

JULY 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

# Prince Edward Island

## LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Minimum Wage

Oct 1: For the second time this year, PEI will increase its general minimum wage. After last April's 40-cent increase, the minimum wage will go up another 60 cents to \$16.00 per hour.

### New Laws

Jul 4: PEI employment increased 5.7% to a record 89,000 jobs in 2023, the [government reported](#). Gainers: Healthcare and Social Assistance (17.5%), Accommodation & Food Services (18.8%), Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental and Leasing (32.1%) and Agriculture (24.2%). Decliners: Wholesale Retail (-5.4%), Business, Building Support Services (-20.8%), Manufacturing (-4.7%), and Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas (-13.6%).

### New Laws

Jul 10: PEI is offering an Allied Health Professional Recruitment Incentive of up to \$10,000 with a return in service commitment of 1,950 working hours or a one-year full time equivalent. Eligible professionals include Medical Laboratory and MRI Technologists, Sonographers, Social Workers, Pharmacy Technicians, Pharmacists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Dental Hygienists. To qualify for the incentive, eligible candidates must be a new candidate to PEI's workforce and cannot have worked at Health PEI or another private or public sector employer in

PEI within the past 2 years.

## **Health & Safety**

Aug 1: Effective today, applicants must pass the Mandatory Entry-Level Training ([MELT](#)) program to be approved for a new Class 1 commercial driver's licence. The province will pay 70% of training fees for eligible participants. PEI is the ninth jurisdiction to make MELT mandatory for Class 1 licences.

## **Drugs & Alcohol**

Jul 23: PEI is now offering free naloxone kits in community pharmacies across the province. Naloxone kits (intramuscular) are now available in public-facing areas of at least [37 participating pharmacies](#), along with information about how to recognize the signs of an opioid-related overdose, how to respond and where to get naloxone training.

**Action Point:** Find out how to implement a life-saving [naloxone opioid overdose plan](#) at your workplace

## **Workplace Harassment**

Jul 8: The PEI WCB confirmed that it will broaden workers comp coverage to psychological injuries resulting from work-related harassment, starting January 1, 2025. Current workers comp rules cover only psychological injuries resulting from traumatic events. One percent of all claims accepted by the WCB were for psychological injuries in 2023.

**Action Point:** Find out about [workers comp coverage of mental stress claims](#) across Canada