

JULY 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Nova Scotia

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Safety

Jun 7: With wildfires raging across the province, a new [safety alert](#) helps employers protect workers from smoke exposure. Recommendations: moving work to areas or times with better air quality, providing cool drinking water, slowing pace of heavy exertion work, training workers to recognize smoke exposure symptoms and providing and requiring use of N95 particulate filtering masks.

Action Point: Go to the [OHSI Fire Safety Compliance centre](#) for resources you can use to prevent fires and explosions at your workplace

New Laws

May 23: Nova Scotia officially pulled the plug on its COVID-19 public health emergency order and reporting requirements. **Translation:** COVID is now subject to the same regulations and requirements as influenza and other non-emergency respiratory illnesses. Employers should still implement workplace measures to prevent the spread of such illnesses as part of their general OHS duties.

Fall Protection

May 12: Newly published OHS [Safety Bulletin 0000024](#) warns of the risk of falls and other dangers associated with the use of plumpjack safety scaffolds. Pumpjacks must be installed and used in accordance with OHS regulations and manufacturer's instructions, the Bulletin stresses.

Action Point: Use the [OHSI Fall Protection Compliance Game Plan](#) to prevent fall injuries and OHS violations at your site

Transportation Safety

Apr 12: [Bill 273](#), the *Road Trails Act*, establishing new safety rules for off-highway vehicles (OHVs) has received Royal Assent. As under pilot program rules, all OHV riders must have a valid driver's licence, insurance, registration and a licence plate.

Accessibility

May 17: Nova Scotia is making progress on achieving accessibility but there's still plenty of room for improvement. That's the conclusion of the newly released [independent review](#) of the *Accessibility Act*, which includes 48 things the government can do to bolster standards making and engagement.

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

Workplace Violence

May 12: Criminal background checks are now mandatory for bouncers at late-night bars and cabarets. Bar security staff must also complete an approved security training course by July 1. At least one manager or supervisor who's completed the training program and provided a criminal record check must also be on-site during opening hours.

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

Environmental

Apr 12: Royal Assent for [Bill 269](#), which extends the *Construction Projects Labour Relations Act* requirement that construction contractors and unions enter into collective agreements to prevent work stoppages to large-scale green hydrogen production facilities.

Environmental

Jun 2: Nova Scotia changed its fuel pricing regulations to ensure compliance with federal measures. On July 1, gas, diesel and home heating costs will increase by about 14 to 17 cents a liter and a new fuel producer carbon tax designed to make gas and diesel fuels cleaner will take effect.