

# Newfoundland & Labrador

## LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Work Injuries

Jul 3: WorkplaceNL [reported](#) that Newfoundland's 2024 lost-time injury rate fell to a historic low of 1.2 per 100 workers, surpassing the 2023 record of 1.1. While total claims for the year actually dropped (from 4,301 to 4,029), accepted fatality claims nearly doubled from 15 to 26. The Injury Fund remained fully funded at 131.6%.

### Industry Challenges

Jun 18: The federal Ministry of Fisheries announced that it's increasing Newfoundland and Labrador's total allowable catch for Northern cod in 2025 from 18,000 to 38,000 tonnes and keeping the TAC for Capelin at 14,533 tonnes. The total landed value of Northern cod in 2024 was approximately \$37.5 million.

### Industry Challenges

Jun 11: Newfoundland announced that it will invest nearly \$200,000 to develop a labour market strategy to address HR challenges in the residential construction sector. The Canadian Home Builders Association of Newfoundland and Labrador will conduct research and public engagement to support the project.

### Industry Challenges

Jun 9: Newfoundland will provide over \$135,000 to TradesNL to carry out a comprehensive assessment of workforce availability across all construction sectors in the province, including industrial, commercial, and institutional construction, residential homebuilding, road construction, and non-union contractors. The first initiative will be a targeted industry survey to understand the current membership, workforce availability, and barriers to entry in the construction sectors.

### Environmental

Jun 30: Newfoundland announced 2 new provincial Climate Change Action Plans for 2025-30. The immediate goal: Cut provincial greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030. The next phase will be to reduce emissions by 60% by 2040 before reaching net zero emissions by 2050.

### Environmental

Jun 18: The federal government is launching a new voluntary pilot program giving tour boat operations certified by Transport Canada the flexibility to retain fish 7 days a week while eliminating the catch-and-release rules. Under the new tagging system, passengers can now keep 2 groundfish per day.

## CASES

### **Due Diligence: Faulty Crane Procedures Destroy Oil Company's Due Diligence Defence**

Prosecutors charged an ocean drilling company with 2 OHS violations resulting in injuries to an offshore deck crew member who got pinned between a handrail on the main tubular feeding machine and the Aft Surface Flow Tree handling adapter. The Newfoundland court ruled that the Crown met its burden of proving that a crane and traffic signaling violation. So, the burden shifted to the company to prove that it took reasonable steps to comply with the requirements and prevent the violations. The company sought to do this by blaming the operator for operating the crane when he didn't have a clear and unobstructed view of the area without calling for a signaler's assistance, as required by OHS regulations. But the court didn't buy it and rejected the company's due diligence defence, noting that the problem wasn't the operator's actions but the company's policies which didn't specify how close the crane operator could reasonably get to the load before requiring a signaler, which left the operator leeway to do the operation without a signaler [[R. v Transocean Canada Drilling Services Ltd.](#), 2025 CanLII 65861 (NL PC), July 10, 2025].

**Action Point:** Use the OHS Insider [Cranes/Hoists/Lifting Device Compliance Game Plan](#) to prevent crane violations at your workplace.