

AUGUST 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

Northwest Territories

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minimum Wage

Sep 1: The general minimum wage in the territories officially increased 65 cents to \$16.70 per hour in accordance with inflation index. The Northwest Territories switched to an inflation-based annual increase system in 2022.

New Laws

Aug 26: The GNWT signed a new agreement on Indigenous Languages with the federal government under which the territory will receive \$5.9 million per year over 3 years, \$17.7 million in total, to provide Indigenous language services and support Indigenous language initiatives across the Northwest Territories.

New Laws

Jul 31: The GNWT announced that it will waive the cost-sharing requirements of the new Extended Health Benefits Program for residents in income band levels 2 to 10 for the first year. **Translation:** Residents whose income falls within those bands won't have to pay the deductible for eligible prescription drugs, medical supplies and equipment.

CASES

Health & Safety: Equipment Company Fined \$200,000 for Fatal Machine Injury

An equipment company was fined \$200,000, which may be a record for Northwest Territories, after pleading guilty to a *Safety Act* violation for its role in a 2022 incident at the Gahcho Kue Mine in which a worker inspecting the hydraulics on a haul truck boarding was pinned by moving parts resulting in fatal injury. There were no warning signs of a pinch point, and the company didn't conduct its own workplace safety inspection of the haul truck [SMS Equipment Ltd., [Govt. Press Release](#), July 30, 2024].

Action Point: Find out [how to create a vibrant safety culture](#) at your company