

APRIL 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

New Brunswick

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transportation Safety

Apr 1: Effective today, new transport truck drivers must take an approved training program before securing a Class 1 licence in New Brunswick. The requirement doesn't apply to current Class 1 licence holders.

JHSCs

Mar 20: Newly tabled [Bill 24](#) would amend 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 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: Does your workplace [have to establish a JHSC](#)? Find out

Noise Protection

Mar 28: WorkSafeNB modified its coverage policy ([Policy 25-007](#)) for hearing aids and hearing aid batteries for workers who suffer compensable injuries. The agency pays for repairs or replacements on a one-time basis at a value equal to a hearing aid or battery of similar type and quality to the one that got damaged and doesn't cover subsequent repairs or ongoing maintenance.

Action Point: Use the OHSI [**noise control and hearing conservation program template**](#) to protect your workers from hazardous noise exposure

Workers Comp

Apr 3: WorkSafeNB launched public consultation on [proposed changes](#) to the *Firefighters' Compensation Act* that would expand the list of cancers presumed work-related in firefighters and merge the Act with the *Workers Compensation Act*. Eliminating a separate coverage law for firefighters would simplify the claims process and align New Brunswick with the laws of every other Canadian jurisdiction.

Workers Comp

Mar 28: WorkSafeNB made changes to the general policy ([Policy 21-104, Conditions for Entitlement – Tests of Time, Place and Activity](#)) it uses to determine whether an accident “arose out of” a worker’s employment for coverage purposes.

Environmental

Apr 15: The federal government began making direct deposit or cheque payments on the first of 4 quarterly Canada Carbon Rebates for 2024-2025 in New Brunswick, where residents will receive first quarter rebates of \$760.