

Meeting Summary

Rigging, Hoisting, and Lifting in AB

Mini-Summit

December 10, 2025

Prepared by

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Meeting Summary

Rigging, Hoisting, and Lifting in AB Mini-Summit

Date: December 10, 2025

Present: 52 Attendees

Hosted By: Promote Safe Work & University of Calgary: Dr. Tom O'Neill, Dr. Sam Jones, Jessica Wilkins, Dr. Azita Harsini, and Sean Hlushak (SAIT)

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Tom O'Neill and Sean Hlushak. Opening remarks emphasized the need for collaboration across industry, government, associations, unions, and academia to reduce Serious Injuries and Fatalities (SIFs) related to rigging, hoisting, and lifting (RHL) activities in Alberta.

Presentations

- Presentations were provided by Cranemasters, Komatsu, Mammoet, OHS, SAIT, etc.

Item 1: Purpose And Need For Action

- Purpose confirmed: to take a collaborative approach to preventing SIFs in RHL through improved consistency, clarity, and alignment across trades and industries with respect to rigging, hoisting, and lifting.
- Strong agreement that improvement is necessary and achievable.
- Consensus to focus initially on hook and below activities due to higher risk and fatality trends, and deregulation.

Item 2: Alberta Standard, Competency & Enforcement

- Broad support for developing an Alberta-based rigging standard, with strong emphasis that it must have credibility and a pathway to enforcement.
- Significant inconsistency exists in training, competency definitions, and interpretation of existing standards. Access to existing standards is also an issue.

- Agreement that competency (not time-based training alone) should be the foundation. However, time-based training also needs another look at there are inconsistencies across trades without clear rationales. Note that this refers to classroom training components only.
- Industry alignment identified as difficult but essential; vagueness in legislation currently enables inconsistency and multiple interpretations. Legislation also doesn't refer to the most recent standards (e.g., CSA).
- An organized, industry-led voice is required to move toward meaningful change in terms of lobbying government, unions, standards associations, and trade associations.

Item 3: Proposed Governance Model & Next Steps

- Strong endorsement for establishing a Rigging, Hoisting & Lifting Society or Council as an umbrella organization for Alberta.
- Poor support for adopting and relying solely on international standards or associations external to Canada and even Alberta.
- Proposal to form topic-specific working committees. Participants expressed willingness to engage in working groups. Before this, a vision and high-level strategy for the new society is needed, and a governing board as well as registration of the society is needed.

Next Meeting

Next meeting confirmed for **January 28, 2026** will commence in Edmonton, Alberta, and will be a focused meeting to vision and strategize through the lens of an Alberta Society for Safe Rigging, Hoisting, and Lifting.