

Saskatchewan

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Laws

Mar 16: Saskatchewan's Premier and the CEO of Bell Canada announced that construction will begin this spring on a new 90,000 square foot data centre in the Rural Municipality of Sherwood. The massive new project, which is expected to create over 800 jobs and up to \$12 billion in economic value, will be serviced through SaskPower and also utilize natural gas contract generated under a contract with SaskEnergy.

New Laws

Mar 13: The federal Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) program announced funding of \$910,000 for the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority Inc. (SREDA) to support entrepreneurs and startups under SK Startup Institute. The money will be used to furnish services over a two-year period such as one-on-one advising, workshops, training, and entrepreneurship-focused events.

New Laws

Feb 20: The governments of Canada and Saskatchewan agreed to continue funding for the 2026 Crop Insurance Program (CIP) for the current crop year. The deadline for Saskatchewan producers to apply, reinstate, cancel or make changes to the insured crops and coverage levels in their Crop Insurance contract is March 31, 2026.

Drugs & Alcohol

Mar 2: Debate continues on Bill 48, *The Compassionate Intervention Act* allowing for addicts to receive treatment against their will at the request of family members made through the court. The legislation also authorizes law enforcement personnel to get a medical professional referral or court warrant to involuntarily bring individuals whose substance use is putting their own life or the lives of others at serious risk to a Compassionate Intervention Assessment Centre.

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

CASES

Health & Safety: High Court Gives Mining Firm Second Shot to Prove COVID Liability Immunity

In late 2021, Nutrien fired three workers at its Rocanville mine for refusing to comply with a safety policy requiring workers to be vaccinated against or tested for COVID-19. Right after the union filed a grievance, Saskatchewan enacted a law exempting employers from "actions or proceedings" if they acted in good faith and weren't

grossly negligent in following COVID emergency regulations. The arbitrator ruled that the immunity ruled didn't apply to labour grievances because its language wasn't specific enough to extinguish fundamental collective agreement rights like the right to grieve unjust discipline. Nutrien appealed but the court refused to review the ruling. But now Saskatchewan's highest court has ruled that the lower court was wrong and sent the case back down for a review of the arbitrator's decision while awarding Nutrien taxable costs for the appeal [[Nutrien Ltd. v United Steelworkers, Local 7916](#), 2026 SKCA 34 (CanLII), March 6, 2026].

Action Point: This is a potentially significant case given that several other jurisdictions have enacted similar laws designed to exempt companies that complied with COVID restrictions from being sued. Find out how to avoid discrimination liability risks when [enforcing a mandatory vaccination or other infectious illness workplace safety policy](#).