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Environmental Advocacy, Utility Training and Certification -

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



- LISA RYBCHUK, PRESIDENT PVMA



We are excited to once again be meeting in person at the upcoming fall conference planned for October 23rd in Red Deer. We are grateful to the casino volunteers that help to make it possible to subsidize these fall conference events. We hope you will find great value in attending!

In addition to the Fall Conference and General Meeting, we will be holding a Special Resolution vote on the updated Bylaws, the first time since 2014. Bylaws are a critical legal document which outline the rules by which the organization operates. It lists the roles and responsibilities of the Board of the Directors, Committees, and staff and provides a framework for consistent decision-making.

By reviewing the Bylaws, the PVMA gives the membership an opportunity to provide their input and to ensure transparency and accountability in the operation of the PVMA.

The changes are primarily grammatical, such as updating the name from the previous Industrial Vegetation Managers Association of Alberta (IVMAA) and will serve to more accurately reflect the modernization of the organization over the past 10 years. We encourage you to review the Bylaws and to provide your feedback prior to the vote on October 23rd.

Please feel free to reach out to the Val at the PVMA office, should you have any questions in the meantime.

- Lisa Rybchuk, PVMA President

PVMA SCHOLARSHIPS

The PVMA will be awarding up to five \$2,000 scholarships each year to Alberta students who are enrolled in an Alberta Post Secondary Institute in a vegetation management-related program OR in any program but have vegetation management work experience. In addition to the scholarship, the winners will be invited expenses paid to our Spring Seminar.

Keith Sanftleben Memorial Scholarship:

Keith Sanftleben was an active member of the PVMA for many years and had a passion for helping other people and communities. This scholarship has been set up to honour his memory and to highlight students that have an interest in making a positive impact on the community and others. The PVMA will be awarding one \$4,000 scholarship each year to a student enrolled in post secondary study at an Alberta government approved provincial, national, or international institution or program. \$1,000 is funded by AdvantageVM with the balance funded by the PVMA.

**Applications are accepted from
September 1st to November 30th of each year.**

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PVMA

PROFESSIONAL VEGETATION MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Save The Date!

PVMA SPRING CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Red Deer, Alberta

PVMA 2025 SPRING CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – EVENT RECAP

- SUBMITTED BY JOANNE IRELAND, PVMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THE PVMA HOSTED OUR MUCH-ANTICIPATED BIENNIAL 3-DAY SPRING CONFERENCE, TRADESHOW, AND AGM FEBRUARY 25-27, 2025, AT THE RIVER CREE RESORT AND CASINO IN ENOCH, ALBERTA. WITH THE THEME “LEADING THE WAY” OUR EVENT WAS FOCUSED ON SHOWCASING INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS IN THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY.

To support this, we introduced the Whova event platform app, which allowed attendees, speakers, and sponsors to easily access the agenda, presentation information, real-time announcements, and networking features. A printed agenda, generously sponsored by Arbormetrics Solutions, was made available for those who preferred a hard copy.

The conference saw over 260 attendees, including registrants, exhibitors and speakers. Coupled with 32 exhibitor booths, 23 sponsors, and numerous donated silent auction items, it was one of our most successful conferences in PVMA's history!

Over the three days, we hosted 10 educational sessions, which offered 9 Alberta applicator credits, 7 ISA credits, 5 BC applicator credits and 6 Saskatchewan applicator credits. With a focus on technology, the event included presentations on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV's), artificial intelligence (AI), innovative software and satellite imaging. Sessions also covered classic topics which continue to engage attendees, including on safety, legislation updates, public interactions, and herbicide application best practices.

Our conference began with a warm welcome from the conference committee then we moved right into our first two educational sessions. Following a refreshment break our Annual General Meeting was held, which include updates from our president, treasurer and directors, as well as board elections. A special acknowledgment was made to outgoing directors Laura Hammer and Orville McLean for their dedication with the association, while we welcomed newly voted in directors Bob

Gordon (returning), Jason McRobert, Jim Brown and Thane Beagle. We ended our first day with an enthusiastic Meet and Greet in the tradeshow room, which was generously hosted by Vesperis and Corteva.

Our second day started with a delicious buffet breakfast, sponsored by Wright Tree Canada, followed by a full line up of informative educational sessions throughout the day including opportunities to visit the exhibitor booths and to view silent auction items. The evening included a cocktail hour, an

amazing banquet meal, the presentation of PVMA scholarship recipients, and plenty of laughs with comedian Quick Dick McDick. Thank you to AdvantageVM and ENVU for their generosity in sponsoring the banquet and entertainment.

