



Exporting Our Expertise

Safety should become part of B.C.'s competitive advantage.

One evening last week, my idle channel surfing landed me in the middle of a program on illegal logging and the efforts being made to "track" products resulting from this illicit trade. In the next 10 minutes, before I returned to my search for *The Simpsons* reruns, I learned the following:



Asia has lost more than half of its forests since the 1960s. This historically unprecedented depletion is accelerating and has reached the equivalent of an estimated three to four million hectares annually. Forests roughly the size of nine Prince Edward Islands (my comparison) are eliminated each year and the "black market" in trees is somewhere between four to eight times "official" estimates.

The concerns raised in the program focused on the loss of species habitat and the impact on ecosystems. The images

New young worker web site

WorkSafeBC launched its new young worker web site, raiseyourhand.com, featuring an ever-growing quilt of "hands." Young workers can log on to the site, customize their own hand, and post their personal experiences about workplace safety.

By visiting raiseyourhand.com, young workers will have the opportunity to make their voices heard, share their experiences, and access a wealth of resources for helping them stay safe on the job.

Encourage young workers to visit raiseyourhand.com today!



WORK SAFE BC

WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

were of large trees being harvested by workers with no safety gear, working with modern, extremely dangerous equipment. Worker safety and well-being never came up in the program.

Contrast this situation with British Columbia and Canada, with no illegal logging, the highest percentage of certified forest lands in the world, and sustainable yields harvested by skilled and, in B.C., SAFE (Safety Accord

Shouldn't the well-being of forest workers, wherever they are, be of equal concern?

Forestry Enterprise) certified workers.

We have made tremendous strides over the last few years to make worker and work-site safety an integral part of our industry. We are starting to see results in reduced incidents, claims and costs. While we have more progress to make, the safety infrastructure and the cultural shift to safety is well underway.

Shouldn't the next step be to make safety part of our competitive advantage? Why, I ask, is safety less of an issue than illegal logging, environmental impacts and unsustainable forestry? Shouldn't the well-being of forest workers, wherever they are, be of equal concern? Shouldn't the forest industry in B.C. benefit from the fact that our wood products are produced from sustainable, environmentally sound forests, and harvested safely?!

It is time to make our improving safety performance not only part of how we manage our industry in B.C. but also one of the reasons why wood from B.C. should be the choice of customers everywhere. "Safely harvested" should be as important to the future of forestry as environmental concerns. **TLA**

Tanner Elton is the CEO of the BC Forest Safety Council.

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BC Forest Safety Council

Unsafe is Unacceptable



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