

Nova Scotia

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Work Injuries

Apr 1: WCB Nova Scotia [reported](#) that the province recorded its lowest ever work injury rate in 2025 at 1.21 per 100 workers, down from 1.38 in 2024. Days lost from injury also fell to 226 per 100, an overall 13% decline from 259 days in 2023. The new WCB report doesn't address work fatalities.

Housekeeping & Hygiene

Mar 23: WCB Nova Scotia published a new [Safety Bulletin](#) explaining what employers and contractors must do to comply with OHS regulations requiring clean and readily available washrooms at outdoor and temporary worksites.

Action Point: Find out how to implement a [Sanitation and Toilets Compliance Game Plan](#) at your site.

Fire Safety

Mar 9: Under new fire safety legislation ([Bill 186](#)) working its way through the Nova Scotia Assembly, the Minister of Emergency Management will oversee municipal fire services and set provincewide standards for fire services, firefighter training and certification, personal protective equipment, transition support for fire services that want to transition to a municipal model, and resources for fire protection service planning, delivery and reporting. Fire departments and service commissions that aren't currently part of a municipal fire service will remain as is.

Action Point: Find out how to implement an effective and legally sound [Fire Prevention Compliance Game Plan](#) to prevent fires and explosions at your workplace.

New Laws

Mar 16: The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) announced a historic 10-year, \$200 million federal investment to lease a multi-user spaceport near Canso, Nova Scotia. A spaceport is a launch site for rockets carrying satellites into orbit. Once operational, the Canso facility will allow satellites to be launched directly from Canadian soil. The spaceport will be operated by Maritime Launch Services to serve the needs of the Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces.

Industry Challenges

Mar 29: [Bill 193](#), the *Powering the Economy Act*, creating new laws and systems to tax, finance, and regulate offshore wind, geothermal, natural hydrogen, helium, and carbon storage projects in Nova Scotia, is out of Committee on its way to almost certain passage.

Training

Mar 10: The Assembly is two steps away from passing amendments to the *Community Colleges Act* ([Bill 196](#)) would establish a new Institute of Skilled Trades

(IST) at Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), to be led by an industry-led council and funded by a five-year, \$25-million investment for new innovative equipment and tools to enhance classrooms, training, and workshops across the province.

New Laws

Mar 3: In the unlikely event that it's enacted, newly tabled [Private Member Bill 219](#) would create a new paid leave of absence for employees who have experienced gender-based violence. Employees would need at least three months of employment with their employer to qualify for paid leave. Such legislation generally requires a government bill to secure passage.

Drugs & Alcohol

Mar 26: Debate continues on [Bill 200](#) amending the *Cannabis Control Act* to improve public safety. Highlights: Higher fines for violations, new offence for landlords that allow their property to be used for illegal cannabis sale or distribution, use of peace officers to enforce the law in addition to the police, and loosening of courtroom evidence rules making it easier to prove presence of cannabis.

Action Point: Find out how to implement a [Drugs and Alcohol Testing Policy](#) at your workplace.

Workers' Compensation

Apr 1: For the first time since 1999, the Department of Labour, Skills, and Immigration carried out a full review of Nova Scotia's Workers' Compensation Appeals System. The Department will now review the feedback and propose improvements to the System.

Action Point: Find out how much each province and territory is charging for [workers' compensation premiums in 2026](#).

Environmental

Mar 27: Nova Scotia and the federal government agreed to implement a one-project, one-review environmental impact assessment system eliminating the need for project proponents to seek separate clearances from both governments. Projects currently requiring federal and provincial review include energy transmission lines that cross interprovincial boundaries, airports, marine terminals and ports, pipelines, and some mining projects.

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

CASES

OHS Inspection: Mere Possibility of Crane Collapse Not Enough to Justify Compliance Order

OHS inspectors issued a Stop-Work and five Compliance Orders to an excavation subcontractor after determining that the excavation work was too close to a tower crane at the site. The subcontractor appealed the Order to comply with the requirement to "ensure that a utility pole, building or other structure is provided

adequate support or removed if the utility pole, building or other structure may become unstable because of excavation or trenching activity.” The Labour Board set aside the Order along with the \$500 Administrative Monetary Penalty, reasoning that the risk of the crane’s collapsing, while possible, wasn’t probable. Now it was the government’s turn to appeal. But the Nova Scotia high court ruled that the Board’s decision wasn’t erroneous and disallowed the appeal [[*Nova Scotia \(Occupational Health and Safety\) v. DJ Excavation Inc.*](#), 2026 NSCA 24 (CanLII), March 17, 2026].

Action Point: This is a noteworthy case because courts and tribunal typically defer to OHS enforcers and prosecutors in interpreting the terms of OHS regulations. That’s why employers lose OHS appeals far more frequently than they win them. While it deals with technical excavations issues, the principles in this case in terms of inspector discretion would also apply to other enforcement situations. Use the [OHSI Excavations Compliance Game Plan](#) to avoid excavation and trenching violations at your site.