

JUNE 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

Saskatchewan

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Young Workers

May 30: With summer starting, the government reminded young workers and employers that 14 and 15-year-olds aren't allowed to work in Saskatchewan unless and until they complete the free [online](#) Young Worker Readiness Certificate Course (YWRCC).

Action Point: Find out how to implement a [new and young workers safety and compliance game plan](#) at your worksite.

New Laws

May 8: Royal Assent for Bill 160, *The Immigration Services Act*. Highlights: i. Improvements to Saskatchewan's immigration system; ii. Stronger protections for foreign workers against exploitation by employers, recruiters, and immigration consultants; and iii. Expanded enforcement against and higher penalties for immigration fraud.

New Laws

May 14: Federal and Saskatchewan Agriculture Ministers announced \$5 million over five years for the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) to support development, training, and knowledge transfer in the agriculture sector.

Workplace Violence

May 1: The Saskatchewan WCB adopted a new zero tolerance [workplace violence policy](#) for its internal staff, contractors, customers, volunteers, and students. In

accordance with OHS rules, the policy mandates risk assessments, reporting procedures, and staff training.

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

Workers Comp

Jun 14: The government reminded employers that major workers' comp changes under Bill 138 will take effect on October 1, including: i. expanded cancer coverage for firefighters; ii. penalties for privacy violations; iii. coverage of the costs of transporting a dead worker's body to a usual residence outside Canada; iv. compensation to the dependent children of workers who die while receiving compensation for a non-work injury regardless of the length of that compensation; v. increases to the permanent functional impairment award over a 4-year period to be followed by indexation; and vi. indexation of the independence allowance.

Workers Comp

Jun 14: Reminder: Effective Jan. 1, 2025, the definition of "worker" for purposes of workers' comp laws will change. Executive officers, secondary, and post-secondary students will be among the individuals who will no longer be deemed to be "workers" under the laws.

CASES

Fall Protection: Skylight Fall Costs Worker His Life and Cattle Company \$350,000

A worker was killed after falling through a fiberglass skylight while attempting to clear snow from a roof. The tragedy occurred a little over a year after an incident in which a worker of the same company suffered injuries as a result of being struck by a gate while attempting to load bulls onto a trailer. The company was fined \$350,000, the highest OHS penalty in Saskatchewan this year, after pleading guilty to 2 OHS violations—failure to provide required fall protection and PPE; in exchange, prosecutors dropped 5 other charges [*Spiritwood Stockyards (1984) Ltd.*, [Govt. News Release](#), May 23, 2024].

Action Point: Find out how to implement a legally sound [Fall Protection Compliance Game Plan](#) at your site.

Machine Guarding: Wood Company Fined \$80,000 for Conveyor Injury

A wood supply company was fined \$80,000 for failing to guard a dangerous moving part of a machine after a 2018 incident in which a worker got caught in the chain drive of a conveyor and suffered serious injuries [*Aallcann Wood Suppliers Inc.*, [Govt. News Release](#), June 15, 2024].

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