



Report for Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

Q2 2026

July 31, 2026

1.0 2026 Saskatchewan Strategic and Operational Plan

Energy Safety Canada (ESC) is pleased to present the Q2 report, showcasing progress in implementing the 2026 Saskatchewan (SK) Strategic and Operational Plan and advancing safety standards within Canada's energy industry.

1.1 Q2 2026 Highlights

- The ESC SK Advisory Committee held its Q2 meeting, providing corporate and regional updates along with key statistics and data. New members from the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (SK WCB), CNRL and SaskEnergy recently joined the committee and attended the meeting as regular members.
- The draft 2027 SK Strategic and Operational Plan and proposed 2027 budget were shared with the ESC SK Advisory Committee. ESC met with members to review the materials and gather feedback through discussion.
- Phase 3 of the *Auditing Differently* pilots originally planned for Q2 were deferred to early Q3 due to participating employer scheduling conflicts; however, they remain on track for completion. Equivalent pilot audits conducted in Alberta have validated earlier findings on the effectiveness of the new methodology and supported the standardization of final report structures for this type of audit. ESC continues to support the SK WCB SIF-relevant lagging and leading metrics pilot by engaging with oil and gas producers and developing and delivering a training package on pre-job safety meeting and safety observation metrics.
- Employer support meetings were held in Q2 2026, engaging 20 of 55 employers identified in Q1 as being in a surcharge position. Company-specific Employer Health and Safety Profile Reports, along with ESC resources, were provided to support safety improvements.

1.2 Industry Impact & Development Initiatives

ESC successfully met its targeted goals and projected activities for Q2. Highlights:

- Facilitated meetings of the ESC SK D51 & D52 Working Group and ESC SK Trucking Group to gain deeper insight into industry challenges and identify opportunities for targeted support, particularly given the high claim count rates within these groups.

- Attended Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance (SCGA) Dig Safe Breakfasts in Weyburn, Estevan and Carlyle. April, recognized as Dig Safe Month, marks the unofficial start of the spring digging season and serves as a reminder to request line locates and follow safe digging practices.
- Participated in the 2026 Energy Safety Conference & Tradeshow in Banff, Alberta, with more than 1,000 attendees. ESC SK engaged with Saskatchewan industry leaders to strengthen relationships and stay informed on regional priorities.
- Attended the National Day of Mourning ceremony held at the Saskatchewan Legislative Building, to honour workers who were killed, injured or made ill due to workplace incidents and to reaffirm the ongoing commitment to workplace health and safety.
- Attended the WorkSafe Saskatchewan rebranding launch at the Saskatchewan Legislative Building, supporting the new Health, Safety & Wellbeing messaging and slogan "A Strong Saskatchewan is a Safe Saskatchewan."
- Participated in the Southeast College Career Fair and Open House (two locations), Prairie South School Division "Try a Career" Expo, WorkSafe SK Try A Career Day and the Cade Sprackman Safety Day youth events. ESC SK promoted the Energy Wheel and the Careers in Energy virtual reality experiences, which showcase real-life worksites.
- Managed an exhibitor booth at the WCB's 28th annual Compensation Institute. This one-day event featured presentations on workplace safety, safety leadership and practices.
- Hosted the ESC SK Information Group meeting, which included organizational updates and a guest presentation by Teresa Johnson, Certified Psychological Health & Safety Advisor (Canadian Mental Health Association) and Certified Sleep Consultant (Sleepwell Consulting). The session explored the importance of sleep and the impact of fatigue on focus, decision-making, mood, safety and relationships. The meeting also piloted a hybrid format, enabling participation from attendees across Saskatchewan and expanding accessibility.
- Exhibited at the Saskatchewan Oil & Gas Show in Weyburn. ESC SK also sponsored the Safety Stand Down Breakfast, featuring guest speaker Jeremy Evans ("The Grizzly Dude"), who has previously presented at the Energy Safety Conference in Banff and at the NEBC HSE Conference in Fort St. John.

