

JANUARY 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Prince Edward Island

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19

Dec 1: Even though flu and RSV infections are on the rise, PEI ended mandatory isolation for COVID-19 cases, although the government is still strongly recommending isolation, particularly for persons with respiratory ailments or who are otherwise at heightened risk of severe outcomes.

Action Point: Use the [OHSI Infection Exposure Control Plan](#) template to avoid being ticketed or shut down for COVID offences

New Laws

Dec 10: Temporary emergency leave granted to workers for COVID-19 is now permanent. Under new *Employment Standards Act* regulations, employees may take unpaid emergency leave for not only COVID but also other respiratory ailments like influenza when a doctor or nurse practitioner advises them to stay home.

Transportation Safety

Nov 26: To guard against commercial driver fatigue, PEI proposed new [regulations](#) that incorporate the federal Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations for bus and truck drivers operating a commercial vehicle in the province. Rather than keeping paper logs, employers will also have to install electronic recording devices in vehicles to track driver hours.

New Laws

Nov 22: Legislation giving employees 10 days of paid sick leave is out of Committee. Private Member [Bill 128](#) would also require employers to list the number of paid sick leave days that employees have accrued and used in their payroll records.

Workers Comp

Dec 7: From now through Jan. 12, the WCB will be holding public consultations on proposed revisions to a trio of workers comp policies:

- [POL-92](#): Health Care Benefits – General Principles
- [POL-64](#): Health Care Providers – Roles and Responsibilities
- [POL-30](#): Orthoses, Prostheses, And Assistive Devices.

Workers Comp

Dec 1: The PEI Assembly passed [Bill 68](#) to increase workers comp benefits. Highlights:

- Coverage of cremation or memorial services for workers killed on the job
- Lump sum payment to dead worker's spouse and dependent children increased from 40% to 100% of maximum annual earnings
- Wage loss benefits of 90% of injured worker's lost earning capacity payable for accidents on or after Jan. 1, 2023.