



Report for Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

Q1 2026

April 30, 2026

1.0 2026 Saskatchewan Strategic and Operational Plan

Energy Safety Canada (ESC) is pleased to present the Q1 report, showcasing progress in implementing the 2026 Saskatchewan (SK) Strategic and Operational Plan and advancing safety standards in Canada's energy industry.

1.1 Q1 2026 Highlights

- The ESC SK Advisory Committee held its annual general meeting and Q1 meeting, presenting corporate and regional updates along with key statistics and data. Elections for the chairperson, vice chairperson and member at-large were held and positions were filled.
- The 2026 SK Strategic and Operational Plan received final endorsement at the Q1 ESC SK Advisory Committee meeting with no additions, deletions and/or modifications.
- ESC analyzed the SK Workers' Compensation Board's (SK WCB) surcharged employer list and identified 55 employers. Detailed reports will be provided to each employer in 2026. In Q3, ESC will identify 12 additional employers trending upward in WCB claims and costs and provide industry support meetings and resources.
- Implementation for Phase 3 Auditing Differently pilot project continues with a focus on using early testing to refine audit reporting, establish best practices for pre- and post-site activities and confirm auditor readiness. Targeted auditor training has been completed to strengthen pilot delivery capacity in Saskatchewan. The SK WCB pilot also includes the development of Leading Safety Indicators calibrated to Serious Injury and Fatality (SIF) outcomes. ESC has supported this work by developing training and resource materials to support this component of the SK WCB pilot project.

1.2 Industry Impact & Development Initiatives

ESC successfully met its targeted goals and projected activities for Q1. Highlights:

- Exhibited at the three-day Saskatchewan Safety Seminar in Saskatoon, SK, attended by more than 1,200 industry safety professionals. ESC engaged directly with stakeholders to promote Saskatchewan course offerings, including Leadership for Safe Workplaces, Incident & Accident Investigations and Safety Program Development. Meaningful discussions were held at the ESC booth on how the Energy Wheel supports improved

hazard identification and on-site safety awareness. ESC staff also attended sessions on emerging topics including artificial intelligence, mental health and wellbeing, and causal reasoning. These sessions reinforced the importance of proactive, systems-based approaches to workplace safety.

- Initiated engagement planning with surcharge employers, including the presentation of detailed employer reports. Two employer support meetings were completed, with the remaining 53 meetings planned for Q2 and Q3 2026.

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.
- 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 publication of the SK WCB 2025 Annual Report in Q2 2026, ESC will conduct data analysis to identify potential trends. ESC will also seek input from the ESC SK Trucking Group, ESC SK D51 and D52 Working Group, and other key stakeholders to gather field perspectives on incidents, root causes, injury mitigation and claim duration.
- 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 comparison of claim counts across ESC's SK WCB rate codes for Q1 to Q4 (January 1- December 31) shows a sharp decrease in Time-loss claims. No Time-loss claims were slightly lower in 2025 compared to 2024 and no fatalities were reported. Overall, the reduction in claims from 2024 to 2025 is significant.

Claim	2024	2025	Difference 2024 - 2025
Time-loss	97	80	-17 (-17.5%)
No Time-loss	203	196	-7 (-3.5%)
Fatalities	1	0	-1
Total - All Categories	301	276	-25

2.0 Education and Training

Energy workers provide essential services and must receive the necessary training to work safely. Our ESC Authorized Training Providers (ATPs) in Saskatchewan offer both classroom and virtual training to students across the province. ESC's SK training highlights for Q1 2026 included:

- Top 3 courses in SK: H₂S Alive® (1,708 enrolled), Common Safety Orientation (424 enrolled) and Fall Protection (284 enrolled).
- Total enrolment for all ESC courses in Saskatchewan was 3,848.

- One ESC SK Program Manager has been certified as an H₂S Alive® instructor and is now able to provide support to regional ATPs as required.

3.0 Funding/Budget

Q1 operational costs were consistent with the 2026 quarterly budget allocations. Key figures included:

- SK WCB funding for 2026: \$890,000
- Q1 2026 instalment received from WCB: \$222,500.
- As of the end of Q1 2026, ESC SK had 4 employees.

Refer to Appendix A for full Q1 SK 2026 unaudited financial statement.

Appendix A | SK Q1 2026 Unaudited Financial Statement

March 31, 2026 Actuals			
Revenue	Budget	Actual	Variance
SK WCB funding	\$890,000	\$222,500	\$667,500
Other revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total revenue	\$890,000	\$222,500	\$667,500
Expenses	Budget	Actual	Variance
Salaries - Head Office support	\$93,000	\$24,633	\$68,367
Salaries - Direct	\$480,000	\$134,073	\$345,927
Benefits - Head Office support	\$20,000	\$5,631	\$14,369
Benefits - Direct	\$105,000	\$29,986	\$75,014
Consultants & contractors	\$500	\$0	\$500
Accounting & legal fees	\$500	\$0	\$500
Advertising	\$7,000	\$7,190	(\$190)
Board expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Building & services	\$10,000	\$2,277	\$7,723
Communications	\$1,000	\$142	\$858
Conferences & conventions	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000
External events & meetings	\$1,000	\$105	\$895
Furniture & equipment	\$3,000	\$736	\$2,264
Leasehold improvements	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office supplies	\$4,000	\$933	\$3,067
Property taxes & general insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Publications	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rent - Office	\$80,000	\$19,397	\$60,603
Technology	\$55,000	\$2,071	\$52,929
Training - Staff	\$2,000	\$1,710	\$290
Travel	\$21,700	\$1,700	\$20,000
Miscellaneous	\$300	\$0	\$300
Total expenses	\$890,000	\$230,582	\$659,418
Excess (deficiency) revenues over expenses	\$0	(\$8,082)	\$8,082

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)
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
Energy Safety Canada	Member
Alberta	Murray Evenson
Saskatchewan	Lorinda Jacobson
Saskatchewan	Arnold Betzema
Saskatchewan	Julianne Weaver

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.

