

JUNE 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

New Brunswick

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JHSCs

May 10: Newly passed [Bill 24](#) amends the New Brunswick *OHS Act* by: i. Requiring the workplace JHSC to keep a copy of the minutes signed by the co-chairs for 3 years and make them available to the WCAT Commission upon request; ii. Making the definition of “occupational disease” the same as it is under the *Workers’ Comp Act*; and iii. Broadening the powers of OHS inspectors to order that tools, devices, machinery, and equipment be modified or taken out of service.

Action Point: Find out how to [avoid 5 common JHSC flaws](#) at your workplace.

JHSCs

May 13: WorkSafeNB launched an [improved online application](#) for JHSC training providers. The new form, available on the agency JHSC Centre, combines previous separate applications, outlines required qualifications, allows for multiple trainers, and enables competency proof uploads.

Action Point: Find out more about [JHSC training requirements](#) across Canada.

Accessibility

Jun 7: New Brunswick became the latest province to adopt an accessibility law. Patterned after legislation in other provinces, newly passed [Bill 47](#) requires large

employers to take measures to make the workplace accessible to the disabled, both physically and in terms of HR policies.

Action Point: [Find out more](#) about how accessibility requirements affect your OHS program.

Infectious Illnesses

May 16: [The Department of Health](#) announced it will stop distributing COVID-19 rapid tests once current supplies run out next month. PCR tests remain available with a referral. This change followed the federal government's March decision to stop shipping tests. Free rapid tests were available while supplies lasted, with additional tests for purchase online and at pharmacies.

Action Point: Use the [OHSI Infection Exposure Control Plan](#) to protect workers from COVID-19, flu, and other infectious diseases.

New Laws

Jun 12: New Brunswick and the federal government introduced the [Maritime Livestock](#) Price Insurance Pilot Program, a 2-year pilot allowing beef producers in the province to buy insurance guarding against unexpected market declines. Producers pay the premiums, while the governments fund the administration.

Workers Comp

Jun 7: New Brunswick passed [Bill 45 amending the Workers' Compensation Act and Firefighters' Compensation Act](#) to increase benefits for injured workers from 85% to 90% of their earnings. The maximum annual earnings for calculating benefits will rise from \$76,500 to \$82,100, covering more workers' full wages in 2025. The changes take effect on July 1.

Environmental

Jun 28: The provincial government announced that new [Contaminated Sites Regulations](#) will take effect on August 1. The regulations address reporting and remediation procedures, qualifications for site professionals, and protocols for handling historical and limited impact contamination at contaminated sites.