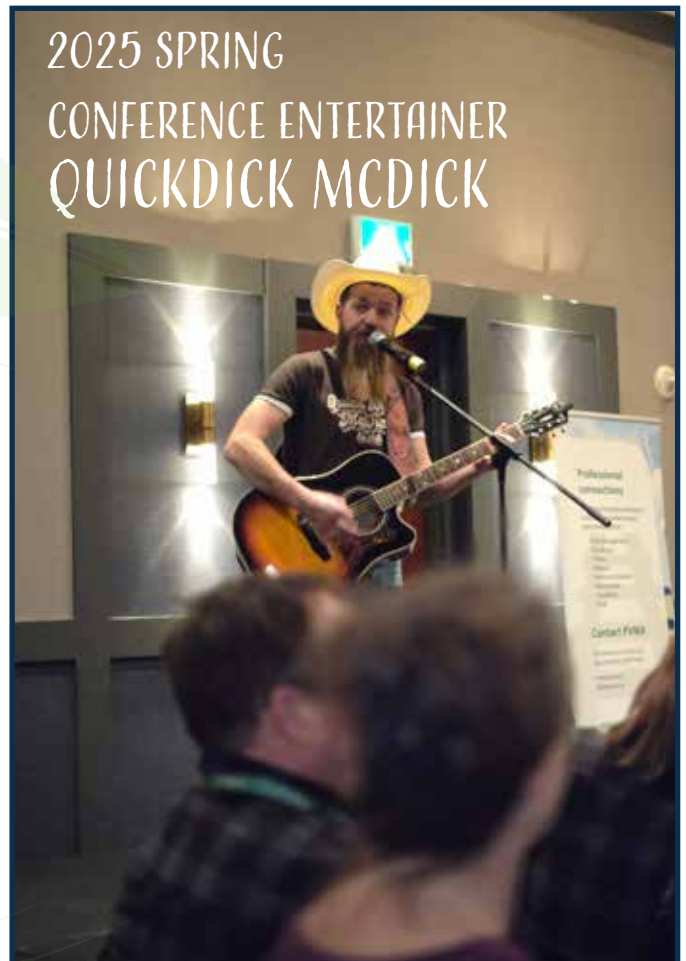
To cap off our second night, everyone had one last opportunity to check out the silent auction items and put in some final bids. Thanks to the numerous kind donors and enthusiastic bidders, the silent auction raised an impressive **\$5,855!**





ON BEHALF OF THE PVMA, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO ALL SPONSORS, TRADESHOW EXHIBITORS, SPEAKERS AND ATTENDEES. WITHOUT ALL YOUR SUPPORT, WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PULL OFF AN EVENT LIKE THIS. WE HOPE THAT YOU ALL FOUND VALUE IN ATTENDING AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT CONFERENCE!

2025 SPRING CONFERENCE ENTERTAINER QUICKDICK MCDICK



PLATINUM:



GOLD:



SILVER:



BRONZE:



INDUSTRY PROFILE: THANE BEAGLE

THANE BEAGLE GREW UP IN ARROWWOOD AB IN THE HEART OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA, DRYLAND GRAIN FARMING. THANE'S FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED AN AG INPUTS RETAIL LOCATION WITH A STRONG FAMILY HISTORY AND WERE INVOLVED IN GRAIN AND CATTLE FARMING THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

Being surrounded by Agriculture, led Thane to pursue a career in Agriculture and achieve a Diploma in Plant & Soil Science from Lethbridge Polytechnic (formerly Lethbridge College) and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from the University of Lethbridge. Focusing his attention as an agronomist in production agriculture, Thane has been involved in all aspects of crop production, soil science, herbicide technology, equipment operations & maintenance, plant nutrition, and anything you can think of.

With that experience in his back pocket, and thanks to Kelly Malmberg at Vulcan County, Thane had the opportunity to transition from Ag Chem Retail to municipal government for 4 years as an Ag Fieldmen. It was during this time he gained new skills in better understanding agriculture's close involvement in vegetation control, as well as the importance of proper integrated pest management from both sides.

Currently, Thane is employed by Corteva Agriscience as the Regional Account Manager – Pasture & Land Management for Southern AB/SK. He is a resource for our industry in providing a wide range of recommendations and solutions to their customers, to control invasive plant species.

Thane was elected to the PVMA Board of Directors in February this year and has taken on the role of Director in Charge of the Casino Committee. He is also a member of the Conference Committee and was a presenter at the PVMA's 2025 Spring Conference.





