

# New Brunswick

## LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Transportation Safety

May 29: Debate continues on [Bill 43](#) proposing to update the rules governing commercial signage on New Brunswick highways. The amendments include redefining “advertisements” as “commercial signs,” increasing penalties for illegal signage, extending the compliance period to 30 days from 10, and introducing accountability for landowners regarding offences on their property.

### First Aid

May 21: New Brunswick is investing up to \$2.5 million to equip advanced care paramedics with pre-hospital thrombolytics aimed at delivering fast, life-saving cardiac care for certain types of heart attacks. Thrombolytics, aka clot-busters, are medications that break down blood clots and restore blood flow to the heart, helping to minimize damage and, in some cases, stop a heart attack.

**Action Point:** Find out how to implement an effective [First Aid Compliance Game Plan](#) at your workplace.

### Training

May 21: The new Canada–New Brunswick Workforce Tariff Response program will provide \$13.8 million over three years to support workers in the softwood lumber, mining, construction, transportation, and other sectors affected by tariffs. To be distributed by WorkingNB, the money will go to unemployed workers to gain new skills for in-demand jobs, workers whose employers are participating in Work-Sharing agreements providing for upskilling or retraining, and employed workers seeking new skills to improve their resiliency within companies directly affected by tariffs.

### Infectious Illness

May 8: Newly passed [Bill 26](#) amends the *Employment Standards Act* to provide employees with more than 90 continuous service unpaid long-term illness and injury leave of up to 27 weeks during any 52-week period. Employees must notify the employer “without delay” of the anticipated leave start date and duration. Leave must be taken in periods of at least one week and employers may require a certificate of a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, or midwife certifying that the employee is incapable of working due to illness or injury.

### New Laws

May 8: Newly passed legislation ([Bill 33](#)) makes it easier for out-of-province tradespeople to work in New Brunswick via automatic recognition of certificates of qualification or equivalency from other provincial and territorial apprenticeship authorities. It also eliminates the requirement for certified tradespersons from other provinces to apply for an equivalent certificate and pay the associated \$150 fee, as

well as the fees for registration (\$25) and prior learning assessment (\$100) fees charged to apprentices registered in Canadian jurisdictions outside New Brunswick.

### **Workplace Violence**

May 8: Legislation ([Bill 27](#)) making it easier for victims of intimate partner violence to sue for money damages passed Third Reading. Since 2010, there's been no statute of limitations on filing civil lawsuits for trespass to the person, assault, or battery for acts of a sexual nature. The amendments expand this to include non-sexual harm that occurred in an intimate personal relationship or in a situation where a person was financially, physically or emotionally dependent on the person who harmed them.

**Action Point:** Intimate partner violence becomes an OHS compliance issue when it happens at the victim's workplace. Bottom Line: Simply having a workplace violence prevention plan isn't enough. You also need to incorporate protections against workplace domestic violence into the prevention plan. Find out how to implement an effective [Workplace Domestic Violence Prevention Plan](#) to protect your own workers.

### **Workers' Compensation**

May 26: WorkSafeNB revised Safety Achievement Financial Incentive System ([Policy 23-610](#)), a voluntary retrospective experience rating program that increases accountability for higher or lower than expected claim costs. Under SAFIS, companies are subject to surcharge if their actual costs are higher than expected based on premiums paid; but they get refunds if actual costs are lower than expected.

### **Environmental**

May 12: Newly introduced [Bill 41](#) would enable local governments in New Brunswick to establish for-profit corporations to generate clean energy and profit from the sale of renewable energy. Under current legislation, local governments may construct, own, and operate a generation facility within their boundary for their own purpose, or sell the electricity to a consumer or a distribution utility. This includes renewable energy projects such as solar, wind, and hydro. The proposed legislation would facilitate such ventures.