

# Nova Scotia

## **LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **New Laws**

Jan 10: Nova Scotia changed its real estate tax laws to support residents who lost their homes in the 2023 wildfires in Halifax and Shelburne County. Under the new rules, individuals in those regions that rebuild their homes to substantially the same condition they were in before the wildfires will not see their capped assessed property increase.

### **Workers' Comp**

Feb 1: Reminder: Nova Scotia employers have until March 31 to submit their workers' comp payroll reports to the WCB listing their actual numbers from 2024 and projected numbers for 2025 to avoid potential late fees, interest, and penalties.

### **Environmental**

Jan 14: The Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) is providing \$224.2 million in loans to help Port Hawkesbury Paper Wind Ltd. build a large-scale wind energy project. The Goose Harbour Lake Wind Farm will involve the construction and installation of 24 cold climate turbines, yielding a zero-emission, sustainable electricity generation capacity of 168 megawatts.

## **CASES**

### **Mental Stress: Nurse Gets WCB Benefits for PTSD Even Though Her Licence Was Suspended**

A former licensed practical nurse filed a workers' comp claim for post-traumatic stress disorder after a resident under her care left a locked ward undetected and wandered outside on a February night, dying of cold exposure. The WCB found the injury work-related but denied the LPN earnings-replacement benefits because it was her leaving her employment after her licence was suspended rather than the incident that led to her earnings loss. The Nova Scotia WCAT reversed, ruling that the incident and resulting PTSD were the true cause of her earnings loss in the light of evidence showing that she suffered nightmares, numbness, and an inability to shower or get out of bed after the incident and before the discipline came down. As a result, she was in no position to contest the discipline even though she might have been able to raise a valid defence [[2024-83-AD \(Re\)](#), 2024 CanLII 127487 (NS WCAT), December 23, 2024].

**Action Point:** Find out about [workers' comp coverage](#) for PTSD and mental stress.