

OCTOBER 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

Yukon

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Laws

Aug 31: Yukon and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency launched a new program offering commercial harvesters and retailers up to \$15,000 in funding for purchases, repairs and upgrades to harvest equipment, vehicles, trailers, PPE and other equipment. Deadline [to apply](#): March 31, 2024.

Drugs & Alcohol

Aug 23: Yukon launched its Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy to combat substance abuse and organized crime in the territory. At least 14 of the Strategy's 43 action items are already underway, including broadened access to Opioid Treatment Services and expanded government authority to investigate and implement civil remedies to disrupt distribution of toxic illicit drugs in Yukon communities.

Action Point: Create a legally sound [drugs and alcohol testing policy](#) for your workplace

Workers Comp

Sep 1: The Yukon WSCB published the [workers comp assessment rates of 2024](#). Rate Groups getting an increase include: Resources and Transportation (High), Construction (High), Services (Low) and Government. All other Rate Groups will have either the same or lower premium rates next year.

CASES

OHS Inspection: Government Can't Use Evidence Gathered without Search

Warrant

In an environmental case that has direct OHS law ramifications, the Yukon Territorial Court ruled that the Department of Environment couldn't use evidence seized by inspectors during a workplace search without a warrant as evidence against a mining exploration company. The lead investigator showed a "deliberate disregard" for the company's Charter rights, according to the court, especially since the search wasn't urgent and the officers could have gotten a warrant [[R. v. 16142 Yukon Inc.](#), 2023 YKTC 34 (CanLII), August 30, 2023].

Action Point: Implement an [OHS inspections policy](#) in case inspectors show up at your door