1.3 WCB Premiums & Claims

- ESC's SK operational WCB 2026 levy is \$0.085 per \$100 of payroll, slightly higher than the 2025 levy of \$0.077.
- The 2026 premium average for ESC rate codes is \$1.38 per \$100 payroll, slightly higher than the provincial rate of \$1.22.
- Across all four ESC SK rate codes, Q1 2026 shows an increase in time-loss claims compared to Q1 2025, while no-time-loss claims have decreased. Overall claim counts also declined in Q1 2026 compared to Q1 2025.
- Comparing premiums from 2024 to 2026:

Saskatchewan WCB rate code	2024	2025	2026	Difference 2025-2026
D32 (Operation of Oilwells)	\$0.42	\$0.43	\$0.41	(-) \$0.02
D41 (Oilwell Servicing)	\$1.41	\$1.52	\$1.55	(+) \$0.03
D51 (Service Rigs)	\$1.64	\$1.83	\$1.85	(+) \$0.02
D52 (Drilling)	\$1.69	\$1.77	\$1.70	(-) \$0.07
Average	\$1.29	\$1.39	\$1.38	(-) \$0.01

- Following the release of the SK WCB 2025 Annual Report, ESC conducted data analysis and engaged the ESC SK Trucking Group, ESC SK D51 and D52 Working Group and other stakeholders to gather field insights. Feedback highlighted workforce instability, including high turnover, loss of experienced workers and training gaps. These factors are being monitored for safety risks, such as lifting-related injuries, contact events, transportation-related incidents, and variability in worker readiness. There is also an increasing focus on strengthening mental health supports, fit-for-duty practices, and return-to-work approaches.
- Serious injuries and fatality trends, along with 2025 year-end claim causes, were reviewed across all ESC SK rate codes. Overall, serious injuries declined in 2025 compared to 2024, driven primarily by reductions in D41. Increases in D32 and D52 highlight the need for continued focus in higher-risk areas. Claim-cause analysis confirmed that contact with objects and equipment, bodily reaction and exertion and falls remain the leading contributors to serious injuries. These findings reinforce the

importance of effective controls for high-risk work in preventing serious injuries and fatalities.

- SK WCB 2026 payroll projection (\$ millions):

Saskatchewan WCB rate code	Used in 2025 rate setting	Updated 2025 projection	2026 projection
D32 (Operation of Oilwells)	\$396.23	\$408.26	\$420.51
D41 (Oilwell Servicing)	\$415.22	\$406.85	\$406.85
D51 (Service Rigs)	\$112.56	\$110.00	\$111.10
D52 (Drilling)	\$113.36	\$111.96	\$113.64

Source: Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

- A year-over-year comparison of claim counts across ESC SK WCB rate codes for Q1 2025 to Q1 2026 shows an increase in time-loss claims, along with a reduction in no-time-loss.

Claim	Q1 2025	Q1 2026	Difference Q1 2025 – Q2 2026
Time-loss	9	15	+ 6 (67%)
No-time-loss	59	49	- 10 (-17%)
Fatalities	0	0	No change
Total – All Categories	69	64	- 5 (-7%)

2.0 Education and Training

Energy workers provide essential services and must receive the necessary training to work safely. ESC Authorized Training Providers (ATPs) in Saskatchewan offer both classroom and virtual training to students across the province. ESC's SK training highlights for Q2 2026 included:

- Top 3 courses in SK: H₂S Alive® (1,696 enrolled), Common Safety Orientation (615 enrolled) and Confined Space Entry and Monitor (337 enrolled).
- Total enrolment for all ESC courses in Saskatchewan was 4,542.
- An ESC SK Program Manager has been certified as an H₂S Alive® instructor and is able to provide support to regional ATPs as required.