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UPDATE FROM THE PEST MANAGEMENT REGULATORY AGENCY

- SUBMITTED BY TANYA RUSHCALL, PROVINCIAL PESTICIDE APPROVALS AND REGISTRATION SPECIALIST

We are pleased to inform you of a significant advancement in vegetation management practices in Alberta. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has officially approved the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)—commonly referred to as drones—for the application of Garlon™ XRT herbicide in industrial rights-of-way and other non-crop areas.

This marks the first pesticide, with industrial uses, in Canada to include drone application on its label, representing a major step forward in integrating new technology into vegetation control operations. This regulatory change enables certified applicators to access remote or hazardous sites safely, reduce environmental disturbance, potentially improve application precision and reduce drift, lower operational costs and increase efficiency.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APPROVAL

- **Product:** Garlon™ XRT (active ingredient: triclopyr)
- **Approved Application Method:** RPAS (drone)
- **Permitted Use Areas:** non-crop areas including rights-of-way, electrical power lines, communication lines, pipelines, roadsides and railroads, fencerows and around farm buildings, military bases, industrial, manufacturing and storage sites; and in forest and woodland management areas
- **Exclusions:**
 - Agricultural use remains prohibited under current PMRA regulations
 - Only products explicitly labeled for drone use may be legally applied via RPAS

AEPA GUIDANCE AND NEXT STEPS

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas encourages all certified pesticide applicators to:

- Review the updated Garlon XRT product label for drone-specific instructions
- Ensure compliance with Transport Canada RPAS regulations
- Maintain appropriate certification, training, and registration for drone operation and pesticide handling
- As always, training material is available through Lakeland College.
- Monitor for future updates as additional products may be approved for drone use

DIGITAL REGULATORY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

As of January 13, 2025, Pesticide Service and Vendor Registrations are now available online through the Digital Regulatory Assurance System (DRAS). A valid Pesticide Service Registration is required in order to offer or provide pesticide application services, including services by remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) or drones. Similar to how aerial companies operate with their aircraft, your registration will include the specific RPAS or drone that is permitted to be used. Drones can be added or removed from a registration through an amendment.

For more information on DRAS or to submit an application go to; <https://regulatoryassurance.alberta.ca/dras>. You can also contact Tanya Rushcall, Provincial Pesticide Approvals and Registration Specialist, at 780-644-4647 or Tanya.Rushcall@gov.ab.ca.





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AN ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACH TO RIGHT-OF-WAY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- SUBMITTED BY MILO MIHAJLOVICH, RPF (RET) AND ALEX BLOSS REG. FOR.

INTRODUCTION

Alberta's wildland landscapes are under increasing disturbance pressure arising from a wide array of resource extraction and transportation activities. This increasing disturbance is deemed to pose a significant challenge to a number of species at risk or of special concern – including woodland caribou, grizzly bear and woods bison. Frequently the impact of disturbance on these species is somewhat indirect. For example, right-of-way corridors permit alpha predators like timber wolves to more effectively hunt and prey on woodland caribou. Corridors are also thought to interrupt movement grizzly bears across their home ranges.

Stakeholders with an avid interest in protecting species at risk or species of concern become impatient with the approaches taken to mitigate industrial impact on said species and have turned to the courts (and the Species at Risk Act) to effect changes in habitat impacts arising from industrial activity. ATCO Electric decided that it would be prudent to become proactive in managing the footprint of industrial corridors – more particularly electrical transmission line rights-of-way.

We chose to take a more active approach than the Gamelands 33 study instigated in the late 1950's by Bramble and Byrnes. Instead, we envisioned an approach where vegetation on rights-of-way was used to stitch habitats along the right-of-way together. We further envisioned a collaborative approach between industrial players whereby habitat supply was viewed at the landscape scale and at longer (10 year plus) intervals. For this study we had a number of key industrial partners from the forest industry, pipeline sector and within ATCO Electric. This paper reports on a proof-of-concept exercise we undertook to evaluate this approach in 2018.

CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

Modern spatial data collection and data processing capacity provide the land manager with unprecedented opportunities to understand and scenario the impact of land management strategies on an array of ecosystem goods and services. While we attempted to use remote sensing, data collected via high resolution color imagery collect by overflight with an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle we chose not to employ this data. Instead, we used an aerial survey supported by ground

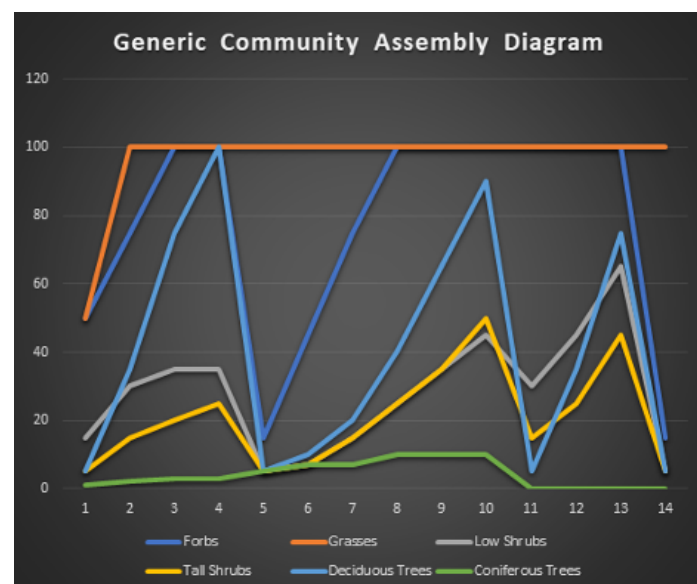
MILO MIHAJLOVICH



truthing using plant community classification plots. We took this approach due to the lack of spatially explicit records of right-of-way vegetation management treatments. Thus, we combined assessment of current vegetation condition with obtaining an imputed record of the most recent previous treatment.

PLANT COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

We used both the vegetation assessment data and our best estimate of treatment history to develop a series of plant community assembly diagrams (see Figure 1). Plant community assembly diagrams are a depiction of plant community dominance through time. They depict vegetation by functional group rather than by species and give comparative estimates of relative abundance (not cover or biomass). Thus, they show us changes in the structure and composition of the plant community through time.



WILDLIFE SPECIES OF INTEREST

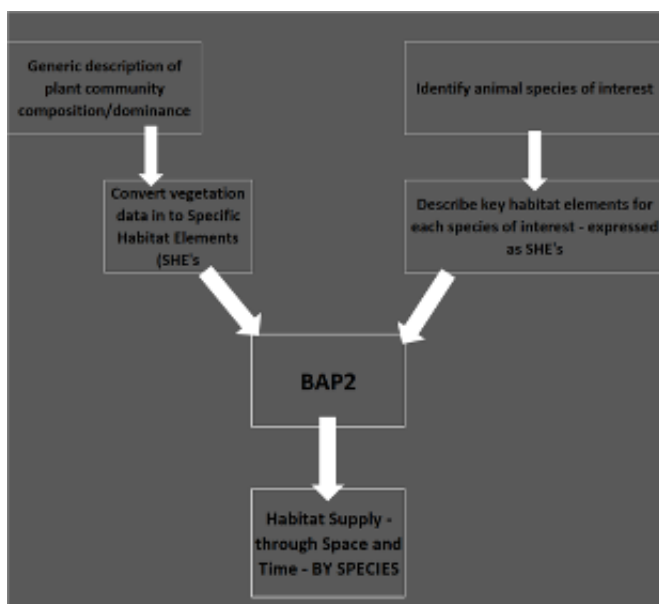
One of the great strengths of the approach we modelled is that it is agnostic as to which animal species one considers thus stakeholders are able to select most any species of interest for assessment. For this study we leveraged work done by Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. (now CANFOR – Whitecourt). In developing their 2007 Forest Management Plan Millar Western queried stakeholders and identified an array of 20 species of interest. These included grizzly bear, moose, elk, barred owl, ruffed grouse, brown creeper, three-toed woodpecker, Canada lynx, pine marten, snowshoe hare, woodland caribou, and northern flying squirrel among others.

It is critical when choosing wildlife species for consideration that we have sufficient information to quantitatively describe their habitat requirements.

INTEGRATION METHOD

We used the Biodiversity Assessment Program ver. 2 (BAP2) to integrate the plant community assembly information and to assess the “value” of the various plant community stages across the landscape as habitat value for the animal species of interest. BAP2 is an application that runs within the Patchworks spatially explicit modelling platform. As shown in Figure 2 BAP2 uses plant community assembly information to derive spatial habitat elements (SHE's).

Animal habitat requirements are categorized based on the SHE's necessary to supply said habitat components. Thus, SHE's provide a bridge between available vegetation and animal habitat requirements.



RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

We found we were able to model habitat availability on rights-of-way for the species of interest through a 20-year period using BAP2 using imputed plant community assembly diagrams.

