

# Q4-2023

**SASKATCHEWAN WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD**

JANUARY 31, 2024

## 1.0 2023 Energy Safety Canada Saskatchewan Strategic and Operational Plan

Energy Safety Canada Saskatchewan (ESC SK) is pleased to provide the fourth quarter report. This report highlights the progress made in implementing the Strategic and Operational Plan and details progress made in advancing safety standards in Canada's energy industry.

### Highlights from Q4-2023

- ESC SK successfully completed all targeted activities on the 2023 SK Strategic and Operational Plan.
- ESC continued examining options for the inclusion of renewable resources within its existing educational services and structure.
- The ESC SK Advisory Committee's Q4 meeting was held on November 7. Corporate and regional operational updates and statistical information were shared with the committee.
- On October 25, the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (SK WCB) announced its preliminary 2024 premium rates. On December 11, the SK WCB announced the approved 2024 average employer premium rate of \$1.28 per hundred dollars of payroll. This remained constant from the 2023 rate of \$1.28 and was still among the lowest rates in Canada. The 2023 and 2024 rate comparison for the four ESC SK rate codes are:

Saskatchewan WCB Rate Code	2023	2024	Difference
D32 (Operation of Oilwells)	\$0.47	\$0.42	(-) \$0.05
D41 (Oilwell Servicing)	\$1.39	\$1.41	(+) \$0.02
D51 (Service Rigs and Water Well Drilling)	\$1.80	\$1.64	(-) \$0.16
D52 (Drilling)	\$1.67	\$1.69	(+) \$0.02
Average	\$1.33	\$1.29	(-) \$0.04

- ESC SK underwent a detailed internal SK WCB audit conducted by Deloitte. The findings will be provided and discussed at the Q1-2024 ESC SK Advisory Committee meeting.
- ESC SK directly engaged with SK WCB and LRWS to widen the focus of WorkSafe SK's [2023-2028 Fatalities and Serious Injuries Strategy](#) to include the transportation sector as it has the second highest provincial workplace injuries and fatalities. ESC's Oilfield Driver Awareness course is a viable option to enhance driver awareness in Saskatchewan.
- There are [402 Certificate of Recognition \(COR\) holders](#) in Saskatchewan as of Oct 2023, compared to 434 in 2022.

### Industry Support and Outreach Initiatives

ESC SK successfully met its quarterly targeted goals and projected activities. Highlights include:

- 16 people attended the in-person ESC SK Information Group meeting on November 1, 2023, in Estevan, SK. Guest speaker Dr Erdie, of the [Chiropractors' Association of Saskatchewan](#), presented on increasing awareness of worker safety and injury prevention. ESC SK also provided updates on recent and upcoming activities.

- Presented at the [2023 WorkSafe Regional Workshop](#) hosted by WorkSafe Saskatchewan. The workshop featured a keynote presentation from SK WCB's vice president of prevention and employer services, Kevin Mooney, on the [2023 - 2028 Fatalities and Serious Injuries Strategy](#). ESC SK presented information on tools and resources ESC provides, discussed our role as a national safety association in the energy sector, and explained how ESC SK's funding agreement with SK WCB promotes health and safety to our provincial stakeholders.
- The [Saskatchewan Industrial & Mining Suppliers Association Inc](#) held the [9th Annual Saskatchewan Suppliers Energy Forum](#) on October 4, 2023, in Regina, SK. The forum included informative sessions regarding the expanding energy sectors in Saskatchewan, including nuclear small modular reactors, biofuels and increased mining activity for uranium. ESC SK attended speaker sessions and hosted an exhibitor booth at the event. Approximately 250 people attended and ESC SK staff were pleased to speak with 25 people seeking additional information on ESC SK and our role in the energy sector. At the ESC SK exhibitor booth, five people had the opportunity to enjoy the Careers in Energy (CIE) ["Experience the Energy"](#) virtual reality (VR) programs.
- Semi-annual meetings for the ESC SK Trucking Group and D51 and D52 Working Group were held at the ESC SK office for industry to learn more on the SK WCB statistics and premiums in their applicable rate codes and discuss issues, trends and ways to reduce injuries and claim durations. Members requested additional information on return-to-work programs and statistics on mental health claims from 2023. These topics will be a focus for 2024 meetings.
- Participated at four youth events—the [Chinook School Division Career Expo 2023](#), Weyburn Comprehensive School Career Fair, Estevan Comprehensive School Career Fair, and the [North West College "Try-A-Trade"](#) in North Battleford, SK—totalling over 3,000 attendees of youth, parents and teachers. ESC SK shared the [CIE](#) VR experiences and presented to students in classroom sessions, providing details on safety and energy sector careers. ESC SK had a successful year regarding youth outreach, participating in events across SK that saw almost 11,000 youth in attendance.
- Support was provided to the CIE division of ESC for participation at the Montreal Job Fair and the New Brunswick Career Development Association, allowing CIE and ESC to build national awareness of the tools and resources offered.
- Support visits with all 35 surcharged employers in 2023 were completed with the final five meetings completed in Q4. Employers appreciated the detailed reports generated by ESC. Educating employers on the claim process, lag year and evaluation window improved their understanding of the process and costs associated with worker injuries and WCB claims.
- Additional SK WCB data was analyzed to identify 12 additional employers with accelerating WCB claims. Engagements with all the identified employers were completed with the final seven meetings conducted in Q4.

