

FEBRUARY 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Nova Scotia

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Work Injuries

Dec 12: The WCB accepted 1,264 time-loss injury claims in the second quarter of 2022, as compared to 1,233 claims over the same period in 2021. Year-to-date total claims for the first half of 2022 were up significantly (2,912 vs. 2,614) driven by increasing COVID claims. However, injury rates are actually down in long-term care and home care.

Accessibility

Dec 19: As part of its newly released 3-year [Accessibility Plan](#) for 2022-25, Nova Scotia will begin developing an accessibility program for employment in the public sector that will include beefed up workplace health and safety protections for the disabled.

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

Transportation Safety

Jan 1: New Nova Scotia *Motor Carrier Act* regulations require drivers of commercial buses and trucks to have an electronic logging device installed in their vehicle to record driving time and document compliance with maximum hours restrictions designed to prevent driver fatigue. The requirement doesn't cover drivers who stay within the province or travel less than a 160-kilometre radius from base.

Workers Comp

Dec 12: The first half of 2022 was a financial setback for workers comp, with inflation and turbulent market conditions driving a decline in the Nova Scotia WCB's funded position to about 90%. However, the agency expressed confidence that its "steady hand" and diversified long-term approach will keep things stable just as it did when the funded position declined to 27% in the 1990s before recovering to top 100% at the end of 2020.

Workers Comp

Mar 31: That's the deadline for Nova Scotia employers to submit their 2023 workers comp payroll reports to the WCB to avoid late fees, interest and penalties.