However, we were unable to reliably develop plant community assembly diagrams for two reasons:

- ATCO Electric did not maintain explicitly spatial treatment information. That is, treatment records would indicate an area treated (as in m2 or ha) within the bounds of a number of spans. Thus, we were unable to reliably locate treatment areas.
- While utility managers are able to provide an anecdotal description of post-treatment community development more work is needed to make this information quantitative and to provide a quantification of the variability inherent in vegetation response to treatment. Likewise, considerable effort will be needed to develop community assemble diagrams that reflect sequences of treatment – before we can begin to develop a prescriptive approach to habitat supply on rights-of-way.

In conclusion, we are on the cusp of developing a more thoughtful, ecosystem services-based approach to managing vegetation on rights-of-way. We have the tools necessary to do this – spatially explicit treatment recording technology, plant community classification tools based on both high-resolution imagery and light detection and ranging (LIDAR). To move this approach forward we must implement spatial treatment recording forthwith. Likewise, we must begin to routinely collect vegetation response information on an ongoing basis with an eye to plant community description in addition to assessing need to treat right-of-way vegetation. Finally, this approach must be developed as a cross-industry project to ensure uniformity in data collection and processing (although BAP2 shows considerable promise to provide this platform we test its capabilities at this scale.)

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BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING?

- Volunteers can be re-imbursed for expenses associated with volunteering their time at the event, such a mileage, hotel & food while working a shift.
- PVMA members who works a shift will receive their 2026 individual membership at no cost.
- We also have access to a Commercial Uber Account through our Casino Advisor for volunteers from in town who might need assistance getting to and from the Casino.
- Transportation through the Commercial Uber account is available to schedule 24 Hours in advance to and from the location. Two bookings are needed to be made if you need transportation To the casino before the shift and From the Casino after the shift. Please reach out to Thane Beagle (Casino Chair) or the PVMA office with any inquiries and please provide the following information necessary to book the Uber:
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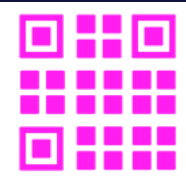
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THE PROMISE & PROBLEMS OF THE “NEW VIEW” OF SAFETY

- SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL R FEARS, THE RECOVERING ACADEMIC



In the evolving landscape of occupational health and safety, few shifts have been as provocative or as polarizing as the emergence of the so-called “New View.” The concept – sometimes packaged as Safety 2.0, Safety Differently, Human and Organizational Performance (HOP), or simply New View – challenges longstanding safety traditions and asks us to reconsider how we “do” safety. This article will chart the rise of New View thinking, critically examine its “Big Five” Ideas, and evaluate its application to the reality of organizations and their context (primarily from a Canadian perspective).

WHY A “NEW VIEW”?

Despite decades of progress and innovation, the field of workplace safety has reached a crossroads. For years, the dominant paradigm – often called Safety 1.0, or the “Old View” – focused compliance to standards and a relentless drive to reduce human error. This approach did deliver significant improvements. But by the late 1990s, a troubling trend began to emerge: workplace injury rates plateaued, or in some sectors, began to creep upward. The old tools no longer seemed to work at reducing incidents. The thinking was that something needed to be done.

It is in this context that the New View emerged. Drawing on resilience engineering, human factors psychology, and the broader currents of corporate social responsibility, the New View sets out to challenge foundational assumptions about how we “do” safety in today’s organizations.

THE “BIG FIVE” IDEAS OF THE NEW VIEW

There are five central propositions that characterise the New View’s take on safety:

1. Error is Normal: Human error is an inevitable byproduct of complex work and should be expected, not vilified.
2. Blame Fixes Nothing: Assigning blame after incidents stifles learning and improvement.
3. Context Drives Behavior: Unsafe actions are usually reasonable adaptations to the conditions people face. If you wish to change behavior, you must change context.

4. Learning is Vital: Organizations should move from asking “who failed?” to “what happened and why?” Focusing on learning, rather than punishment, fosters safer outcomes.

5. Management Response Matters: How leaders and organizations respond to failure – whether by supporting or scapegoating their people – shapes organizational culture and future risk.

As compelling as these propositions are, upon examination they raise difficult questions for organizations considering implementing them. Let us examine each in turn.

CRITIQUING THE NEW VIEW: PROMISE & PROBLEMS

ERROR IS NORMAL

Recognizing that error is inevitable is a healthy corrective to the idea that error is somehow pathological or perfect performance can be achieved. A major concern for the New View is the increasingly complex nature of the modern workplaces with new technologies, equipment, and shifting regulatory and client demands. Many New View writers advocate simplifying systems, even going as far as drastically reducing or eliminating safety procedures, and just letting workers decide for themselves how to do things. After all, the New View says workers are the real experts at their work.

