

Northwest Territories

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emergency Response

Feb 20: The federal government announced that it will provide the GNWT over \$23 million under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program to assist with response and recovery costs associated with the wildfires of 2024 and 2023, and extreme flooding of spring 2021.

Action Point: Ensure that your company is [properly prepared for workplace emergencies](#).

New Laws

Apr 1: To account for inflation, the GNWT is imposing regulatory fees increases of roughly 4%, effective today. The increases will primarily impact Real Estate Agents, Real Estate Salespersons, Business Licences, Vendors, Direct Sellers, Collection Agencies, and Plan Reviews.

New Laws

Feb 27: The Northwest Territories Nominee Program [application](#) intake period opened today and closed on March 6. During this intake, the Program accepted 90 of its nomination allotment of 150 for 2025, including 70 applications under the Employer-Driven Stream from Yellowknife employers, 10 under the same Stream from employers outside Yellowknife, and 10 under the Francophone Stream or Employer-Driven Stream.

Industry Challenges

Mar 13: In a key development affecting the construction industry, public comments closed on the [proposed](#) creation of new regulations to implement the *Builders' Lien Act* that was enacted in 2023 to replace the *Mechanics Lien Act* and harmonize the territory's lien rules with modern construction practices.

New Laws

Mar 4: The GNWT says it's taking measures in response to the new Trump tariffs, including reviewing procurement policies to reduce or eliminate purchases from U.S. companies where possible and halting the Northwest Territories Liquor and Cannabis Commission's purchase of American goods.

New Laws

Mar 6: The GNWT officially enacted the *Practice of Engineering, Geoscience and Applied Science Technology Act*, modernizing the regulatory framework for engineering, geoscience, and applied science technology professionals in the NWT. Key changes include limited licenses for out-of-territory professionals, alignment of licensing requirements with other jurisdictions, a streamlined process for professionals returning from parental leave and supports professionals transitioning to full licensure and expanded options for addressing struggling engineers other than suspension.

Transportation Safety

Feb 18: Yellowknife Airport (YZF) experienced an 18% increase in passenger traffic in 2024 with 604,000 passengers welcomed. This growth was driven by increased regional travel, expanded airline routes, more flight frequencies, and heightened interest in tourism and business opportunities in the area.

New Laws

Mar 13: The GNWT signed a new bilateral agreement with Ottawa that will provide the territories over \$7.8 million to improve 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 to provide residents access to Poteligeo, for the treatment of mycosis fungoides or Sézary syndrome.

Drugs & Alcohol

Mar 11: The Northwest Territories' share of the new \$32.5 billion national tobacco company litigation settlement will be approximately \$185 million, including an initial payment of around \$44 million and the remaining balance to be paid out over 18 years.

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

Industry Challenges

Mar 4: The federal government's decision to extend the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for another 2 years is good news for the Northwest Territories 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.

Workers' Comp

Feb 28: Workers currently receive a lifetime pension if they have a "permanent medical impairment" or workplace injury causing lasting loss of function after treatment or rehab based solely on the percentage of impairment experienced and earnings at time of injury without considering impact on ability to return to their job. Second Reading for significant workers' comp legislation ([Bill 21](#)) that would replace lifetime pensions with a one-time lump sum payment for a permanent injury plus an ongoing benefit payment compensating for lost earnings.