

Newfoundland & Labrador

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workplace Harassment

Jun 1: Effective today, Newfoundland and Labrador workers diagnosed by a physician, nurse practitioner, psychologist, or psychiatrist with a psychological injury due to workplace harassment will be eligible for workers' comp benefits.

WorkplaceNL [Policy EN-18](#) already covers psychological injuries due to traumatic events, including presumptive coverage for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in certain occupations.

Action Point: Find out about [workers' compensation coverage](#) of workplace harassment and other gradual onset mental stress across Canada.

Transportation Safety

May 29: With moose-vehicle collisions continuing at a high rate, Newfoundland is investing \$6 million in new moose fencing and brush clearing along key sections of provincially operated highways. Two new moose fencing projects will be undertaken in high-risk areas identified through collision data analysis.

New Laws

May 15: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) announced that it will establish a Food Fishery season for Newfoundland and Labrador that will run from Memorial Day/Canada Day to Labour Day each year. The fall fishery will also remain and take place from the second last weekend in September to the last weekend of September. For the first time, these dates will be set by a fixed formula, so fishers can plan ahead to get on the water without waiting for an additional announcement from DFO, year-to-year.

New Laws

May 15: Newfoundland launched public consultations on how to revise its immigration laws, processes, and policies to enhance protections for foreign workers. Deadline [to comment](#): June 30.

New Laws

May 15: The federal government announced over \$13 million in funding for a Northwestel project to bring high-speed Internet access to up to 869 Indigenous households in up to [9 northern communities](#) across the Northwest Territories. The funding is provided through the [Universal Broadband Fund](#), a program designed to ensure that Canadians in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities have access to reliable high-speed Internet.

Workplace Violence

May 27: The provincial government officially declared gender-based violence to be an epidemic in Newfoundland and Labrador and established a new 12-member task force to deal with the problem.

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

Workers' Compensation

May 7: Under newly passed [Bill 10](#), Temporary Earnings Loss (TEL) benefits beyond 24 months will be included when calculating a worker's retirement benefit. Under current workers' comp rules, only Extended Earnings Loss benefits are counted. The change will apply retroactively to January 1, 2019. While the amount a worker receives depends on their TEL benefits, on average, that increase would be about \$5,800 per worker.