

APRIL 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

Saskatchewan

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**Work Injuries**

Mar 19: Saskatchewan's 2023 total injury rate reached an all-time low of 3.95 per 100 workers compared to 4.33 in 2022. The time loss rate declined 12.75%, from 2.04 to 1.78. Total claims accepted fell nearly 7% to 16,143, while accepted no time loss claims decreased from 9,156 to 8,870. There were 29 fatalities, versus 39 in 2022.

New Laws

Apr 8: Highlights of newly tabled Bill 160, *The Immigration Services Act*: 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.

Workers Comp

Mar 19: The Saskatchewan Assembly passed Bill 168 amending the *Workers Comp Act*. Highlights: i. Elimination of mandatory coverage for executive officers; ii. New coverage for students in recognized programs; and iii. Addition of primary site penile, pancreatic, thyroid, soft tissue sarcoma, mesothelioma and laryngeal cancers to list of cancers presumed to be work-related when suffered by firefighters.

Environmental

Apr 15: The federal government began making direct deposit or cheque payments on the first of 4 quarterly Canada Carbon Rebates for 2024-2025 in Saskatchewan,

where residents will receive first quarter rebates of \$1,504.

CASES

Powered Mobile Equipment: Company Fined \$85,000 for Truck Repair Worker Injuries

A cleaning company was fined \$85,000 after pleading guilty to failing to provide adequate safety information, training and instruction to a worker stemming from an incident in which a worker suffered serious injuries while repairing a truck [Porcupine Corral Cleaning Ltd., [Govt. Press Release](#), March 25, 2024].

Action Point: Find out how to implement an effective [powered mobile equipment operation policy](#) at your workplace

Material Handling: Peat Moss Mishap Costs Agricultural Supplier \$70,000

A worker was seriously injured while attempting to dislodge a pallet and bale of peat moss. The victim's employer pled guilty to one OHS violation and was fined \$70,000 [Sunterra Horticulture (Canada) Inc., [Govt. Press Release](#), March 22, 2024].

Action Point: Use the resources on the OHS Insider Material Handling [Compliance Center](#) to prevent injuries and violations at your workplace