

Northwest Territories

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workplace Violence

May 28: [Bill 27](#) creating a new tort of “stalking,” defined as conduct that causes a person to reasonably fear for their safety, including conduct carried out by electronic means, passed Second Reading. The Bill gives stalking victims the right to sue for money damages and seek protective orders.

Action Point: Find out how to create and implement an effective [Cyberbullying Prevention Policy](#) at your workplace.

OHS Program

May 1: The WSCC published a new [Workplace Safety Planning Guide](#) to help Northwest Territories and Nunavut employers create, implement and improve an OHS program.

Infectious Illness

Jun 6: The GNWT confirmed that 2 cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), aka bird flu, have been detected in Yellowknife. There’ve been 9 confirmed cases of HPAI in birds in the Northwest Territories since 2022. While transmission of bird flu to humans is rare, the Chief Public Health Officer is advising caution when handling birds.

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

Drugs & Alcohol

May 30: The GNWT published the results of its [2024 Survey](#) asking residents about their experiences with mental wellness and addictions recovery services and supports. A total of 659 respondents completed the survey, a roughly 50% increase over the previous 2021 Survey.

Workers’ Comp

May 29: If and when it passes, [Bill 29](#) will add 3 new “listed diseases” that are presumed to be work-related under workers’ comp for “firefighters,” defined as workers engaged in fighting fires as a full-time, part-time or volunteer member of a fire department and who don’t exclusively fight forest fires: i. any cancer type; ii.

heart disease including disease of the pericardium or coronary arteries; and iii. heart injury including heart attack, cardiac arrest, and arrhythmia.

Environmental

May 21: The GNWT published a new [report](#) summarizing data related to the Community-Based Water Quality Monitoring Program in the Territories over the past 10 years. Key findings: The Program has been effective in supporting communities to lead water monitoring and the quality of water needed for a thriving ecosystem in the NWT remains high.