



In This Issue

Bill 92 Update 1

Minimum Wage Increase in October 2

Enter a Team in the Steps For Life Walk in Your Community 2

Public Service Head Reappointed 3

Conestoga to Honour Martha George 3

More Wynne Gossip 3

Julia Munro 4

Parliamentary Calendar 4

Bill 92 Update

On March 23rd Bill 92, School Boards Collective Bargaining Amendment Act passed third reading in the Ontario Legislature. The Bill, a high priority of the Wynne government, was introduced for first reading on February 21st.

Among its various amendments to the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014, the Bill:

- requires that central bargaining must 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.
- 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.
- requires 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.

- Allows parties to a collective agreement to enter into agreements to continue the term of operation of a collective agreement 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.

I draw this to your attention for two reasons:

1. It demonstrates how quickly a majority government can move a Bill through the legislative process when it really wants to
2. The last bullet point about extending contracts will provide labour stability at the time of the next Ontario general election in June 2018

Minimum Wage Increase in October

On March 24th Minister of Labour Kevin Flynn announced that effective October 1, 2017 the minimum wage in Ontario will be increased to \$11.60 per hour. This will be the fourth consecutive annual increase in the province's minimum wage and the 11th increase since 2004 when it stood at \$6.85. Special minimum wage rates that apply to liquor servers, students under 18, hunting and fishing guides, and homeworkers will also increase at the same time. The new rates are the result of changes to legislation that were passed in 2014 to tie minimum wage increases to Ontario's CPI. Changes to the minimum wage are announced by April 1 of each year and take effect on October 1.

This advance notice allows businesses and workers time to plan for any increases.

Enter a Team in the Steps For Life Walk in Your Community

Be sure to enter a team from your association in the upcoming Threads of Life national Steps for Life – Walking for Families of Workplace Tragedy event. Encourage your member companies to do the same. Together we can raise funds to provide programs and services for Canadian families who have suffered as a result of a workplace tragedy; educate our community about the devastating ripple effects of each workplace tragedy; and promote a cultural shift to improve health and safety in the workplace so that others will not experience a workplace fatality, traumatic life-altering injury, or occupational disease. The dates of the walks are as follows:

- Barrie - May 6
- Durham Region - May 7
- Hamilton/Niagara - May 7
- Kingston - April 29

March 2017 - GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

- London - May 7
- Mississauga/Peel – May 13
- North Bay - April 30
- Ottawa - May 6
- Sarnia - May 6
- Sault Ste. Marie - May 7
- Sudbury - April 29
- Timmins - May 7
- Toronto - April 29
- Wellington South/Waterloo Region - May 7

For more information, click on the following link <http://stepsforlife.ca/>

Public Service Head Reappointed

Steve Orsini was recently reappointed to the position of Secretary of Cabinet for a three-year term effective July 9, 2017. His new annual base salary will be \$368,594 and will be increased by 5% every year starting April 2018. Orsini was originally appointed to the position which Tony Dean often referred to as “the CEO of Ontario” in July 2014.

Conestoga to Honour Martha George

Conestoga College will be honouring our own Martha George at their 22nd Annual Conestoga Golf Classic on May 30th at the Whistle Bear Golf Club in Cambridge. The Conestoga tourney is always a first class affair, Whistle Bear is among the top rated tracks in Ontario and with Martha as its headline honouree, let's make sure there's a good turnout of her COCA friends and colleagues in attendance to support her. Let's support someone who is always there for us! For details just click on this link:

<https://conestogacommunity.ca/Classic>

More Wynne Gossip

Pointing to recent polls, former Ontario Finance Minister and former Ontario Liberal Party President Greg Sorbara stated the following on a recent edition of TVO's The Agenda, “There's a whole lot of people in the Ontario Liberal party who think that it's all over. ... You have to ask yourself, Premier, whether given that scenario, it's better to step down before the next election. The [polling] numbers do not lie and the ability to win the next election is in grave grave doubt.” Sorbara had been a behind-the-

March 2017 - GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

scenes-supporter of Wynne’s when she competed for the leadership of the Party and remains a very influential Liberal. However Wynne doesn’t seem ready to go.

A recent Mainstreet poll has the PCs at 32%, the Libs at 22%, the NDP at 17% and undecideds at 25% up 8% from their last poll.

Angus Reid’s recent quarterly showed 81% of Ontarians disapprove of Premier Wynne’s performance, a continuation of her long steady decline in popularity since the fall of 2014.

Julia Munro

At COCA’s AGM, our keynote speaker WSIB Chair, Elizabeth Witmer, corrected the record and said she is no longer the longest serving female MPP and that her extended record of service in the Ontario Legislature had recently been surpassed by the MPP for York Simcoe, Julia Munro. Julia recently announced that she will not be seeking re-election in the June 2018 Ontario general election. First elected in 1995 as part of Mike Harris’ Common Sense Revolution, Julia, like Elizabeth Witmer, is a moderate who works across the aisle to get things done, and she’s outlasted them all. Her 23 year record will be a hard one to beat.

Parliamentary Calendar

Green - Dates on which the House may meet pursuant to the Standing Orders

Pink - Dates on which committees may meet during any Recess or Adjournment

April/avril							May/mai							June/juin						
Sun dim	Mon lun	Tue mar	Wed mer	Thu jeu	Fri ven	Sat sam	Sun dim	Mon lun	Tue mar	Wed mer	Thu jeu	Fri ven	Sat sam	Sun dim	Mon lun	Tue mar	Wed mer	Thu jeu	Fri ven	Sat sam
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
30																				