

Nunavut

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Infectious Illness

Mar 17: The Department of Health advised the public of an increase in reported cases of viral respiratory illnesses, including influenza B, norovirus, and gastroenteritis, currently circulating in Nunavut.

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

New Laws

Mar 13: Under its new bilateral agreement with Ottawa, the GN will receive \$7.3 million over 3 years to improve residents' access to selected new drugs for rare diseases, and to support enhanced access to existing drugs, early diagnosis, and screening. The first step will be funding for 4 new drugs: Poteligeo, for treatment of mycosis fungoides, aka Sézary syndrome; Epkinly, for relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma; Welireg for von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) disease; and Yescarta for follicular lymphoma, large B-cell lymphoma (LBCL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), and high-grade B-cell lymphoma (HGBL).

New Laws

Mar 4: Although it doesn't directly export to the U.S., Nunavut relies heavily on imports for essential goods, infrastructure, and services, making it vulnerable to rising costs and supply chain disruptions. The GN says it will promote local and Canadian consumption and that the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission will no longer sell alcohol products made in the U.S. The GN is also reviewing its Party-Specific Exceptions under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

New Laws

Feb 10: The GN is now requiring retired government employees to pay 50% of the costs of health and dental benefits, revising the previous 80/20 cost share arrangement. Retirees also must now have at least 6 years of cumulative pensionable service to qualify for coverage, as opposed to 2 years under previous rules. There are also some benefit enhancements, including increasing private hospital room coverage to \$220 per day, elimination of annual deductibles for health and dental care, and removing the requirement for a referral for massage therapy.

New Laws

Feb 25: To bolster recruitment and retention of staff in licensed child care centres, the GN is increasing Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Wage Scale Program rates by 7.5%, starting April 1, 2025. The wage scale applies to 4 categories of staff: i. Management; ii. Early Childhood Educators; iii. Program Support; and iv. Centre Support.

Industry Challenges

Mar 4: The federal government's decision to extend the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for another 2

years is good news for Nunavut given the METC's key role in supporting early-stage mineral exploration. However, the 3 territories continue to call for a 15% stackable North of 60 Mineral Exploration Tax Credit, an incentive designed to recognize the higher costs of exploration in the territories.

Drugs & Alcohol

Mar 12: The following tobacco tax rate increases took effect in Nunavut: i. Cigarettes: from 30 cents to 40 cents per stick; ii. Smoked tobacco: from \$0.40 to \$0.533; and iii. Non-smoked tobacco: from \$0.30 to \$0.45.

Action Point: Take 5 steps to [prevent workplace smoking](#) and vaping and avoid fines under smoke-free laws.