



CANADIAN WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIGEST

Volume 7 Issue 2



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INTRODUCTION/ABOUT TEKS**MED**

For more than 30 years, [TeksMed Services Inc.](#) has been a trusted partner in disability management across Canada. We specialize in the proactive management of occupational and non-occupational injuries and illnesses, providing customized recover-at-work solutions that support employers and employees from coast to coast.

Our commitment to integrity, innovation, and exceptional service has helped us deliver meaningful outcomes for thousands of workers and hundreds of organizations nationwide.

At [TeksMed](#), we focus on potential, not limitation; we see the ability in disability.

Thousands of Canadian businesses rely on TeksMed for their disability management needs. To learn more about our services and how to get in touch, please see the final section of this magazine.

ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

Welcome to the twenty-fifth edition of the Canadian Workers' Compensation Digest. In this issue, we explore important developments and emerging trends in workers' compensation across Canada, featuring both national perspectives and updates specific to each province and territory.

Organizations across the country rely on [TeksMed](#) for trusted disability management support. To learn more about our services and how we can help your organization, please visit the final section of this magazine.

NATIONAL - CANADA



Temporary Foreign Workers In Canada Know These Rights In 2026

As a temporary foreign worker in Canada, you have many of the same workplace rights and protections as Canadian citizens and permanent residents. This includes the right to fair wages, safe working conditions, and protection from retaliation for raising workplace concerns.

Employers are not permitted to withhold your passport, deny earned wages, require unsafe work, or threaten you for exercising your rights. These protections apply whether you are working under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program or the International Mobility Program.

Knowing your rights is essential to protecting yourself from exploitation and ensuring a positive work experience in Canada.

<https://immigrationnewscanada.ca/temporary-foreign-worker-in-canada-rights/>

Canada Minimum Wage Effective April 2026

The Government of Canada has officially announced that the federal minimum wage will increase to \$18.15 per hour effective April 1, 2026.

This increase raises the current rate of \$17.75 by 40 cents per hour, representing a 2.3% adjustment. Since the federal minimum wage was first introduced in 2021, the rate will have increased by a total of 21%.

<https://immigrationnewscanada.ca/new-canada-minimum-wage-april-2026/>



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Eby says 2,000 public service jobs cut and counting as B.C. faces \$11.2B deficit

Premier David Eby says public service jobs that don't support the front-line delivery of services to British Columbians will continue to be targeted as his government prepares to unveil its 2026 budget a week from now.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/public-sector-job-cuts-b-c-provincial-deficit-9.7081699>

B.C. workers' muscle, joint injury claims cost more than \$2 billion over five years

British Columbia's workers' compensation agency says claims for musculoskeletal injuries — those involving muscles, joints, tendons and nerves — have resulted in more than \$2.35 billion in time-loss claims over a five-year period.

WorkSafeBC says the type of injury was the most common claim seen in the province between 2020 and 2024, with 88,000 such files from workers.

The agency says in a statement that those injuries account for about a quarter of all claim costs reported during that period.

The injured workers are from a spectrum of industries, with concentrations in health care, retail, local government, restaurants, public schools and skilled trades.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/vancouver/article/bc-workers-muscle-joint-injury-claims-cost-more-than-2-billion-over-five-years/>





ALBERTA

Travel of Alberta workers approve 12% wage increase

Last week, the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees published an update regarding contract negotiations for workers employed by Travel Alberta.

The Crown corporation was established in 2009 to promote tourism within Alberta. They employ around two dozen workers in the province.

The previous collective agreement between Travel Alberta and these workers expired in March 2024, nearly 2 years ago, but bargaining began until July 2024.

In addition to bargaining teams from the workers and the employer, a representative from the Provincial Bargaining and Compensation Office participated in the first round of negotiations.

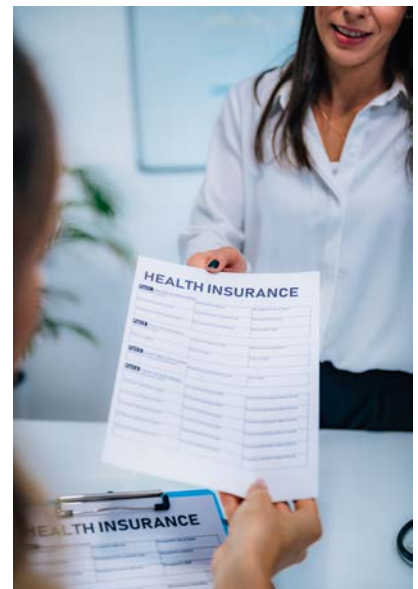
<https://albertaworker.ca/news/travel-of-alberta-workers-approve-12-wage-increase/>



