

Newfoundland & Labrador

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Laws

Mar 23: Ten municipalities in western Newfoundland will receive over \$35.6 million from the federal, provincial, and municipal governments to upgrade their water and wastewater infrastructure. In addition to creating jobs, the projects will lay the groundwork for the development of badly needed new housing.

New Laws

Mar 19: To bolster national defence and security supply chains, the federal Regional Defence Investment Initiative (RDII) announced that it will invest \$16 million to support five local companies in Newfoundland and Labrador: PAL Aerospace Ltd., Virtual Marine Technology Inc., Solace Power Inc., CoLab AI Inc., and Rutter Inc.

New Laws

Mar 30: Newfoundland passed [Bill 5](#) to maintain the reduction of the tax on propane fuel grade of gasoline by seven cents per litre. Other per litre gasoline tax rates contained in the Bill: \$0.035 on gasoline for operation of sea-going vessels or boats (other than pleasure craft); \$0.095 on diesel grade gasoline; \$0.025 on gasoline delivered for consumption or use in an aircraft; and \$0.075 on all other gasoline grades.

Industry Challenges

April 30 is the deadline for Newfoundland and Labrador farmers and producers affected by drought conditions in 2025 to apply for federal-provincial relief under two AgriRecovery relief programs: [AgriStability](#), which covers large declines in farming income due to production loss, increased costs and market conditions; and [AgriInsurance](#), which production insurance against uncontrollable natural perils.

Industry Challenges

Feb 10: Newfoundland and Labrador farmers and producers that lost money due to last year's drought can now apply for federal-provincial relief under the [AgriInvest](#) program, which covers small income declines and investments to manage risk and improve market income. Deadline to apply: September 30, 2026.

New Laws

Feb 26: Newfoundland began accepting applications for 2026 Job Creation Partnerships (JCP) funding for community-based, not-for-profit projects that provide EI eligible individuals with opportunities to gain work experience and improve their employment prospects. Deadline to [apply](#): June 12, 2026.

Environmental

Apr 1: Newfoundland published a draft co-operation agreement with the federal government setting out a coordinated approach to environmental impact assessments. Specifically, the agreement provides for a one-project/one-approval process eliminating the need for project proponents to seek separate clearances from both the provincial and federal governments. Deadline [to comment](#): April 30.

Action Point: Find out more about [federal-provincial one project, one review environmental assessment agreements](#) and how they work.

Environmental

Mar 17: The Newfoundland Assembly passed [Bill 7](#) tripling minimum fines for violating the *Endangered Species Act* to \$3,000 for a first conviction, \$6,000 for a second, and \$12,000 for a third. The maximum fine for a third conviction also increases from \$200,000 to \$250,000. The legislation also gives the province more time to respond to designation recommendations.

Environmental

Apr 1: Second Reading for [Bill 8](#) amending the *Wild Life Act* by increasing the maximum fine for obstructing a wildlife officer to \$25,000. Fines for big-game penalties would also go from \$1,000 to \$5,000, for a first conviction, to \$2,000 to \$25,000. A second conviction would result in fines of between \$6,000 and \$25,000, as opposed to \$3,000 and \$10,000 under current rules.

CASES

Respiratory Protection: Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Results in Multiple OHS Charges

The Newfoundland OHS Division charged an electrical/plumbing/HVAC contractor with eight OHS violations in connection with an incident in which a worker suffered serious injuries as a result of being exposed to carbon monoxide. The charges include failure to provide adequate training, PPE, safe work procedures, and ensure that the hair of workers using tight-fitting respirators doesn't interfere with the facepiece's effective seal. A supervisor has also been charged with failing to ensure workers' proper use of PPE [*Skir Enterprises Inc.*, [Govt Press Release](#), March 12, 2026].

Action Point: Don't let this happen to your workers! Find out how to implement an effective [Respiratory Protection Equipment Compliance Game Plan](#) at your site.

Workplace Violence: Twenty Year Delay Kills Worker's Coworker Assault Lawsuit

A firefighter who claimed he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of being assaulted by a co-worker in 2001 sued his employer for constructive dismissal and failure to provide a safe work environment in 2005. The case dragged on for years with the firefighter filing his most recent action in 2015. After that, he made nary a peep. The firefighter assumed—falsely—that his lawyer was working on the case but his illusions were shattered in 2024 when the lawyer was disbarred for deliberately deceiving his clients. Meanwhile, some of the witnesses in the case

either retired or died. So, when the firefighter tried to restart the proceedings, the employer moved to dismiss the case for “want of prosecution.” The Newfoundland court granted the motion. Although it was the result of the lawyer’s misconduct, the delay in this case was both “inordinate and inexcusable” delay and caused “prejudice” to the defendant, the court concluded [[Bugden v. St. John’s \(City\)](#), 2026 NLSC 26 (CanLII), March 4, 2026].

Action Point: Are you doing enough to prevent violence at your workplace? Find out how to perform a [Workplace Violence Compliance Audit](#) to find out.