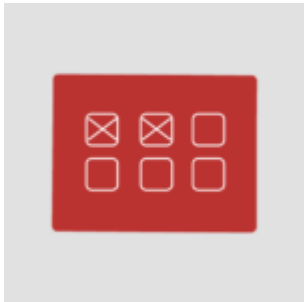


2026 OHS Fines Scorecard (September 15 to October 15)



After a relatively slow month, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) fine volumes rebounded. There were 13 significant (\$25,000 or more) reported OHS fines in Canada from September 16 to October 15, as opposed to just seven in the previous period. That’s actually the third largest four-week fine amount of 2026 and it brings the total for the year to 104. However, that’s well below the 136 significant fines reported through 10 periods of 2025.

The combination of unusually small fine numbers and unusually large fine dollars created a spike in fine averages last month. This month, OHS fine averages returned to normal levels, falling from \$195,143 to \$131,638, which is more in line with the overall year fine average of \$131,135. Last year at this time, the average OHS fine was \$162,338. Total fine dollars for 2026 now stand at \$13.6 million, as compared to \$22.078 million through mid-October of last year. Barring something unexpected, the gaps in both fine volume and dollars are unlikely to close significantly before the end of the year.

Table 1. OHS Fines in 2026 At A Glance (through August 15)

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Source: Bongarde

Six-Figure OHS Fines

Seven of the 13 significant OHS fines reported in the recent period were six-figure amounts. That's in line with the year-long pattern. Thus, among 104 significant OHS fines reported in 2026, 55 have been \$100,000 or more. These figures are actually above year-over-year levels. Through 10 periods of 2025, the ratio between total fines and six-figure fines was slightly below 50% (136: 65).

But while six-figure fines were prominent in representational numbers this month, only one of them was large enough to crack the Top 12 for the entire year—the \$475,000 fine against an Ontario cement plant for a hopper gate violation that took the life of a young millwright apprentice. That's the second highest reported OHS fine from Ontario in 2026 and the fourth highest nationwide.

British Columbia reported the most six-figure fines this month with three, including the second highest of the period—a \$225,243 administrative monetary penalty imposed on a roof materials manufacturer for failing to ensure that an elevated work platform was equipped with guardrails.

Table 2. Top OHS Fines of 2026

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Type of Event: Excessive contractor fines in January

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Type of Evidence in the Plaintiff's Case

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TYPE OF INCIDENT Recycl ing proce sses for SOF 2000 are w ithin the o g u a r d c o n v e y o r .

No province hands out more six-figure OHS fines than Ontario. This year Ontario has accounted for 24 of the 55 six-figure fines reported nationwide. Also in line with historical

patterns is the tight race between Alberta and British Columbia for second place. With just over two months to go in the year, BC has forged a narrow one-fine lead over its eastern neighbour with 14. The only other province that has reported multiple six-figure OHS fines in 2026 is Saskatchewan with two. Manitoba and Nunavut have each reported one fine of at least \$100,000.

Although it doesn't hand out as many six-figure fines as Ontario, British Columbia hands out Canada's most expensive penalties. Three of the Top 12 OHS fines of 2026 have come from BC, including numbers 1, 2, and 4 on the list. Six of the Top 12 have come from Alberta. Even though Ontario hands out the most six-figure fines, only two appear on the Top 12 list. Nunavut is the only other jurisdiction to have issued a Top 12 OHS fine in 2026.

Table 3. 6-Figures OHS Fines in 2026 By Jurisdiction

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Source: Bongarde

Overall OHS Fines

Only four provinces reported OHS fines of \$25,000 or more from mid-September to mid-October. Ontario reported the most with six. British Columbia reported four, Alberta reported two, and Nova Scotia reported one. Here's a rundown of all the reported fines during the period.

Table 4. OHS Fines Reported August 15 to September 15, 2026 (\$25,000 or more)

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Note

*Penalty imposed as a sentence after a trial

Source: Bongarde