'High risk': City of Edmonton workplace produces 5,000 WCB claims since 2021

Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) claims among city employees have jumped 15 per cent since 2021 and at least one city councillor is standing by her decision to vote against cutting funds for upcoming claims.

https://ca.news.yahoo.com/high-risk-city-workplace-produces-193931566.html?guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLnNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAC0rSezFGsxttl_Ct0qgGiUq9j6pZfQyBZ_SbN-0X4JVfJNW44566xxn0eBMVGBHlv7ltp5_GdV9w9HqpEMoqnJ_WNHYfwlvQpL8ovzd5zPvxdfOTlm-eQHfdUek5uflsZdg6vBhCdSPu2oly8DoXc5h3lb346so6iwumsU0az1k&guccounter=2





SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan budget: tax relief, health care and support for workers

Saskatchewan workers and their families are at the centre of the province's 2026-27 budget, which delivers broad personal tax relief, record health-care and mental health funding, and new investments in training, education and social supports – easing pressure on employers.

The budget sets out \$21.4 billion in revenue against \$22.2 billion in total expense. The Saskatchewan government says the plan is designed to “protect Saskatchewan” by easing cost-of-living pressures and improving access to essential services that residents rely on to work and stay in the labour force.

<https://www.hrreporter.com/news/hr-news/saskatchewan-budget-tax-relief-health-care-and-support-for-workers/394196>



Sask. residents to see improved work conditions, tax savings due to law changes

As the calendar flips over to 2026, the Government of Saskatchewan says a number of legislative and tax changes are expected to keep more money in the pockets of residents, especially the lowest earners.

The new year will bring some changes in legislation around the Employment Act and The Saskatchewan Affordability Act, according to the provincial government.

<https://larongenow.com/2026/01/01/sask-residents-to-see-improved-work-conditions-tax-savings-due-to-law-changes/>

MANITOBA



Manitoba civil servants won't be ordered to office full time like their Ontario, Alberta counterparts

The Manitoba government will not order public servants back into the office full-time, bucking recent moves by Ontario and Alberta. The Manitoba government will not order public servants back into the office full-time.

Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew confirmed in an interview last month that his government will continue allowing remote work for many public servants.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/civil-servants-public-not-remote-work-continues-9.7042240>

Vitals check: Restoring provincial health spending in Manitoba

Manitoba's health care system is in a precarious stage of renewal. Government efforts to increase capacity and repair relationships with staff have made significant progress, but due to the harsh austerity imposed prior to and immediately following the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, further provincial resources will be required to repair the system.

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/news-research/vitals-check-restoring-provincial-health-spending-in-manitoba/>

Employees are the heart of the WCB of Manitoba

As a change management consultant, Santos consults with employees on major projects or changes to "make sure everybody has a voice," he says. "It starts with building awareness with staff, making sure they know why we're doing these different initiatives, and getting their feedback about how we can support them. We want to make sure everybody is empowered to voice their needs."

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/manitobas-top-employers/2026/03/10/employees-are-the-heart-of-the-wcb-of-manitoba>

Federal government taking over vaccine injury compensation, aims to address backlog



The federal public health agency is taking over administration of a program that compensates people who have been injured by vaccines, and pledging to review claims that were refused by a third-party administrator for being filed too late. The vaccine injury support program began accepting claims in June 2021, after the widespread rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in Canada.

People who experienced a “serious and permanent injury” as a result of receiving a vaccine authorized by Health Canada after Dec. 8, 2020, are eligible to make a claim.

It’s also been the subject of complaints from claimants who say the process is slow and communication is poor.

The government signed a contract with a third-party administrator, Oxaro, to run the program with an initial budget of \$50 million over five years.

<https://montreal.citynews.ca/2026/03/31/federal-government-taking-over-vaccine-injury-compensation-aims-to-address-backlog/>



QUEBEC

More caregivers in Quebec eligible for compensation under new home health policy



Quebec is rolling out a new home health-care policy that will allow for compensation for family caregivers. The health minister made the announcement Thursday in Montreal aimed at improving services with the goal of allowing people to live at home, as long as possible.

<https://globalnews.ca/video/11644382/more-caregivers-in-quebec-eligible-for-compensation-under-new-home-health-policy>



NEW BRUNSWICK

Province introduces reforms to pay transparency, job-protected leaves

New Brunswick has unveiled two major pieces of labour legislation designed to narrow wage gaps and give workers stronger protection when they fall seriously ill, in moves the government is calling “groundbreaking” and “compassionate” steps for some of the province’s most vulnerable employees.

Introduced on March 18, the proposed Pay Transparency Act would require employers to post salary ranges in job ads, ban the use of salary history in hiring decisions and protect workers from reprisals if they discuss their pay.