#### WCB Premiums and Claims

- ESC SK's operational WCB 2023 levy was \$0.083 per \$100 of payroll.
- The 2023 premium average for ESC rate codes was \$1.33 per \$100 payroll, which was slightly higher than the provincial—all 50 rate codes—WCB premium average of \$1.28 per \$100 payroll.
- Comparing premiums from 2021-2023:

Saskatchewan WCB Rate Code	2021	2022	2023	Difference 2022 to 2023
D32 (Operation of Oilwells)	\$0.45	\$0.46	\$0.47	+\$0.01

D41 (Oilwell Servicing)	\$1.31	\$1.37	\$1.39	+\$0.02
D51 (Service Rigs and Water Well Drilling)	\$1.44	\$1.58	\$1.80	+\$0.22
D52 (Drilling)	\$1.44	\$1.50	\$1.67	+\$0.17
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$1.16</b>	<b>\$1.23</b>	<b>\$1.33</b>	<b>+\$0.10</b>

- The oil and gas industry had some of the province's highest WCB injury claim durations. ESC SK continued focusing on sectors with the highest claim duration and meeting with companies operating in Saskatchewan that were part of the D51 and D52 Working Group. ESC SK sought input from the ESC SK Trucking Group and other key stakeholders for a field perspective on incidents, root causes, mitigating worker injuries and reducing claim duration.
- Payroll forecast for 2023 increased in all four ESC SK WCB rate codes, indicating higher activity in the energy sector compared to 2022.
- Comparing Q3-2022 to Q3-2023, the number of time loss claims in the four ESC SK WCB rate codes decreased by 20. Hand, leg and back injuries were the most common time loss claims in Q3-2023.

Claim	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Difference
No Time Loss (NTL)	152	158	(+) 6
Time Loss (TL)	89	69	(-) 20
Fatalities	0	0	0
<b>Total - All Categories</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>(-) 14</b>

## 2.0 Education and Training Statistics

Energy workers provide essential services and it is critical they receive necessary training to work safely. ESC SK's training highlights for Q4-2023 included:

- 2,801 workers received in-class safety training through ESC's network of Authorized Training Providers (ATPs).
- 1,225 workers completed ESC online courses.
- 71 workers attended virtual training courses offered by ESC.
- 98 replacement training certificates were issued.
- 64 exam challenges were completed; one took place at the ESC SK office.

## 3.0 Funding/Budget

Q4 operational costs were consistent with 2023 quarterly budget allocations (see Appendix A). Key figures included:

- SK WCB funding for 2023: \$725,000, with annual operation costs of approximately \$820,000. Reduction of carry-forward funds takes place annually, targeting a complete fund reduction by year-end 2024.
- Q4 2023 instalment received from WCB: \$181,250.

- As of the end of Q4 2023, ESC SK had four employees.

## 4.0 Additional Activities

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ESC aims to drive improved safety performance in Canada's energy industry. ESC SK supported this by delivering on commitments from its 2023 SK Strategic and Operational Plan. In addition to ESC SK's routine business activities, the following services are ongoing deliverables:

- Provide SK WCB with information on how ESC provides training to our ATPs and course delivery.
- Participate in strategy development to mitigate worker illness and injury as part of WorkSafe Saskatchewan's [2023-2028 Fatalities and Serious Injuries Strategy](#).
- Promote the Common Safety Orientation (CSO) and Life Saving Rules (LSRs) at all industry engagements.
- Host quarterly Information Group meetings with keynote speakers to address industry issues.
- Review specific training needs of Saskatchewan's energy sector.
- Participate in the SK WCB Safety Association Committee and collaborate with other provincial safety associations.
- Participate in the [Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance](#) committee to develop safe digging practices, line location and "Call Before You Dig" videos.
- Promote establishment of COR Program requirements through employer engagements with SK WCB.
- Facilitate exam challenges and certification renewals.
- Communicate safety services training and events to employers within ESC SK rate codes.
- Consult with associations, regulatory agencies, government and certifying partners on legislative changes and improved best practices within industry.

