Newfoundland & Labrador

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emergency Response

Aug 21: The federal government announced that it will match every dollar donated to the Canadian Red Cross 2025 <u>Newfoundland & Labrador Wildfires Appeal</u> to support wildfire disaster relief efforts across the province. Donation matching will be open for 30 days, retroactive to when the appeal first opened on August 14. The funds raised will be used to assist relief efforts in response to those impacted by the wildfires in Newfoundland and Labrador, including those who've evacuated their homes.

Industry Challenges

Sep 2: After detection of aquatic animal diseases in oyster samples, the waters of eastern Canada including Newfoundland are now under the federal Domestic Movement Control Program. Oysters grown to commercial size and processed for human consumption may be exported and sold but oysters not ready for commercial market and still growing must remain within the declared areas.

Emergency Response

Sep 9: Newfoundland awarded a \$561.7 million contract to Medavie Health NL to design, manage, and operate the province's new emergency response program that combines road and air ambulance services into a single integrated system. Medavie Provincial Aerospace will serve as Medavie's sole air operator and subcontract any other required aviation services to other providers, including Air Borealis.

Action Point: Being prepared for workplace emergencies is a legal requirement that can save countless lives. Use the OHS Insider template to create a legally sound <u>Emergency Preparedness & Response Policy</u> at your workplace.

New Laws

Sep 5: The federal government announced that it will provide over \$33.4 million in Canada Community-Building Fund assistance in 2025-2026 to 275 municipalities in Newfoundland and Labrador to support high-priority housing and infrastructure development projects across a wide range of categories.

Young Workers

Aug 6: The Newfoundland Ministry of Labour launched a campaign to raise workers' awareness of their rights under provincial employment laws, including the *OHS Act*. Although aimed at all employers and workers, the Your Rights at Work campaign will especially focus on young and non-unionized employees.

Action Point: Find out how to implement a legally sound and effective New and

Young Workers Safety and Compliance Game Plan.

Transportation Safety

Sep 3: With the start of the new school year, Newfoundland launched a 4-month pilot project deploying cameras installed on the stop arms of school buses to detect vehicles illegally passing stopped school buses. Drivers who get caught on camera will be subject to fines of between \$500 and \$1,200.

Action Point: Find out how to implement a <u>legally sound video surveillance policy</u> to ensure safety in vehicles and at your workplace without violating workers' privacy rights in the process.

Training

Aug 28: Memorial University's Grenfell Campus received a \$1.1 million grant from the provincial government for a new initiative to provide flexible, non-degree training programs that combine Al education with entrepreneurship development. The Certificate in Entrepreneurship program and Navigate program will be offered through a combination of online and in-person learning delivered in collaboration with a network of post-secondary institutions, innovation hubs and workforce development organizations.