Still, normalization carries the risk of fatalism – accepting incidents as unavoidable rather than striving for improvement. Also, it ignores the necessity for business to have safety systems in place (sometimes complicated ones) to meet regulatory, client, and audit requirements. Without these systems, many businesses could not bid work or face significant financial penalties through workers’ compensation costs or fines. It also waters down the concept of accountability, which links us to the next proposition.

BLAME FIXES NOTHING

It has been a problem in workers are often personally blamed, often incorrectly, for incidents that were the result of systemic problems, bad equipment, instructions from supervisors, etc.

It is important to remember that ultimate responsibility for safety belongs to those who direct work and control resources, and that investigations need to ensure systemic and other organizational issues, including the overall context, are thoroughly examined before considering individual accountability. And sometimes holding one or more individuals accountable is the right result. The challenge is to distinguish between honest mistakes and deliberate unacceptable actions – a distinction not really discussed by New View adherents.

One part of avoiding the “blame game” could be embracing the next proposition: context drives behavior.

CONTEXT DRIVES BEHAVIOR

Work takes place and is directly impacted by the context in which it happens – the crew, equipment, weather, supervisors, financial resources, competitors, local/regional/global economies, regulatory and client requirements, etc. Simply consider how work changed during COVID-19, and since.

From a safety perspective, this is the most important “rediscovery” in the New View movement. After many high-level incident investigations, I have consistently found that context was critical in understanding an event – supervision, outside events (COVID-19), knowledge, personal issues, etc. This includes not just the specific context of the event but also issues that are often overlooked, such as finances, competitor pressures, labour disagreements, and client requirements. All of these can have a major impact how individuals and groups make decisions and perform work.

However, the New View literature limits discussion of “context” to the specific work under consideration, often just to the work site, individual crews, or next level of management. They do not really consider the other potentially impactful issues at higher and wider levels. This is demonstrated when many New View writers argue to not do “system” audits but only focus on high-risk activities (what would happen if we decided not to do COR or ISO audits?), no more Field Level Risk Assessments (what would the client say? does this impact our liability?), or just let workers decide how work gets done (does anybody actually do this?).

This difficulty in how the New View understands “context” has important implications for the next proposition, organizational learning.

LEARNING IS VITAL

The New View states that organizations have failed to learn from past incidents as the same root causes are often found in

successive incidents. Claiming that the lack of change is due to “failed” root cause investigations, New View advocates say that Learning Teams and the 4Ds (Dumb, Dangerous, Different, Difficult) should be used instead.

This is where context again matters. The New View seems to have forgotten that root cause analysis investigations were a major part of the massive decline in workplace incidents in past decades. I would argue that the failure to properly implement effective corrective actions may have more to do with organizational context than the investigation itself (though investigations could be much better). Also, Learning Teams and the 4Ds could be useful tools in addition to investigations, but they do not meet the regulatory requirements for incident response in Canada, client demands, and COR audit requirements. Perhaps the tendency “not to learn” or “blame workers” has more to do with management response, the next proposition.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE MATTERS

Leaders’ reactions to failure profoundly shape organizational climate. The New View’s emphasis on supportive, transparent responses aligns with modern leadership theory. Blame, learning, improvement, some context, and safety are ultimately dependent on management actions and inaction.

However, the New View focuses on “leadership” (executives, C-suite) rather than operational management directly facing workers. Ironically, the New View regularly complains that Safety 1.0 systems operate on a “work as imagined” basis rather than considering the reality of “work as done”, resulting in disconnects and conflicts. The same can be said of a focus on “leadership” – failing to understand that the “safety first” message from the Board is often overwhelmed by the messages to meet profit targets, scheduling problems, client requirements, budgets, etc.

REALITY: REGULATIONS, CLIENTS, AND LIABILITY

Much of the New View literature presumes a level of organizational autonomy that simply does not exist. Legislation, legal liability, workers’ compensation costs, client requirements, prequalification systems, and audit protocols are real constraints. These impose practical limits on how radically one can depart from the “Safety 1.0” approach.

The reality is that organizations operate at the intersection of competing demands. The New View offers provocative ideas for improvement but often underestimates the practical challenges of implementation.

THE EVIDENCE GAP

Perhaps the most striking problem in the New View movement is the lack of robust, empirical evidence linking its approach to improved safety outcomes. While there are compelling case studies and anecdotal successes, large-scale, peer-reviewed studies remain elusive. After years of books, conference presentations, and consulting engagements, there is still no conclusive proof that the New View has achieved what it promises: significant, sustained reductions in workplace harm.