## Appendix A: ESC SK Q3 Budget Report (Non-Audited Financials)

2023 Actuals

December 31, 2023

	Annual 2023 Budget	YTD 2023 Actual	Variance
Revenue:			
Saskatchewan WCB Funding	\$725,000	\$725,000	\$0
Other Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$725,000	\$725,000	\$0
Expenses:			
Salaries - Head Office Support	\$100,476	\$96,880	\$3,596
Salaries - Direct	\$419,524	\$402,084	\$17,440
Benefits - Head Office Support	\$23,209	\$17,822	\$5,387
Benefits - Direct	\$106,791	\$84,360	\$22,431
Consultants & Contractors	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Accounting & Legal Fees	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Advertising	\$0	\$0	\$0
Board Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Building & Services	\$10,000	\$8,954	\$1,046
Communications	\$1,800	\$1,910	(\$110)
Conferences & Conventions	\$7,000	\$2,987	\$4,013
External Events & Meetings	\$1,000	\$15	\$985
Furniture & Equipment	\$500	\$2,359	(\$1,859)
Leasehold Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office Supplies	\$6,000	\$5,421	\$579
Property Taxes & General Insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Publications	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rent - Office	\$75,000	\$73,602	\$1,398
Technology	\$50,000	\$48,040	\$1,960
Training - Staff	\$3,000	\$1,819	\$1,181
Travel	\$30,000	\$21,316	\$8,684
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$285	(\$285)
Total Expenses	\$836,300	\$767,853	\$68,447
Excess (deficiency) Revenues over Expenses	(\$111,300)	(\$42,853)	(\$68,447)

## Appendix B: ESC SK Advisory Committee Members

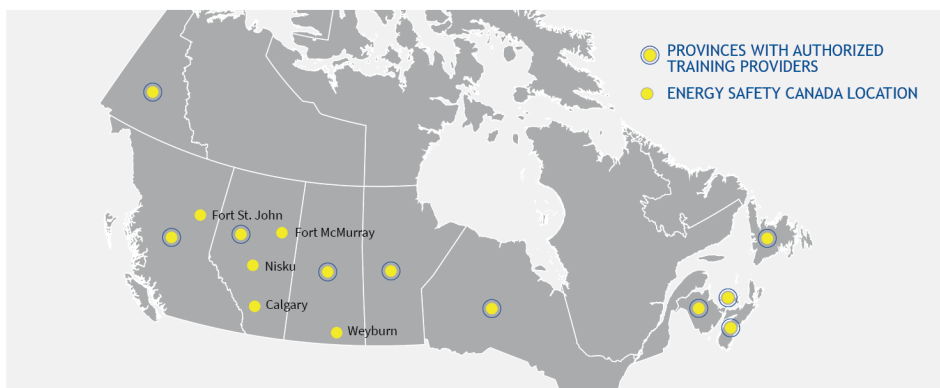
Trade Association—Company	Voting Member
Canadian Association of Energy Contractors (CAOEC)—Independent Well Servicing Ltd.	Brian Crossman
Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors (CAGC)	Rod Garland
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)—Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL)	Rob Black
SaskEnergy/TransGas	Darren Janke
Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (EPAC)—Whitecap Resources Inc.	Ron Bartlett (Chair)
Enserva—Reliance Oilfield Services	Ben Heath (Vice chair)
Trade Association or Organization	Observing Member
CAOEC	Russell Nibogie
CAOEC	Lindsay Sinclair
Labour Relations and Workplace Safety (LRWS)	Ila Klassen
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (SK WCB)	John Weigel
Saskatchewan Worker's Compensation Board (SK WCB)	Jonathan Sherman
Saskatchewan Worker's Compensation Board (SK WCB)	Vipin Chabra
Saskatchewan Worker's Compensation Board (SK WCB)	Guru Parekh
Energy Safety Canada	
Alberta	Murray Evenson
Saskatchewan	Arnold Betzema
Saskatchewan	Bob Ross
Saskatchewan	Kristin Tyhy

# SAFETY DOESN'T CLOCK IN AND IT DOESN'T PUNCH OUT. IT'S 24/7.

## ENERGY SAFETY CANADA SERVICES:

- Virtual training
- Data reports
- Safety services
- Certificate of Recognition
- Company consultations

## LOCATED WHERE YOU ARE:



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