

# Prince Edward Island

## LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### First Aid

Jan 1: New [OHS regulations](#) took effect in PEI requiring employers to determine the first aid training and supplies required for a particular work site by having a competent person conduct a workplace first aid hazard assessment in consultation with the JHSC. Previously, this determination was based on worker numbers, hazards of the operation, proximity to a hospital, and other predetermined factors set out in a chart.

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

### Infectious Illness

Jan 9: PEI's healthcare system is experiencing significant overcapacity with limited availability of hospital beds. The problem is expected to get worse in the coming weeks as cold and flu season kicks into high gear and increases patient volumes and demands on the system.

### New Laws

Dec 18: At the end of 2023, there were 71 Nurse Practitioners in PEI, as opposed to just 14 in 2014, more than twice the national growth rate, according to a new Canadian Institute for Health Information [report](#). In addition, PEI's family physician numbers grew by 6.3% in 2021, 4.1% in 2022, and 5.8% in 2023, versus national growth rates of, respectively, 1.4%, 1.8% and -0.1% for those years.

### Cold Stress

Jan 13: The WCB warned PEI employers and workers to be on the lookout for and take measures to guard against hypothermia hazards.

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

### Emergency Response

Jan 1: Changes to the *Highway Traffic Act* took effect that allow a broader range of

emergency vehicles, including ambulances and fire trucks, to use flashing blue lights when responding to emergencies. Explanation: Blue lights enable vehicles to stand out more clearly from regular vehicle lights or traffic lights, especially in fog, nighttime and other lower visibility conditions. Police, snowplows and highway maintenance vehicles, and emergency responders with special permission are already allowed to use blue lights in emergencies in PEI.

### **New Laws**

Dec 12: The federal Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership and PEI Department of Agriculture will invest over \$300,000 in a new Agriculture Labour Sub-Program offering farmers and agricultural organization funding for workforce initiatives, training and professional development, recruitment missions, attending job fairs and trade shows and developing strategies for worker childcare and transportation.

### **Drugs & Alcohol**

Dec 16: The province expanded the [PEI Smoking Cessation Program](#), which reimburses residents who are trying to quit smoking for 100% of the costs of nicotine replacement products like gum, patches, lozenges, and inhalers, to cover these products and prescription smoking cessation medications acquired directly from a local pharmacy. Eligible residents can book an appointment at their local pharmacy or nearest [Primary Care Network](#) office to assess their readiness to quit, receive tailored guidance, and develop a Cessation Action Plan.

### **Workers' Comp**

Feb 28: That's the final day for PEI employers to submit their workers' comp payroll data reports listing their actual 2024 payroll cost figures and projected expenses in 2025 to the WCB to avoid the risk of late fees, interest, and penalties.

### **Workers' Comp**

Jan 16: The PEI WCB ended public consultations on proposed changes to [POL-124](#) setting out rules for benefits to workers who lose pension benefits as a result of a workplace injury. Key policy changes include a revised method for annual adjustment of pre-injury earnings for workers with a loss of pension benefits through their employer and a new provision allowing the WCB to factor any pension contributions made during the continued accrual period into the calculation of any potential benefits lost. The previous version excluded workers whose pension plan allowed for continued accrual.