

Nova Scotia

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workplace Injuries

Feb 6: There were 20 workplace fatalities in Nova Scotia in 2024, versus 18 in 2023, WCB reported. Eight fatalities were from traumatic injury (one more than 2023 but one below 5-year averages), 6 from occupational illness from past exposure (versus 9 in 2023), and 6 from heart attack, stroke, or other health-related event (versus 2 in 2023).

Ladder Safety

Jan 24: The Nova Scotia Safety Branch issued a [revised Safety Bulletin](#) on use of Step Stools in the workplace. Takeaway: Any Step Stool or platform available at the workplace with a design requirement that falls within scope of the definition of “Portable Ladder” under section 6.4 of CSA Z11, *Portable Ladders*, must be designed and manufactured in accordance with the CSA Z11 standard.

Action Point: Find out how to implement an effective [Portable Ladder Safety Compliance Game Plan](#) to prevent fall injuries at your workplace.

New Laws

Jan 31: The federal government’s Community Futures Program will provide over \$3.5 million in funding to enable 13 Community Business Development Corporations (CBDs) in Nova Scotia to offer financial assistance, specialized training, expert guidance, and other support for small and rural businesses.

Workers’ Comp

Mar 31: March 31st is the deadline for Nova Scotia employers 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.

Workers’ Comp

Feb 1: To improve service and consistency, the WCB will from now on process regular monthly pension benefit payments to injured workers on the first Wednesday of each month. Most recipients can expect to see funds in their account 1 to 3 business days after this date, depending on their bank’s processing times.

Environmental

Jan 31: New federal (Bill C-49) and Nova Scotia (Bill 471) legislation took effect that establishes a joint federal/Nova Scotia management regulatory framework that will allow for the development of offshore renewable energy for the first time in Canada. Other provinces, including Newfoundland, are expected to pass their own mirror

legislation to get in on the offshore renewable energy opportunity, which looks to be a future gold mine.

Environmental

Jan 31: Nova Scotia issued a new [Planning Guide](#) to help developers, builders, contractors, and others minimize sediment and prevent erosion at construction sites and remain in compliance with environmental regulations.