

## JUNE 2023 MONTH IN REVIEW

# Saskatchewan

### **LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Health & Safety**

May 17: Newly passed Bill 91 clarifies that secondary and post-secondary students are “workers” entitled to occupational health and safety protections under the *Saskatchewan Employment Act*. It also requires employers to implement a workplace violence policy that applies to students, volunteers and contract workers and investigate all incidents of violence.

#### **Employment Benefits**

May 17: Newly passed Bill 108 amends the *Pension Benefits Act* to let employers establish solvency reserve accounts and use letters of credit instead of solvency deficiency contributions to fund DB plan operating deficits up to a maximum amount. It also eliminates liability of plan administrators that enter into annuity buyout contracts with insurance companies under certain conditions.

#### **Employment Benefits**

May 29: From now through July 15, the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority will hold [public consultations](#) on a [proposal](#) to exempt certain types of pension plans from *Pension Benefits Act* registration and regulatory requirements.

#### **Alcohol & Drugs**

May 23: Drinking in public may no longer be illegal. Effective today, Saskatchewan municipalities and park authorities may designate parks and other outdoor places where individuals of legal drinking age can consume alcoholic beverages.

**Action Point:** Find out how to [effectively control substance abuse](#) at your workplace

## Accessibility

May 17: Royal Assent for [Bill 103](#), *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*, which would require government agencies, owners of public facilities and employers to implement plans to make their facilities and services more accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Action Point:** Find out more about [accessibility laws across Canada](#)

## Workers Comp

Apr 13: The Saskatchewan WCB reported that the 2022 time loss injury rate increased from 2.03 to 2.04 per 100 workers (184 more claims) while the total injury rate dropped 5% to 4.33. Total accepted claims fell 3.23% to 17,371, even though total workers covered jumped from 392,813 to 400,392. Sadly, fatalities increased from 31 to 39.