Saskatchewan

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Work Injuries

Mar 10: At 3.91 per 100 workers, Saskatchewan's 2024 total injury rate hit a new low for the second year in a row. Total injury rates have decreased 57.62% since 2009. Time loss injuries fell from 1.78 to 1.72 per 100. There were 27 fatalities (versus 29 in 2023)—10 from occupational disease and 17 from traumatic incidents.

New Laws

Mar 5: The government ordered the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority to stop purchasing U.S.-produced alcohol and directed that government procurement of goods and services prioritize Canadian suppliers, with the goal of reducing or eliminating U.S. procurement. Future government capital projects have been paused and contractors involved in current projects will have to report on and reduce consumption of American products.

New Laws

Feb 13: Saskatchewan's construction sector is booming. Building construction investment in the province grew 30% in December 2024 as compared to December 2023, the highest year-over-year rate of any province, according to Statistics Canada. Month-to-month growth was 9.4%, the second highest rate in Canada.

New Laws

Feb 19: The federal and provincial governments announced that the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) will continue administering Crop Insurance Program funding in the province through the 2025 crop year. Premiums will continue to be cost-shared 60% by federal and provincial governments and 40% by producers; the governments will pay 100% of administration costs.

Drugs & Alcohol

Feb 25: Saskatchewan announced new measures to crack down on illicit fentanyl and methamphetamine production, transportation, trafficking and street use, including via imposition of provincial fines of up to \$1 million, cancellation of driving, firearms, hunting, and fishing licenses for people convicted of drug-related crimes and stepped up seizures of property involved in drug activity. **Action Point:** Find out how to use the OHS Insider Substance Abuse Compliance Game Plan to curb drugs and alcohol at your workplace.

Drugs & Alcohol

Mar 10: Saskatchewan will get approximately \$700 million of the roughly \$32.5 billion landmark settlement agreement between the provincial and territorial governments and the tobacco companies. **Action Point:** Take 5 steps to <u>prevent workplace smoking</u> and vaping and avoid fines under smoke-free laws.



Workers' Comp

Mar 17: The Saskatchewan WCB began gathering public feedback on ideas for improving services in both the short- and long-term. Deadline <u>to comment</u>: April 28.

Environmental

Mar 14: Saskatchewan is increasing hazardous substance and waste dangerous goods construction permit fees. Starting October 1, the Ministry of Environment will charge a \$1,000 flat fee for new hazardous substance and waste dangerous goods construction permits.

