

MAY 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

Saskatchewan

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Immigration

May 8: Royal Assent for Bill 160, *The Immigration Services Act*. Highlights: i. Improvements to Saskatchewan's immigration system; ii. Stronger protections for foreign workers against exploitation by employers, recruiters and immigration consultants; and iii. Expanded enforcement against and higher penalties for immigration fraud.

Action Point: Find out the 10 things you need to know if you hire [temporary foreign workers](#)

Immigration

May 13: Saskatchewan allocated over [\\$14 million for newcomer settlement](#) and support in 2024-25, covering pre-arrival help, language training, and employment assistance through 20+ community organizations. Over 200,000 newcomers settled in Saskatchewan from 2007 to 2023, with 12,500 receiving services last year.

New Laws

May 8: Saskatchewan passed and proclaimed legislation (Bill 157) to maintain the temporary reduction of the provincial small business corporate income tax rate reduction to 1% in place until June 30, 2025. The rate had been scheduled to return to 2% on July 1, 2024.

Accessibility

May 10: The government of Saskatchewan completed [online surveying](#) asking the

public about the barriers people with disabilities may experience when using government services, programs and facilities. The province is currently reviewing *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act* that officially took effect on December 3, 2023.

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

New Laws

May 21: In April 2024, Saskatchewan's Consumer Price Index rose by only 1% compared to April 2023, [the second-lowest increase among provinces](#) and below the national average of 2.7%. The province saw strong economic performance with exports over \$101.9 billion for 2022-2023 and a projected 14.4% rise in private capital investment to \$14.2 billion in 2024, the highest increase in Canada.

Training

May 9: The provincial government invested \$51.2 million in 2024-25 to expand [healthcare](#). Over three years, \$111.5 million funded 870 new training seats, including 250 in nursing. This year added 66 new seats and four new programs. Funding also continued expanding 550 health training and 150 nursing seats. New nursing seats will be available in fall 2024, with graduates in rural areas eligible for up to \$40,000 in incentives.

Training

May 22: The governments of Canada and Saskatchewan announced \$255,000 in funding for [Women Entrepreneurs](#) of Saskatchewan (WESK) to support newcomer women entrepreneurs. The funding aided WESK's program to help 25 newcomer women start and grow businesses and included research to tailor support for their unique needs.

CASES

Labour Relations: Union Certification Doesn't Violate Company's Charter Rights to Free Association

A construction company appealed the Labour Relations Board's decision to certify a bargaining unit of operating engineers contending that their work fell under the category of maintenance exempt from the rules governing certification and collective bargaining in the construction industry. The Board also nixed the company's claim that the law violated its Charter right to freedom of association. The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal rejected the appeal. The Board's ruling that the

engineers performed “construction industry” and not “maintenance” work was reasonable; and its determination of no Charter violation was correct because, as a corporate employer, the company didn’t have a right to freedom of association under Section 2(d) of the Charter [*KDM Constructors LP v The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 870*, 2024 SKCA 43 (CanLII), April 23, 2024].