

LAW & POLICY GROUP

GRIST**CANADA: SASKATCHEWAN ENACTS NEW LEAVE PROTECTIONS**

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Amendments to the Saskatchewan Employment Act include extensions to maternity and parental leave as well as the expansion of support provided in situations of interpersonal violence, the government recently [announced](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Maternity leave.** The leave period is increased to 19 weeks — the longest in Canada — up from 18 weeks and can start up to 13 weeks before the due date.
- **Parental leave.** For mothers who take maternity leave, parental leave is increased to 59 weeks, up from 34. For nonbirth parents, parental leave is extended to 63 weeks, up from 37.
- **Adoption leave.** The leave period is extended to 19 weeks, up from 18.
- **Leave for care of a critically ill adult.** A new leave provides up to 17 weeks to care for a critically ill adult family member (18 years or older).
- **Interpersonal violence leave.** The reasons for leave are expanded to include sexual violence. Employees can now take up to 10 days of leave in a period of 52 weeks, taken as individual days or in a single continuous period, five days of which must be paid.

RELATED RESOURCES

- [Press Release on Bills 153 and 172](#) (Government of Saskatchewan, 16 May 2019)
- [Press Release on Bill 172, The Saskatchewan Employment \(Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave\) Amendment Act, 2019](#) (Government of Saskatchewan, 13 May 2019)
- [Bill 153, The Saskatchewan Employment \(Leaves\) Amendment Act, 2018](#) (Government of Saskatchewan, 26 Nov 2018)

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