford asked about fees: Will there be fee reductions if TSSA is not doing inspections? R. Neate reminded the council that fees are not set on the basis of inspections alone and fees feed into the larger safety system that TSSA regulates, including compliance activities for high-risk devices. M. Rutherford replied that industry wants TSSA inspections and the public expects them. Some stakeholders, like school boards, want to see TSSA inspection records. R. Neate indicated that he expects a return to the inspection status quo after this season.

J. Ball added that insurance providers always look for TSSA inspection history for on-site risk assessments. B. Edwards, speaking for an insurer, indicated that if a site can provide maintenance records in lieu of a TSSA inspection record, that should be acceptable.

R. Neate reminded council that TSSA is already on a two-year risk-based schedule for ski lifts.

M. Rutherford asked whether this new inspection schedule to deal with the backlog was communicated to the sector. R. Neate indicated that post-strike TSSA was still working through the backlog analysis as late as this week and so it has not shared the information yet. He also asked what would happen if a ski resort would like an inspection, noting that the sector viewed TSSA as a safety partner and a second set of eyes on devices. He added that school boards ask for copies of TSSA inspections each year prior to allowing school ski trips. R. Neate requested that TSSA get through the backlog before addressing new inspections.

**Action:** R. Neate and A. Campbell to prepare a communications document on ski lift inspections before ski season.

## 8. Training and Certification Update

R. Neate presented a document that was walked into the meeting showing current Ski Lift Mechanic certificate holders. The Chair mentioned that OSRA is continually updating material to the training decks. The council discussed the importance and requirement of keeping Passport Documents up-to-date.

There were no questions or comments.

## 9. Compliance Standards Update

S. Cooke commented that due to the inspector strike the ski lift compliance standard was delayed. It will be launched in March with the new OASIS IT system. S. Cooke and D. McLellan will do information sessions with the sector to raise awareness about it. The compliance standard is posted on the website for stakeholder review. TSSA is open to meeting with OSRA to do presentations on the compliance standard.

In response to a comment about the difficulty of finding documents on the TSSA website, A. Campbell detailed the TSSA website revamp. She noted there will be an online survey of the website to gauge stakeholder interest in how it should change.

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The Chair mentioned opportunities to promote Ride Safe and other ski safety awareness programs for youth. The Ski Patrol System asked for material to share with young people. He noted that a safety initiative might be worthwhile for next season. These initiatives have been very effective in the past.

J. Ball mentioned resorts run beginner lessons that can piggy-back on existing programs.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:37 a.m.