- ESC SK has scheduled a Safety Evolution Seminar in Kindersley on October 14, 2026. The seminar will focus on Human and Organizational Performance (HOP) principles, critical risk management, learning from work-as-done, incident investigations, and approaches to strengthening safety culture and organizational learning.

3.0 Funding/Budget

Q2 operational costs were consistent with the 2026 quarterly budget allocations. Key figures included:

- SK WCB funding for 2026: \$890,000
- Q2 2026 instalment received from WCB: \$222,500.
- As of the end of Q2 2026, ESC SK had 4 employees.

Refer to Appendix A for full Q2 SK 2026 unaudited financial statement.

Appendix A | SK Q2 2026 Unaudited Financial Statement

June 30, 2026 Actuals			
Revenue	Budget	Actual	Variance
SK WCB funding	\$890,000	\$445,000	\$445,000
Other revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total revenue	\$890,000	\$445,000	\$445,000
Expenses	Budget	Actual	Variance
Salaries - Head Office support	\$93,000	\$45,312	\$47,688
Salaries – Direct	\$480,000	\$244,435	\$235,565
Benefits - Head Office support	\$20,000	\$10,127	\$9,873
Benefits – Direct	\$105,000	\$56,228	\$48,772
Consultants & contractors	\$500	\$43	\$457
Accounting & legal fees	\$500	\$0	\$500
Advertising	\$7,000	\$10,920	(\$3,920)
Board expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Building & services	\$10,000	\$5,245	\$4,755
Communications	\$1,000	\$189	\$811
Conferences & conventions	\$6,000	\$0	\$6000
External events & meetings	\$1,000	\$1,921	(\$921)
Furniture & equipment	\$3,000	\$5,129	(\$2,129)
Leasehold improvements	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office supplies	\$4,000	\$4,784	(\$784)
Property taxes & general insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Publications	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rent – Office	\$80,000	\$38,795	\$41,205
Technology	\$55,000	\$5,288	\$49,712
Training - Staff	\$2,000	\$5,205	(\$3,205)
Travel	\$21,700	\$10,316	\$11,384
Miscellaneous	\$300	\$205	\$95
Total expenses	\$890,000	\$444,140	\$445,860
Excess (deficiency) revenues over expenses	\$0	\$860	(\$860)

Appendix B | ESC SK Advisory Committee Members

Trade Association – Company	Voting Member
Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors (CAGC)	Rod Garland
Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL) – A member of Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)	Shane Adam
Independent Well Servicing Ltd. – A member of Canadian Association of Energy Contractors (CAOEC)	Brian Crossman
Reliance Oilfield Services – A member of Enserva	Ben Heath (Vice chair)
Saturn Oil and Gas Inc.- A member of Canadian Association of Energy Contractors (CAOEC)	Wade Ashworth (Chair)
SaskEnergy/TransGas	Sheena Nabozniak
Whitecap Resources Inc. – A member of Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (EPAC)	Craig Molde
Trade Association or Organization	Observing Member
CAOEC	Lindsay Sinclair
Enserva	Katy Carley
Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety (LRWS)	Ila Klassen
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (SK WCB)	Peter Koutsoulis
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (SK WCB)	Daran Good
SaskEnergy/TransGas	Pam Haubrich
Energy Safety Canada	Member
Alberta	Murray Evenson
Saskatchewan	Lorinda Jacobson
Saskatchewan	Arnold Betzema
Saskatchewan	Julianne Weaver
Saskatchewan	Cheryl Tollefson

ENERGY INDUSTRY'S SAFETY ALLY

For over 75 years, Energy Safety Canada has been the national safety association for Canada's energy industry. Created by industry, for industry, we are dedicated to keeping energy workers safe and driving safety performance.

What We Do:



Deliver industry-recognized training to meet industry needs.



Collaborate with industry to drive continuous safety improvements.



Provide safety and labour market data, insights and tools.



Serve as the industry certifying partner for the Certificate of Recognition program.

Proudly Serving Our Industry

We are proud to work on behalf of Canada's energy industry associations.

