

# Prince Edward Island

## LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Work Injuries

Jun 23: According to WCB's [2024 Annual Report](#), time-loss injury rates in PEI increased to 1.21 per 100 workers, versus 1.16 in 2023. Sprains, strains, and tears accounted for 56.5% of time-loss claims. Industries with the most claims: Health and Social Services (24.5%), Construction (16.2%) and Manufacturing (14.7%). There were 9 work fatalities, versus only 1 in 2023.

### Powered Mobile Equipment

Jul 7: The PEI WCB issued a new [Hazard Alert](#) after a worker mounting a ride-on mower suffered serious injuries to a foot that entered the unguarded blade area that was running because the mower's seat-activated safety switch was bypassed. The supervisor should have ensured that the mower was in a safe operating condition and that the worker was wearing CSA-approved protective footwear. Removing the chute guard from a push mower can also create a hazard by exposing moving blades, the Alert warns.

**Action Point:** Implementing an effective [Powered Mobile Equipment Operation Policy](#) like the one on the OHS Insider site can help you prevent such injuries and the OHS fines they can lead to.

### Industry Challenges

Jul 4: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency confirmed the presence of the aquatic animal disease Dermo (aka Perkinsosis) in oyster samples collected in Egmont Bay. Dermo doesn't pose a risk to human health or food safety but may increase oyster mortality and decrease growth rates. This is the first confirmed case of Dermo in PEI. Dermo was also detected in Newfoundland last month.

### New Laws

Jun 2: PEI exercised its brand new *Interprovincial Trade and Mobility Act* powers to sign an agreement with Ontario to promote free trade and labour mobility. The annual value of trade in goods and services between the 2 provinces is over \$1.5 billion.

### New Laws

Jul 11: PEI horticulture producers can now [apply](#) for federal funding from the new [Horticulture Diversification Program](#) which features 4 streams: i. Season Extension and Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Expansion; ii. Efficiency and Productivity; iii. Post-Harvest Cooling, Freezing, and Storage; and iv. Agronomic Support.

**Workers' Comp**

Jun 23: The WCB [added](#) 5 new cancers to the list of cancers that are presumed to be work-related when diagnosed in fire inspectors, paid firefighters and volunteer firefighters who are members of a fire department or fire brigade: Cervical cancer, Ovarian cancer, Penile cancer, Pancreatic cancer, and Thyroid cancer. With these additions, there are now 19 cancers on the list of presumptive cancer coverage for PEI firefighters.