

FEBRUARY 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Saskatchewan

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transportation Safety

Jan 9: The Saskatchewan Provincial Traffic Safety Fund will be awarding grants for speed display signs, crosswalks and other pedestrian and traffic safety enhancements to 65 projects across the province. The deadline [to apply](#) for the next round of grants is March 31.

Action Point: Find out about the [traffic signaling and control requirements](#) across Canada

Workers Comp

Jan 1: After cutting employers slack for COVID in the past 2 years, the Saskatchewan WCB increased 2023 average workers comp premiums 5 cents (4.1%) to \$1.28 per \$100 assessable payroll. Approximately 65% of employers will have higher premiums next year. The agency cited rising claims costs and payroll as the primary drivers of the increase.

Workers Comp

Feb 28: That's the deadline for Saskatchewan employers to submit their 2022 Employer's Payroll Statement to the WCB listing their actual payroll expenses for the year without incurring late fees, interest and penalties.

CASES

Due Diligence: Small Company Fined 1 Year of Revenues for Young Worker's Crippling Injury

A 20-year-old apprentice electrician suffered paralyzing injuries after falling 5 metres from an unenclosed JLG telehandler, a sort of a stand-off forklift or crane, without fall protection while installing roof rafters. The employer pleaded guilty to failing to provide fall protection resulting in a serious injury to a worker, an offence carrying a maximum penalty of \$1.5 million. **The question:** How big should the actual fine be? The employer was a small company, and the judge didn't want to run it out of business; however, the company also had a history of OHS violations, having been cited for 10 of them in the previous 5 years. OHS inspectors had also warned the employer to use the JLG to lift only materials and not workers. At the end of the day, the judge settled on roughly one year of earnings, \$126,000, with time to pay—enough to really sting but not enough to force it out of business [[R v King Stud Contracting Ltd.](#), 2022 SKPC 47 (CanLII), December 8, 2022].

Action Point: Use the [OHSI Due Diligence Scorecard](#) to assess the adequacy of your own OHS program