

AUGUST 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

Northwest Territories

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Electrical Safety

Jul 15: Two years after passing the Assembly, the new *Elevators and Lifts Act* and its [corresponding regulations](#) officially took effect today. The new law replaces the previous *Electrical Protection Act*, which authorized the GNWT to regulate elevators and lift systems but not their non-electrical components. The new Regulations set out the crucial electrical component requirements.

Action Point: Find out how to implement a legally sound [Electrical Safety Compliance Game Plan](#) at your workplace.

Fire Safety

Aug 6: Public comments ended on [proposed regulations](#) implementing recent *Fire Prevention Act* amendments: i. New regulations governing appeals of Fire Marshal plan review orders; and ii. Changes to current fire prevention regulations to follow the 2020 versions of the *National Building Code* and *National Fire Code*.

Action Point: Use the resources on the [OHSI Fire Safety Compliance Centre](#) to prevent fires and explosions at your workplace.

New Laws

Jul 22: For the first time in program history, the Northwest Territories Nominee

Program reached and exceeded its federally-imposed nominations cap of 300 applications for a calendar year. Having hit its 2024 cap, the Program will no longer accept new applications this year, other than for foreign nationals with work permits that expire in 2024 who've already been working in the Territories before July 22, 2024.

Environmental

Aug 1: The GNWT listed the dolphin and union caribou population as Endangered on the List of Species at Risk. This is the first time that a species has been listed as Endangered under NWT species at risk legislation. However, the government decided not to add the American white pelican, which is currently listed as a species of Special Concern.

CASES

Machine Guarding: Equipment Company Fined \$200,000 for Fatal Machine Injury

An equipment company was fined \$200,000, which may be a record for Northwest Territories, after pleading guilty to a *Safety Act* violation for its role in a 2022 incident at the Gahcho Kue Mine in which a worker inspecting the hydraulics on a haul truck boarding was pinned by moving parts resulting in fatal injury. There were no warning signs of a pinch point, and the company didn't conduct its own workplace safety inspection of the haul truck [SMS Equipment Ltd., [Govt. Press Release](#), July 30, 2024].

Action Point: Find out how to implement a legally sound [Machine Guarding Compliance Game Plan at](#) your workplace.