

Highlights as of April 20th, 2017

ALBERTA:

Bill 7

2nd Reading This bill amends the Labour Relations Code regarding post-secondary academic bargaining.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

No Update

NEW BRUNSWICK

Bill 48

Committee The purpose of this act is to amend s.147 which states vehicles will include bicycles. It also amends s.150 regarding passing on the right hand side of a vehicle. You may pass on the right if: The vehicle being overtaken signals they will be turning left, on a lane highway where there is an obstruction in one or more of the lanes, or on a sufficiently large one way road that supports two or more lines of moving vehicles.

Bill 51

Committee The preamble in the Human Rights Act has been expanded to include marital status, family status, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity or expression. The definitions of mental and physical disability have been amended. There is a prohibited grounds of discrimination list which includes: race, colour, national origin, ancestry, place of origin, creed or religion, age, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, family status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, social condition, and political belief or activity.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Bill 7

This Bill would amend the *Public Service Pensions Act, 1991* to reflect the quarterly payment amount required to amortize the promissory note; allow the name of the corporation to be changed by a resolution of the board made by an affirmative vote of all the directors; and amend the objects of the corporation.

NOVA SCOTIA

NO UPDATE

ADJOURNED UNTIL APRIL 25TH, 2017

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

NO UPDATE

ADJOURNED UNTIL MAY 25, 2017

MANITOBA

Bill 14

Committee

This Bill makes a number of changes to The Emergency Medical Response and Stretcher Transportation Act. The key changes are as follows: provisions are added allowing for the implementation of a standardized fee structure for emergency medical response (EMR) services, including the ability to set the maximum amount that may be charged; the funding provisions in the Act are updated to reflect the current funding structure for providers of EMR services; and the responsibilities of the Medical Director of Provincial Emergency Medical Response Services are formally set out, including the requirement to establish medical quality assurance programs for EMR services. The Bill also contains consequential amendments to The Highway Traffic Act and The Testing of Bodily Fluids and Disclosure Act.

ONTARIO

Bill 65

Committee

The Bill amends the Highway Traffic Act. It addresses the ability of municipalities to set speed limits within their borders and the use of automated speed enforcement systems and red light camera systems.

Bill 108

1st Reading

The Bill amends the *Labour Relations Act, 1995* to require employers to provide information regarding strikes, lock-outs and the use of replacement workers to the Minister. The Minister is required to publish the information received.

Bill 92

Royal Assent

The Bill makes various amendments to the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014. Currently, the Act provides that collective bargaining for collective agreements under the Act may include central bargaining, but is not required to include it. The Bill changes this rule to require that central bargaining must always occur and that for the purposes of central bargaining, every school board must be represented by an employer bargaining agency and every employee in a bargaining unit must be represented by an employee bargaining agency.

The Bill adds new rules to the Act to ensure that all trade unions representing employees other than teachers must either be designated as an

employee bargaining agency or be a member of a council of unions designated as an employee bargaining agency for the purposes of central bargaining. The Ontario Labour Relations Board's role in the process is set out and related regulation-making powers are included.

A new requirement set out in the Bill is that notice must be given of any change to the nature or scope of a strike or lock-out that will result in the complete withdrawal of instruction or services in one or more schools of a board, or the closure of one or more schools of a board.

Currently, the Act prohibits parties from entering into agreements to continue the term of operation of a collective agreement. The Bill adds provisions to permit such agreements in the specified circumstances and sets out the process by which an agreement may be entered into and the rules that apply to an agreement. A transitional provision addresses the validity of continuation agreements that were entered into when the prohibition applied.

Other new provisions added to the Act address,

- (a) when the Crown or an employer bargaining agency may provide assistance with local bargaining or require information regarding local bargaining;
- (b) how conflicts or inconsistencies within a collective agreement between central and local terms may be resolved;
- (c) agreements or undertakings entered into by the Crown for certain purposes under the Act;
- (d) the delegation of powers from the Lieutenant Governor in Council to the Minister or from the Minister to a Ministry employee; and
- (e) the continuation of the Education Relations Commission and related governance matters.

Several related or consequential amendments are made to the Act and other Acts.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Bill 67

1st Reading

SECTION 1 removes the mandatory requirement to sound a vehicle horn when passing, and instead requires it only if necessary to alert the driver being passed. It also replaces a reference to the mandatory requirement. **SECTION 2** requires a driver of a motor vehicle that is passing a bicycle to leave a distance of at least one metre, or as near to that as is possible in the circumstances, between the motor vehicle and the bicycle and details how that distance is to be measured. It also permits a vehicle to cross a

solid line or centre line, or to pass contrary to a sign, in order to pass a bicycle, if it can be done safely. **SECTION 3** amends the Highway Traffic Act to prohibit a person from opening the door of a vehicle if doing so creates a hazard for other traffic. It also amends the Act to recognize that regulations may regulate what types of traffic may drive in or use bicycle lanes. **SECTION 4** adds a regulation-making power to the Act to authorize regulations respecting bicycle safety and the shared use of highways by bicycles and other traffic. **SECTION 5** amends the Schedule of Penalties for the Act to add descriptions and related penalties for the new offence provisions in this Act. **SECTION 6** provides for the commencement of this Act.

