

NOVEMBER 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Northwest Territories

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Laws

Sep 28: The GNWT reduced the amount of money foreign applicants must invest to start a business in the territory and become permanent residents under Business Stream of the Nominee Program: to operate within Yellowknife now requires \$200,000 rather than \$300,000 and to operate outside Yellowknife now requires \$100,000 instead of \$150,000.

New Laws

Sep 28: Commercial fisheries in the Northwest Territories can now apply for funding under the GNWT's new [Commercial Fishery Support Pilot Program](#) (CFSP) in the form of fuel rebates and incentives for volume, recruitment and innovation. Deadline to apply: March 31, 2024.

Accessibility

Oct 4: The government issued a final report outlining the key accomplishments of the GNWT Disability Action Plan in breaking down barriers impeding the advance of persons with disabilities in the five years between 2018 and 2022.

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

Drugs & Alcohol

Sep 27: A newly released [report](#) tracks the progress the GNWT is making in implementing its Addictions Prevention and Recovery Services Work Plan designed to build a full spectrum of services to residents with drug and alcohol addictions.

Action Point: Use the [OHSI Substance Abuse Compliance Game Plan](#) to curb drugs and alcohol at your workplace

Workers Comp

Sep 28: The WSCC is allowing employers to defer, without interest or penalty, the upcoming assessment payment they were supposed to make on September 30 until October 31.

CASES

Industry Challenges: Equipment Operator Charged for Diamond Mine Fatality

An equipment operator worker died as a result of injuries suffered in an incident at the Gahcho Kué diamond mine, a joint venture of De Beers Group and Mountain Province Diamonds located roughly 280 kilometres northwest of Yellowknife. The WSCC has charged the equipment operator company (but neither of the joint venture partners) with multiple *Safety Act* and *Mine Health and Safety Act* violations, including failure to safely maintain equipment in the maintenance shop where the incident occurred [*SMS Equipment*, [Govt. Press Release](#), September 26, 2023].