

New Brunswick

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transportation Safety

Mar 25: Second Reading for <u>Bill 10</u> requiring passengers of motorcycles to wear a helmet and drivers to keep both hands on the handle bars, except when giving signals, keep both feet on the pedals or footrests, ride in a seated position on the permanent and regular seat attached to the motorcycle, and ensure that the handle bars are firmly secured and no higher than the top of their shoulders when sitting on the seat.

Transportation Safety

Mar 25: Second Reading for <u>Bill 11</u> which would amend the *Motor Vehicle Act* to allow non-standard logging trucks to operate on certain segments of Crown land roads in New Brunswick, provided that the operator gets a special permit from the Minister of Natural Resources. New permits would cost \$1,202 per year.

New Laws

Mar 25: Newly tabled Bill 14 would amend the Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Act to make it easier for skilled workers and professionals who are registered or licensed in another province from to get their credentials recognized so they can ply their trade in New Brunswick.

Drugs & Alcohol

Mar 7: New Brunswick will receive an estimated total share of \$614 million under the new landmark \$32.5 billion tobacco companies settlement, including approximately \$147 million up front and the remainder over time.

Action Point: Take 5 steps to <u>prevent workplace smoking</u> and vaping and avoid fines under smoke-free laws.

Workers' Comp



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Mar 25: Newly tabled <u>Bill 13</u> would expand firefighters' benefits under the *Firefighters' Compensation Act* by changing the definition of "average earnings" on which injury benefits are based to "the daily, weekly, monthly, or other regular remuneration" that a firefighter was getting at the time of disablement, loss of earnings, or death that the WorkSafeNB believes "best represents" those earnings unless it's proven that based on the firefighter's age and ongoing occupational, trade, technical, or professional training, those earnings would have probably increased.

Workers' Comp

Mar 18: WorkSafeNB revised <u>Policy 21-403</u> governing workers' comp coverage of grab bars, stair or porch lifts, widening of doorways and hallways and other home modifications workers with work-related injuries need to be mobile or functional within their homes.

Workers' Comp

Mar 26: Spouses of deceased workers will receive 90% of net earnings, without being subject to a family income test, effective July 1, 2025. Workers who can't buy retirement annuities will also receive a lump sum payout if their set-aside savings are less than 60% of the New Brunswick Industrial Aggregate Earnings (approx. \$30,770 in 2024).

Environmental

Mar 27: In response to the federal government's decision to put the electric vehicle rebate program on indefinite pause, New Brunswick announced that it will end its own Electric Vehicle Incentive Program on July 1. New Brunswickers can still apply for the provincial rebate through NB Power, provided that their electric vehicle purchase is made by June 30. Buyers will have up to 30 days to submit their receipt and application to receive a rebate.

