

MARCH 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Federal

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHMIS

Feb 23: Health Canada ended [public comments](#) on a proposal to require suppliers and employers to provide WHMIS hazard and safety information on use of consumer products in the workplace. Because they're excluded from the *Hazardous Products Act*, consumer products aren't currently subject to WHMIS requirements. Health Canada wants to change that.

Action Point: Implement a [WHMIS Training Compliance Game Plan](#) at your workplace

New Laws

Jan 23: The federal government announced that Canada met its target of accepting 4.4% of French-speaking immigrants outside Québec in 2022. Among the more than 16,300 new immigrants that settled in Francophone minority communities across the country since 2006, just over 2,800 reside somewhere in Canada other than Québec.

Action Point: Find out [whether you must provide multilingual safety training](#) to your workers

Mental Stress

Feb 6: The national suicide mortality rate in 2019 was 12.1 per 100,000, 4,528 deaths, according to a new [government report](#). Suffocation was the leading cause of suicide deaths. Suicide rates were higher among males in all age groups. However, hospitalization for intentional self-harm was higher among females at 83 per 100,000, versus 49 per 100,000 males.

Action Point: Find out about [workers comp coverage](#) of PTSD and mental stress

Workplace Harassment

Jan 30: Canada officially ratified International Labour Organization [Convention 190](#), the first-ever global treaty pledging to end violence and harassment in the workplace. The treaty includes recommended practices for both governments and employers.

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

New Law

Feb 2: [Bill C-22](#) to create a new Canada Disability Benefit supporting low-income working-age persons with disabilities has passed the House and is on its way to the Senate which is also expected to pass the bill.

Environmental

Jan 13: Comments closed on [proposed amendments](#) that would require companies to further reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from architectural coatings and also tighten current exemptions from VOCs regulations.