CONCLUSION: PROCEED WITH CAUTION

The New View movement has injected new energy and dialogue into the field of safety management. At the same time, safety professionals and organizations must recognize the limits of theory and the demands of practice.

For organizations considering a New View approach, the best path forward is one of thoughtful experimentation paired with rigorous evaluation. Start with what works: foster open learning, modify systems to support human factors, and resist the urge to blame. But do not lose sight of the hard-won lessons of traditional safety practice and practical demands of legislation, clients, and other requirements. Ultimately, the goal should not be to overthrow the old, but to enrich and adapt it.

RECOMMENDED "NEW VIEW" READING

BRYANT, J., LYTH, J., ROBINSON, B., & SUTTON, B. (2023). 4DS FOR HOP AND LEARNING TEAMS. LEARNING TEAMS INC.

CONKLIN, T. (2019). PRE-ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS: AN INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIZATIONAL SAFETY. CRC PRESS.

DEKKER, S., & CONKLIN, T. (2022). DO SAFETY DIFFERENTLY.

LLOYD, C. (2020). NEXT GENERATION SAFETY LEADERSHIP: FROM COMPLIANCE TO CARE. CRC PRESS.

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THE VEGETATION MANAGER *magazine*

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

- AWARDS/ELECTION COMMITTEE

Applications to scholarship, bursary, and award programs can be found on the PMVA website.

PVMA Scholarships (Sept 1 – Nov 30th)

September 1st is the official date the PVMA starts receiving applications for up to 5 (\$2,000). Scholarships to be awarded to continue supporting new and upcoming Professional Vegetation Managers who will carry forward many years of hard work across a wide range of industries. In addition, winners of the scholarship will be awarded with a paid invitation to our Spring Seminar to continue to network with long standing members.

Keith Sanftleben Memorial Scholarship (Sept 1 – January 31st)

The PVMA wants to continually honour Keith's memory and emphasize his positive impact on our community by offering 1 (\$4,000) scholarship to a student that can continue to grow in their career and share the qualities Keith radiated. \$1,000 is funded by AdvantageVM with the remainder funded by PMVA, please spread the word to every eligible applicant you can think of.

Bursary (Deadline Jan 31st)

Dependants of Members of the PMVA are eligible to receive a bursary based on scholastic achievements to encourage them to further pursue post secondary University or College level degrees or diplomas based on a set criteria.

Awards

Nomination forms for the following awards are available on the pvma.ca website.

• **Larry Beaton Memorial Award**

- o Presented to individuals or companies in recognition of outstanding service to the vegetation management industry.

• **Honorary Membership Award**

- o Awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to a science or practice related to the vegetation management industry.

-Thane Beagle, Director in Charge

- PROTOCOL COMMITTEE

We have been actively working on the PVMA Bylaw updates over the last few months. Current revisions focus on updating outdated information and addressing transferability of memberships. We will be presenting changes at our General Meeting in Red Deer October 23, 2025 followed by a vote with members.

- Joanne Ireland, Committee Chair

- MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS

PVMA is looking forward to promoting our association and it's benefits at several conferences and career fairs over the next few months. Look for our booth at the 2025 ISA Fall Conference and Tradeshow in Regina from October 20-21, followed by the AAAP In Service Training and Tradeshow in Edmonton from December 1-4. We are also planning on attending our first career fair of the season at Olds College October 29, so if you are looking at getting a head start at hiring students for 2026, please reach out to execdirector@pvma.ca to get added to the contact list distributed to students. Check PVMA on LinkedIn for updates of upcoming events.

- Joanne Ireland, Committee Chairperson

- GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) notes that the most recent update to the Weed Control Act was posted in 2019. Since then, the provincial government has sought public input regarding potential changes. As we move into 2024/2025, we look forward to seeing proposed updates to the Weed Control Regulations, including the possible addition or removal of species from the provincial noxious weed list.

- Jamie Wiltzen, Director in Charge

- EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

We're proud to unveil the latest edition of Vegetation Manager in conjunction with our 2025 Fall Conference. This issue highlights insightful follow-ups from past conference speakers and showcases the continued support of our dedicated advertisers. As always, our goal is to share relevant, high-quality content that reflects the evolving interests and innovations within our field.

We encourage ongoing engagement from our members, whether through article submissions, feedback, or new ideas. If you're interested in contributing, please reach out to Val or Jamie. We hope you enjoy this Fall edition and find it both thought-provoking and valuable.

