

MAY 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Saskatchewan

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OHS Enforcement

Mar 15: WorkSafe Saskatchewan, the WCB and Ministry of Labour Relations published a new 5-year [strategy](#) for reducing workplace injuries and fatalities focusing on 3 high-risk sectors: health care, transportation and construction. Priorities: asbestos; motor vehicle crashes; firefighter exposure to cancer; and vertical falls.

New Laws

Mar 14: The federal government agreed to increase Saskatchewan's Immigrant Nominee Program allocation by 42% above 2022 levels over the next 3 years including 18,000 in 2023. Saskatchewan now will also have sole authority to assess a candidate's ability to economically establish and intent to reside in the province.

Workplace Violence

Apr 6: Newly passed [Bill 117](#), *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act*, cushions residents against the impact of new federal firearms bans by establishing licensing requirements for seizure agents involved in expropriating firearms and ensuring compensation to those whose firearms are seized.

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

Accessibility

Mar 13: Second Reading for [Bill 103](#), *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*, which would

require government agencies, owners of public facilities and employers to implement plans to make their facilities and services more accessible to persons with disabilities.

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

Workers Comp

Mar 23: Memo to Saskatchewan employers: Be sure to complete and submit the new version of the [Time Loss for Medical Appointments \(EMT\) form](#) to report time that a worker misses to attend a medical appointment for a work injury.

Environmental

Apr 6: In response to perceived environmental law encroachments by the federal government, the Assembly passed [Bill 88](#), *The Saskatchewan First Act*, asserting the province's sovereignty over non-renewable natural resources exploration, forestry management and conservation and electrical energy generation.

CASES

Electrical Safety: Failure to Maintain Minimum Clearance Distance Results in \$35,000 Fine

A construction worker suffered serious injuries as a result of being electrocuted while stabilizing trusses. The employer was fined \$35,000 for failure to ensure that no worker works, no material is piled, stored or handled, no scaffold is erected or dismantled and no equipment or powered mobile equipment is used or operated within the minimum distance from any exposed energized electrical specified in the OHS regulations [*Neu-Build Construction Inc.*, [Govt. Press Release](#), March 2, 2023].

Action Point: Implement a legally sound [electrical safety compliance plan](#) at your workplace

Fall Protection: Construction Firm Fined \$24,000 for Worker's Fall Injuries

A construction firm will have to fork over \$24,000 after pleading guilty to an OHS violation: failing to provide required safety information, instruction, training and supervision. The charge stems from an incident in which a worker suffered serious injuries after falling from a formwork foundation wall [*Song's Construction Ltd.*, [Govt. Press Release](#), April 10, 2023].

Action Point: Use the [OHSI Fall Protection Compliance Game Plan](#) to avoid similar violations at your site