

# Northwest Territories

## LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Labour Relations

Jan 11: That's the deadline to participate in [public consultations](#) on [proposed changes](#) to the *Public Service Act*, including creation of a Public Service Labour Relations Board and revised processes for certifying and decertifying unions to give public servants greater say in how they're represented. Private sector employees in the Territories are regulated under the *Canada Labour Code*.

### New Laws

Dec 1: Phase 1 of Northwest Territories' new regulations took effect giving dental hygienists greater leeway in practice and eliminating the requirement that they be supervised by a dentist. Phase 2 of the regulations will take effect next year at a date to be announced.

### New Laws

Dec 15: The GNWT launched phase 3 of its public review of [proposed](#) new *Mineral Resources Act* regulations. This round of consultations will focus on the Mineral Rights Review Board and transitioning of existing mineral interests. Deadline to [comment](#): Jan. 30.

### New Laws

Dec 18: The Ekati Diamond Mine received a \$115 million loan from the federal government's Large Enterprise Tariff Loan facility to maintain operations in Lac de Gras. While the diamond sector remains a centrepiece of the Northwest Territories' economy, contributing close to 20% of territorial GDP, many mines, including Ekati, are approaching the end of their operational lives.

### New Laws

Dec 5: The Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) newly announced Regional Defence Investment Initiative will provide \$40.5 million over 3 years to support small and medium-sized national defence industry businesses in Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon. [RDII funding](#) may also be used to enhance regional defence innovation ecosystems and for establishment of strategic infrastructure to enhance Canadian Armed Forces' operations.

### Workers' Compensation

Dec 31: December 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for business owners, partners, registered directors, and owners of a sole proprietorship in Northwest Territories [to apply](#) for Personal Optional Coverage providing the same workers' compensation benefits as a worker would get for a workplace injury. You can apply for coverage from 1 to 12

months.

**Action Point:** Look up the [2026 workers' compensation premium rates](#) in each part of Canada.