

JANUARY 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

New Brunswick

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**PPE**

Nov 30: [Bill 11](#) amending the *OHS Act* to require workers on fishing vessels to wear life jackets and personal flotation devices, is out of Committee and likely to pass. The bill clarifies that fishing vessels are a “place of employment” where PPE must be worn—at all times when the vessel doesn’t have a deck or deck structure.

Occupational Health

Dec 9: As the weather turns cold and flu season gets into high gear, WorkSafeNB reminded employers of their duty under OHS laws to implement a prevention plan to protect workers from the risk of contracting an infectious illness at work.

Action Point: Use the [OHSI Infection Exposure Control Plan](#) template to guard against outbreaks at your workplace

Material Handling

Oct 25: New WorkSafeNB [guidance](#) explains when it’s okay for workers to have their hands under suspended loads for short periods of time under Section 211(2)(e) of the OHS General Regulation. If possible, nobody should ever reach underneath a suspended load, the guidance explains. If reaching is necessary, the employer must:

- i. Assign a competent person to monitor the work;
- ii. Ensure all workers are familiar with the work; and
- iii. Limit the amount of time spent under a suspended load as much as possible.

Action Point: Use the resources on the OHSI Material Handling [Compliance Center](#) to ensure compliance at your workplace

Industry Challenges

Nov 10: The jury at a coroner's inquest issued 2 recommendations to improve the safety of bridge construction and maintenance workers: i. Establish an accountability system to ensure all workers involved in the work receive proper training; and ii. Complete daily monitoring inspections of work site hazards.

Workplace Violence

Nov 25: Third Reading for [Bill 17](#), the *Disclosure to Protect Against Intimate Partner Violence Act*, that would allow people to apply to the police for access to private information about whether their partner has a history of committing intimate partner violence. Similar bills have been passed in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

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