
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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B.C. CORONERS SERVICE APPOINTS FORESTRY CORONER

VANCOUVER - B.C.'s forest workers will be safer on the job with the appointment of the province's first forestry coroner, Chief Coroner Terry Smith announced today.

Resource industry coroner Tom Pawlowski will identify common circumstances and underlying factors that could be contributing to forest sector fatalities.

"Tom will work with forest industry representatives to investigate all forest related deaths and find common factors with a goal of preventing those types of death in the future, said Smith. "He has been able to gather significant experience as a coroner within the Vancouver Metro Region and has a solid background in forestry - he's the perfect candidate for the job."

Resource industry coroner duties include:

- investigating all forest related deaths in conjunction with the local coroner and concluding those investigations by way of a formal public report or presiding over a formal jury at inquest.
- making recommendations that will prevent future loss of life under similar circumstances within the forest sector.
- focusing public attention on and initiating public response to preventable deaths in the forest sector through public reporting.

Pawlowski holds a technology diploma in Forestry from BCIT, a Bachelor's degree with a concentration in criminology, and has over seven years experience in the forest sector including forest engineering, timber cruising, fire fighting and working in hazardous terrain. Since 2005, he has been working as a coroner in the Vancouver Metro Region.

As with all coroners, the resource coroner exercises judicial independence in making formal decisions, which are subject to review by a Supreme Court Justice under the Judicial Review Procedure Act.

Pawlowski will be located in the Office of the Chief Coroner beginning May 1st.

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