

August 2014 Legislative Updates

JURISDICTION	PARLIAMENT	BILL #	TITLE	GOVERNMENT/ MEMBERS BILL	STATUS	EXPLANATORY NOTE
<u>Nova Scotia</u>	Assembly 62 - Session 1	Bill 38	<i>An Act to Require Balanced Budgets, Limit Government Spending and Reduce the Harmonized Sales Tax to Thirteen Per Cent</i>	Jamie Baillie	First Reading- March 31, 2014	<p>Clause 1 provides a short title to the Act.</p> <p>Clause 2 limits the year-over-year percentage increase in government spending to an amount equal to the estimated percentage increase in the population of Nova Scotia and the rate of inflation as measured by the change in the Consumer Price Index.</p> <p>Clause 3 prohibits the Minister of Finance from tabling a budget that is not balanced.</p> <p>Clause 4 requires the Minister to request that the Government of Canada reduce the provincial portion of the Harmonized Sales Tax to 8%.</p>
		Bill 31	<i>An Act to Protect Patients and Provide for the Fair Resolution of Contract Negotiations in Health Care and Community Services</i>	Jamie Baillie	First Reading - February 28, 2014	This Bill adds a Part III to the Trade Union Act to govern the dispute-resolution process in collective bargaining by health care and community services employees and employers. This Bill comes into force on January 1, 2014, and then applies to collective bargaining between a health care or community services bargaining unit and an employer whether the collective bargaining began before or begins after the coming into force of this Bill.
		Bill 38	<i>An Act to Amend Chapter 475 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Trade Union Act, Respecting First Contract Arbitration</i>	Jamie Baillie	First Reading - April 11, 2013	This Bill amends the Trade Union Act to remove the provisions relating to first contract arbitration enacted in 2011.
		Bill 39	<i>An Act to Amend Chapter 475 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Trade Union Act, to Protect Users of Accessible Transit Services</i>	Jamie Baillie	First Reading - April 11, 2013	This Bill amends the Trade Union Act to provide for the continued operation of Metro Transit's Access-A-Bus service, Transit Cape Breton's Handi-Trans service and similar services in the event of a labour dispute.

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Bill 87	<i>Resolution of Ambulance Services Labour Disputes Act: An Act to Protect Nova Scotians and Provide for the Fair Resolution of Contract Negotiations in Ambulance Services</i>	Jamie Baillie	First Reading - July 5, 2013	This Bill replaces the right to strike and lockout with first contract interest arbitration.
23	<i>An Act to Amend Chapter 246 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Labour Standards Code</i>	Allan MacMaster	First Reading - December 6, 2013	This Bill amends the Labour Standards Code to require employers who provide benefits to their employees under long-term disability plans to insure those plans, subject to certain exceptions.
24	<i>An Act to Amend Chapter 340 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, and Chapter 41 of the Acts of 2011, the Pension Benefits Act</i>	Allan MacMaster	First Reading - December 6, 2013	This Bill amends the existing Pension Benefits Act and its unproclaimed replacement to require that the annual written statement sent to members of a pension plan also be sent to former members and retired members, and that the statement contain information about the investment performance and solvency of the pension fund and how amendments to the pension plan and decisions made by the employer in the preceding year are expected to affect the pension plan.
21	<i>Trade Union Act (amended)</i> <i>Apprenticeship and Trades Qualifications System Reform (2014) Act</i>	K. MacFarlane	First Reading - December 6, 2013 Royal Assent - May 1, 2014	This Bill amends the Trade Union Act to remove the provisions relating to first contract arbitration enacted in 2011. Clause 2 (c) makes complementary changes consistent with the designation of the Apprenticeship Training Division as a special operating agency and the establishment of an operating charter for the new Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency.
45	<i>Public Consultation on the Canada Pension Plan Act</i>	Regan	First Reading - Dec. 11, 2013	An Act to Establish a Public Consultation Process on the Enhancement of the Canada Pension Plan
28	<i>Workers' Compensation Act (amended)</i>	MacDonald	First Reading - April 10, 2014	Clause 1 adds a definition of "first responder" and expands the definition of "worker" to include first responders in the Workers' Compensation Act. Clause 2 provides for the application of Part I of the Workers' Compensation Act to first responders upon application of a municipality within whose boundaries the first responder is located and serves.
48		Corbett		

Workers' Compensation Act (amended)

First Reading - April 8, 2014

This Bill amends the Workers' Compensation Act to

- (a) require benefits paid to a worker injured prior to March 23, 1990 to continue for life instead of ceasing at age sixty-five;
- (b) require the payment of earnings-replacement benefits to the earlier of the date the Workers' Compensation Board determines the loss of earnings has ended and the date the worker dies instead of age sixty-five;
- (c) require annuity payments to commence the date the worker retires from the workforce rather than age sixty-five;
- (d) require survivor pensions be paid for life notwithstanding the date the worker dies as a result of a work injury; and
- (e) require an employer to re-employ an injured worker until the date the worker retires from the workforce instead of age sixty-five.