

## OCTOBER 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

# Nova Scotia

### **LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Work Injuries**

Aug 23: Nova Scotia's injury rate fell to a historic low of 1.41 per 100 workers in the first quarter of 2023, as compared to 1.54 in the fourth quarter of 2022. Injury rates remained high in the healthcare sector, despite modest improvements in long-term care and home care. Days lost to injury dropped from 292 to 277 per 100, with 81% returning to work within 180 days. Year-over-year COVID-19 claims fell significantly from 233 to 17 during the first quarter.

#### **Accessibility**

Sep 1: Nova Scotia launched public consultations on proposed Building Code, Fire Safety regulations and accessibility guideline changes to make buildings in the province more accessible to individuals with disabilities. October 30 is the deadline [to comment](#).

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

#### **New Laws**

Aug 11: The federal government announced approval for the launch of a new commercial fishery for whelk in the waters off Eastern Cape Breton next spring. The new fishery is expected to support approximately 55 jobs in Eastern Nova Scotia.

#### **Workers Comp**

Sep 1: WCB Nova Scotia announced that it's keeping the 2024 average assessment

rate at \$2.65 per \$100 of assessable payroll, still among the highest workers comp rates in Canada. Actual rates will decrease or stay the same for 57% and increase for the other 43%.

## **Environmental**

Jul 31: Nova Scotia published its [second annual progress report](#) outlining the steps the province took to achieve its climate change goals in 2022.