<https://www.hrreporter.com/focus-areas/payroll/province-introduces-reforms-to-pay-transparency-job-protected-leaves/394195>



Health spending in N.B. not exempt from cuts, Holt says

New Brunswick Premier Susan Holt says health care won’t be exempt from her efforts to cut spending — even though her health minister says big spending increases will be unavoidable in coming years.

Holt and John Dornan were sitting side-by-side when they made the comments after the signing of a new four-year pay agreement with the province’s doctors.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/health-spending-cuts-holt-9.7127376>

NOVA SCOTIA

Weather-related workplace injuries 40% higher than last winter: WCB Nova Scotia



Workplace injuries related to winter weather are up about 40 percent compared to last year in Nova Scotia.

And according to the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia (WCB), the three days following a storm are when those injury claims typically spike. This is important to note, as the province cleans up from yet another nor'easter that swept through the region Monday.

"We can't prevent the weather, but we can prevent weather-related injuries," said Shelly Dauphinee, WCB's chief engagement officer, in a release.

"As this storm passes, we want everyone to be mindful of their safety, especially over the next few days."

<https://globalnews.ca/news/11686656/weather-workplace-injuries-winter-snow-ice-nova-scotia/>



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Prince Edward Island MLAs are the lowest paid in Canada: report

Prince Edward Island MLAs received a salary of \$84,598 in 2025, which was the lowest of all the provinces and territories, and was roughly 73 percent of the national average, according to a [new report](#).

The Indemnities and Allowances Commission, established in 1994 to set MLA pay, said the base salary for legislative representatives on the Island ranks last among their counterparts across Canada. MLAs in neighbouring New Brunswick and Nova Scotia earn \$93,126 and \$115,000, respectively.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/atlantic/prince-edward-island/article/prince-edward-island-mlas-are-the-lowest-paid-in-canada-report/>



Timeline: A breakdown of the ups and downs at Health P.E.I.

Melanie Fraser is no longer Health P.E.I.'s chief executive officer after months of tension between the provincial health authority and front-line workers.

The province's announcement on Wednesday came on the same day that 93 Island physicians signed a letter to Premier Rob Lantz and Health Minister Cory Deagle saying they had lost confidence in Fraser's leadership.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-health-ceo-relationship-front-line-workers-9.7125331>

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Newfoundland and Labrador overhauls procurement after report errors thought to be AI

The Newfoundland and Labrador government has overhauled its process for awarding contracts after false citations thought to be generated by artificial intelligence turned up in two reports, including one prepared by Deloitte Canada.

Vendors bidding on work for the provincial government must now say if they intend to use artificial intelligence in completing the contract, said Barry Petten, the Progressive Conservative minister responsible for public procurement. The province can also audit a company's use of AI, he said.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/nl-procurement-ai-9.7123532>



TERRITORIES (NWT, NUNAVUT, YUKON)

First responder compensation bill stalls on spending rule

A bill to expand workers' compensation coverage for NWT first responders hit a procedural roadblock on Friday as cabinet argued it would inappropriately trigger the spending of public money.

Bill 29, the First Responders Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, was introduced last May by Range Lake MLA Kieron Testart.

In its original form, the bill sought to broaden presumptive coverage for firefighters to include all cancers and heart diseases and extend presumptive coverage for post-traumatic stress disorder to a range of first responders, including paramedics, nurses, sheriffs and correctional officers.

<https://cabinradio.ca/281174/news/politics/first-responder-compensation-bill-stalls-on-spending-rule/>



MORE ABOUT TEKS**MED**

Organizations across Canada trust TeksMed to effectively manage their disability programs with proven outcomes. Connect with us today to discover how our solutions can help reduce costs and drive meaningful savings. For more information on our services, get in touch with our team:

TeksMed.com

T: 1-844-835-7253 (TEKSALE)

E: info@teksmed.com

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR HAPPY CLIENTS:

“Over the course of our working relationship, Fitzpatrick Electrical Contractor has found TeksMed’s disability management to be exceptional. Their knowledge of return-to-work best practices, WSIB law and policy, and overall commitment to customer service is impressive and extremely helpful to us, especially in this industry.”

- Fitzpatrick Electrical Contractor Inc. | Health & Safety Manager

“TeksMed has been helping our employees return back to work when they are fully recovered and ready to work while reducing the time away from their workplace and lost wages. This has led to a substantial amount of savings for Denny’s Canada.”

- Denny’s Canada | Human Resources Coordinator

“TeksMed has been working with us for the last 3 years and has been providing excellent workplace injury claim management services. We have reduced our WCB costs by 12% each year and have successfully brought our injured workers back to work sooner and safer. Their professionals have made me worry-free on the WCB claims, so I can work on other things of my duties. Their team has really helped our company throughout the years.”

- Van-Whole Produce | HR Generalist

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