

Northwest Territories

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Immigration

Nov 14: The Northwest Territories Nominee Program closed its third intake with revised guidelines: i. Employers are no longer subject to application number limits based on business size; ii. Applicants with valid work permits who meet all other eligibility criteria may now apply, regardless of their work permit expiry date; and iii. Skilled Worker and NWT Express Entry applicants must have at least one year of full-time work experience within the last 10 years in the same or similar occupation as the one for which they're being nominated. This experience may come from different employers. Last month, the federal government fully restored the Program's 2025 allocation to 300.

Action Point: Find out what companies and their HR directors need to know to [navigate the immigration law maze](#).

New Laws

Nov 26: Comments closed on [proposed](#) new *Mineral Resources Act* regulations covering rules for exploration, development, and operation of mines, drill cores, and the removal of minerals. This is the first of 3 scheduled engagements covering different aspects of the new regulations.

Workplace Violence

Oct 31: Northwest Territories Assembly passed [Bill 27](#) creating a new tort of "stalking," defined as conduct that causes a person to reasonably fear for their safety, including conduct carried out by electronic means. The Bill gives stalking victims the right to sue for money damages and seek protective orders.

Action Point: Find out how to protect your organization from [revenge porn and cyberbullying liability](#) risks.

Drugs & Alcohol

Oct 31: The federal Emergency Treatment Fund announced that it will provide over \$1.6 million to Yellowknife Enhanced Street Outreach Program and Sahtu Harm Reduction and Support Program to support projects responding to critical needs related to substance use and addictions in Northwest Territories communities.

Action Point: Find out how to implement an effective [policy to control substance abuse](#) at your workplace.

Workers' Compensation

Nov 19: The WSCC announced that it's keeping the average workers' compensation assessment rate at \$2.40 per \$100 assessable payroll in 2026, the second highest in

Canada, trailing only Nova Scotia at \$2.65. Rates will decrease for 9 employer subclasses and increase for 7. The 2026 Year's Maximum Insurable Remuneration will increase from \$112,600 to \$116,000.

Action Point: Look up the [current workers' comp premium rates](#) in each part of Canada.