

Newfoundland

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Laws

Jul 16: Newfoundland announced that it's providing \$420,000 in Business Growth Program funding to support St. John's-based support NDITIVE Technologies Inc. for research and development of an artificial intelligence-powered wearable safety device to protect workers against exposure to harmful gases. The smart respirator will boost workplace safety in oil and gas, mining, manufacturing, and other high-risk sectors.

New Laws

Jul 25: The province officially made the first monthly payment of the new Newfoundland and Labrador Disability Benefit. Going forward, eligible low-income individuals with disabilities will be issued a payment of up to \$400 per month on the 25th day of each month.

Health & Safety

Jul 3: Newfoundland's lost-time injury rate fell to a historic low of 1.2 per 100 workers in 2024, surpassing the 2023 record of 1.1. While total claims for the year dropped (from 4,301 to 4,029), accepted fatality claims nearly doubled from 15 to 26. The Injury Fund remained fully funded at 131.6%, a 15.6% improvement over 2023.

Action Point: Find out [how to create a vibrant safety culture](#) at your company to prevent work injuries and costly workers' comp claims.

CASES

Health & Safety: Faulty Safety Procedures Destroy Oil Company's Due Diligence Defense

An important OHS case began when prosecutors charged an ocean drilling company with 2 violations resulting in injuries to an offshore deck crew member. The company blamed the operator for operating the crane when he didn't have a clear and unobstructed view of the area without calling for a signaler's assistance, as required by OHS regulations. But the court rejected the company's due diligence defense, reasoning that the problem wasn't the operator's actions but the company's policies which didn't specify how close the crane operator could reasonably get to the load before requiring a signaler, which left the operator leeway to do the operation without a signaler [[R. v Transocean Canada Drilling Services Ltd.](#), 2025 CanLII 65861 (NL PC), July 10, 2025].

Action Point: Find out what [due diligence](#) is and how it helps you avoid liability for OHS violations.