QUEBEC

NO UPDATE

NUNAVUT

NO UPDATE

SASKATCHEWAN

Bill 69

1st Reading

An amendment to section 5 is required to ensure that the appropriate percentage, the lowest Saskatchewan tax rate on individuals, is updated to include the tax rate reductions announced in the 2017-18 Budget.

Effective July 1, 2017 Saskatchewan will be reducing each of its tax rates (11%, 13%, 15%) by one half percentage point, with a second half-point reduction effective July 1, 2019. Individual income taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, therefore the legislation must properly align the tax rate changes with the appropriate taxation year. The individual income tax rate reductions will be legislated as four separate quarter-point rate reductions over taxation years 2017 to 2020.

The top provincial tax rate for individuals is applied to trusts. Therefore, an amendment to subsection 9(1) will reduce the tax rate on trusts in lock step with the income tax rate reduction schedule for individuals.

The charitable credit in section 21 is being amended in response to the tax rate reductions announced in the 2018-19 Budget. Charitable gifts in excess of \$200 are credited at the highest personal income tax rate.

The dividend tax credit rate for eligible dividends (dividends in respect of corporate income taxed at the general rate) is being reduced in quarter-point increments over the 2017 through 2020 taxation years to reflect the reductions in the general corporate income tax rate. This change will reduce the effective dividend tax credit rate for eligible dividends from the current 11% to 10% by 2020, thereby maintaining the current degree of integration between the provincial corporate and personal income tax systems for eligible dividend income.

The general corporate income tax rate is being reduced by a half-point effective July 1, 2017 and by another half-point effective July 1, 2019. Rate changes will apply on a prorated basis for corporations whose taxation years may straddle these effective dates.

Section 56.3 is being amended to phase out the special provision that allows credit unions to apply the small business tax rate to taxable income in excess of the \$500,000 small business threshold. The phase-out will occur over four years beginning in 2017.

Section 60.1 is being amended to increase the rate of the refundable manufacturing and processing investment tax credit on new equipment from 5% to 6% as of March 23, 2017.

Section 64.6 is being added to provide for the tax rebate administrative provisions related to the new Saskatchewan Commercial Innovation Incentive (SCII) tax incentive. The SCII eligibility criteria are set out in *The Saskatchewan Commercial Innovation Incentive (PatentBox) Act*, which allows eligible corporations to claim a rebate of income taxes paid.

Bill 57
Royal Assent

The tax payable by a financial institution has increased. S. 13(3)(2) outlines the formula.

YUKON

No Update

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA

C-4
3rd Reading

This enactment amends the Canada Labour Code, the Parliamentary Employment and Staff Relations Act and the Public Service Labour Relations Act to restore the procedures for the

certification and the revocation of certification of bargaining agents that existed before June 16, 2015. It also amends the Income Tax Act to remove from that Act the requirement that labour organizations and labour trusts provide annually to the Minister of National Revenue certain information returns containing specific information that would be made available to the public.

C-45

1st Reading

This enactment enacts the Cannabis Act to provide legal access to cannabis and to control and regulate its production, distribution and sale. The objectives of the Act are to prevent young persons from accessing cannabis, to protect public health and public safety by establishing strict product safety and product quality requirements and to deter criminal activity by imposing serious criminal penalties for those operating outside the legal framework. The Act is also intended to reduce the burden on the criminal justice system in relation to cannabis.

C-46

1st Reading

Part 1 amends the provisions of the Criminal Code that deal with offences and procedures relating to drug-impaired driving. Among other things, the amendments (a) enact new criminal offences for driving with a blood drug concentration that is equal to or higher than the permitted concentration; (b) authorize the Governor in Council to establish blood drug concentrations; and (c) authorize peace officers who suspect a driver has a drug in their body to demand that the driver provide a sample of a bodily substance for analysis by drug screening equipment that is approved by the Attorney General of Canada.

C-325

2nd Reading

This enactment amends the Canada Labour Code to authorize the Minister of Labour to enter into an agreement with the government of a province that provides for the application, to pregnant or nursing employees, of certain provisions of the provincial legislation concerning occupational health and safety.

C-353

1st Reading

This enactment amends the Old Age Security Act to provide that a pensioner's guaranteed income supplement shall not be reduced as a result of an increase in the pensioner's income under the Canada Pension Plan if that increase results solely from the indexation of that pension.

S-230

2nd Reading

This enactment amends the Criminal Code to authorize the use of an approved screening device to detect the presence of drugs in the body of a person who was operating a vehicle or who had the care or control of a vehicle. It also authorizes the taking of samples of bodily substances to determine the concentration of drugs in a

person's body, based on physical coordination tests and the result of the analysis conducted using an approved screening device.