

Manitoba

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OHS Enforcement

Jan 26: Since April 1, 2024, Manitoba has carried out 4,732 WSH inspections, resulting in the issuance of 352 Stop-Work Orders and 9,635 Improvement Orders. There were also 10 reported OHS work refusals and 43 alleged reprisals.

Action Point: Find out how to implement an [OHS inspections policy](#) in case inspectors show up at your door.

Infectious Illness

Feb 4: Public health officials notified the public that there have been 5 confirmed cases of measles in southern Manitoba, all connected to an outbreak in Ontario. The 5 victims are individuals who live within the same household, and are now isolating at home, who contacted infected people while traveling in Ontario.

Action Point: Use the [OHS Insider Infection Exposure Control Plan](#) template to guard against measles, COVID, and other potential infectious illness outbreaks at your workplace.

Workplace Harassment

Feb 1: Manitoba proclaimed and began enforcing new legislation called the [Safe Access to Abortion Services Act](#) banning protests, demonstrations, or picketing within buffer zones around abortion clinics to protect patients and providers against harassment and intimidation. Other facilities that provide surgical or medical abortion services such as hospitals, pharmacies, doctors' offices, and healthcare facilities may also request that a buffer zone be established around their sites. BC, Newfoundland, Québec, Ontario, Alberta, and Nova Scotia have also enacted legislation establishing abortion protest buffer zones.

New Laws

Feb 7: Manitoba announced that it has added 1,255 net-new healthcare workers as of December 2024, including 138 physicians, 481 nurses, 386 healthcare aides, and 176 allied health workers.

New Laws

Jan 27: Manitoba began deploying conservation officers as part of the effort to crack down on drug trafficking and illegal and unsafe crossing along the Canada-U.S. border. Patrols are being conducted between ports of entry, focusing on secondary roads and backcountry areas. The province is also supplying snowmobiles, UTVs, helicopters, and other equipment to support conservation officer patrols.

Industry Challenges

Jan 23: After a lower-than-average claim year in 2024, the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation is reducing 2025 premium rates for most insurable crops. The average premium for annual crops will be \$13.01 per acre, compared to \$15.43 per acre in 2024. MASC is further enhancing the AgrilInsurance program by adding birdsfoot trefoil as an eligible crop for Forage Establishment Insurance and increasing the maximum value for calculating livestock predation claims under the Wildlife Damage Compensation program from \$3,000 to \$7,000 per animal.

New Laws

Jan 15: Manitoba appointed a new lead Prosecutor to go after those accused of committing hate crimes against residents. A lead Crown attorney will also be designated to coordinate the work of the Manitoba Prosecution Service in combating hate crime.

Workers' Comp

Feb 28: February 28th is the deadline for Manitoba employers to submit their actual 2024 and estimated 2025 workers' comp payroll figures to the WCB. Missing the deadline may result in interest, late fees, and penalties.

CASES

Machine Safety: Lack of Saw Blade Guard Costs Worker a Thumb & Employer \$20K

A fly fishing lodge pled guilty to an OHS violation and was fined \$20,000 for an incident where a worker operating a table saw without a required safeguard made contact with the blade resulting in amputation of a thumb [*Aikens Lake Lodge Limited*, [Govt. Release](#), January 17, 2025].

Action Point: Find out how to prevent machine amputations and OHS fines by implementing a legally sound [Machine Guarding Compliance Game Plan](#) at your workplace.