- Jamie Wiltzen, Director in Charge

- CASINO COMMITTEE

Our next Casino is slated for January 21st & 22nd, 2026 Confirmed at The Starlight Casino (West Edmonton Mall) and the committee is actively looking for **20 PVMA Members to Volunteer** their time and select a shift, or two. Volunteers can be re-imbursed for expenses associated with volunteering their time at the event, such a mileage, hotel & food while working a shift. We have access to a Commercial Uber Account through our Casino Advisor for volunteers from in town who might need assistance getting to and from the Casino. Also, any PVMA member who works a shift will receive their 2026 individual membership at no cost.

You can volunteer by using the online sign up link: <https://signup.com/go/OuHKBpY>. Sign up early to get your preferred position and time slot.

- Thane Beagle, Director in Charge

- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee remains committed to enhancing the overall value and experience of PVMA membership. Our focus continues to be on identifying opportunities to provide meaningful benefits, resources, and engagement for both long-standing members and first-time conference guests. We are actively exploring new ways to improve member outreach, recognition, and involvement at PVMA events.

Looking ahead, the committee will be meeting to review and refine the membership application and renewal process for the 2026 membership year. Our goal is to ensure that the process remains accessible, efficient, and aligned with the evolving needs of our professional community. We welcome any feedback or suggestions from current members as we work toward these improvements.

- Jamie Wiltzen, Director in Charge

- SEMINAR COMMITTEE

A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes with the planning of the next set of conferences. While planning our 2025 Fall Conference in Red Deer October 23, 2025 we have been getting a head start by simultaneously planning 2 future conferences. Our 2026 Spring Conference is tentatively planned for February 24, 2026 in Red Deer and our 2027 3-Day Spring Conference will be held at the River Cree February 23-25, 2027.

- Joanne Ireland, Committee Chair

- NATIONAL/INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE

I hope everyone had a safe and productive summer. Here is an update from our industry partners.

OVMA/AVMA

The Ontario and Atlantic associations have combined this fall for a seminar and field tour Sept 23- 25th in Kanata Ontario. Registration looks good with 80 people registered so far.

IVMA MAN/SASK

IVMA Man/Sask has expressed interest in establishing closer ties with the PVMA. More details to come.

IVMA BC

IVMA BC is hosting their Biennial Forum Nov 4th-6th in Prince George BC. The seminar is available in person and virtual, registration information available on the IVMA BC website.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Fall seminar October 23 in Red Deer.

- Chris Johnson, Director in Charge

- SAFETY COMMITTEE

The safety committee is focused on providing content for the PVMA Magazines safety corner, if you have ideas or topics you would like to see covered, please reach out to the PVMA office and share your ideas. Also, if you have ideas or you would like to join the Safety committee, please reach out to the PVMA office.

Over the last few months there have been several incidents within industry that should have us all concerned.

- It is important for all of us to remember the importance of a good JHA or Tailboard to start the day with a solid plan.

Job Hazard Analysis or Tailboard:

- Understanding its Importance for Workplace Safety Job Hazard Analysis (JHA), also known as Job Safety Analysis (JSA), is a crucial component in ensuring workplace safety.

- This technique involves systematically examining tasks to identify potential hazards before they cause harm.

- By identifying and mitigating hazards, JHA significantly reduces the risk of workplace injuries and enhances overall safety.

- The process begins with a thorough hazard identification to pinpoint specific risks associated with each task.

- After identifying these hazards, appropriate control measures are implemented to manage and mitigate the risks.

- Employee involvement is fundamental in executing an effective JHA.

- Workers contribute valuable insights during hazard assessments, which helps in developing comprehensive preventive measures.

- This collaborative effort ensures that all potential risks are addressed, promoting a safer and healthier working environment for everyone.

- Bob Gordon, Committee Chair

- UTT-UTW BOARD OF GOVERNORS

We continue to move forward in the talks with the government in regard to Trade Designation for our industry.

With everyone busy over the summer, things slowed down but discussions are back on track now.

Update:

- The government is planning a meeting with PVMA and ISA for October 16, 2025. There has been discussion of wanting to include arborists with the UTT/UTW trade designation.

- The PVMA and UVMA will have strong representation at this meeting to ensure our concerns are heard and understood.

- The PVMA and UVMA have been involved with this project right from the start and will continue to communicate with industry and stakeholders to ensure that we have a strong, unified, voice going forward. Together, we will continue down this road, working with the government, industry, and utilities to see this through to completion for the betterment of the industry.

- Bob Gordon, Director in Charge



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