

DECEMBER 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Newfoundland & Labrador

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transportation Safety

Dec 1: Electronic logging devices (ELDs) tracking drivers' hours of service are now mandatory in Newfoundland commercial vehicles other than school buses. The government will now check for ELDs at weigh scale stations.

Action Point: How far can you go in [disciplining workers for drowsy and distracted driving](#)?

Transportation Safety

Nov 28: Effective January 3, 2024, new commercial motor vehicle drivers in Newfoundland must successfully complete an approved driver educational training program before receiving their Class 1 driver's licence.

Accessibility

Nov 16: [Bill 52](#), which is designed to improve accessibility in public spaces, has received Royal Assent. Key changes: i. Removal of pre-1981 exemption from current *Buildings Accessibility Act*; ii. Clarification of how the Act applies to home-based businesses; and iii. Doubling of fines for violations.

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

Workplace Violence

Nov 20: From now through Feb. 6, WorkplaceNL will be holding [online consultations](#) whether to expand workers comp coverage (under Policy EN-18 Traumatic Mental Stress) to include chronic stress resulting from workplace harassment and violence.

Action Point: Use the extensive resources on the OHSI [Workplace Violence Compliance Center](#) to protect your workers from violence and harassment

Workers Comp

Nov 20: While most provinces are lowering or keeping workers comp rates steady, Newfoundland is going in the other direction. The 2024 average assessment is increasing 2.4% to \$1.73 per \$100 of assessable payroll, including a temporary \$0.21 discount. Rates will increase for 67% of employers. Claims costs have increased 22% from 2018 to 2022, according to WorkplaceNL.

Workers Comp

Nov 16: Royal Assent for [Bill 48](#) amending the *Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act* to provide workers comp coverage for bereavement counselling services for dependents of workers who die of a work related injury on or after January 1, 2022.