



In This Issue

Wynne Announces Intention to
Intro Changing Workplaces Bill 1

Intro of CLA Amendments
Imminent 2

OCOT Strikes New C&E Policy 3

Meilleur Appointment 3

Don't Count the Liberals Out Yet
3

Soo By Election Update 3

Jack MacLaren Ousted from PC
Caucus 4

Real Estate Speculators Tax
and Seniors Transit Tax Credit
Introduced 4

Tories Hire PWC to Oversee
Nominations 4

Wynne Announces Intention to Intro Changing Workplaces Bill

On May 30 Premier Wynne announced that her government will introduce legislation pursuant to the recently released final report of the Changing Workplaces Review that will among other things:

- Raise Ontario's general minimum wage to \$14 per hour on January 1, 2018, and then to \$15 on January 1, 2019, followed by annual increases at the rate of inflation
- Mandate equal pay for part-time, temporary, casual and seasonal employees doing the same job as full-time employees; and equal pay for temporary help agency employees doing the same job as permanent employees at the agencies' client companies
- Expand personal emergency leave to include an across-the-board minimum of at least two paid days per year for all workers
- Bring Ontario's vacation time into line with the national average by ensuring at least three weeks' vacation after five years with a company
- Make employee scheduling fairer, including requiring employees to be paid for three hours of work

if their shift is cancelled within 48 hours of its scheduled start time.

- expand family leaves
- make certain that employees are not misclassified as independent contractors ensuring they get the benefits they deserve
- Establish card-based union certification for the temporary help agency industry, the building services sector and home care and community services industry.

The province will hire up to 175 more employment standards officers and launch a program to educate both employees and small and medium-sized businesses about their rights and obligations under the Employment Standards Act.

The final report of the Changing Workplaces Review can be accessed by clicking on the following link <https://goo.gl/v6mhC4>

More details about the government's intended legislation can be accessed at the following link <https://goo.gl/MbcWjs>

Intro of CLA Amendments Imminent

There is every indication that legislation pursuant to the Reynolds-Vogel Report to modernize the Construction Lien Act, introduce a real time dispute resolution process and present a prompt payment regime will be introduced in the Ontario Legislature on Wednesday, May 31st.

The Bill is expected to be in the form of amendments to the current Construction Lien Act rather than a "repeal and replace". Stakeholders will then have three months (the legislature adjourns for summer recess on June 1st and reconvenes on September 11th) to thoughtfully review the Bill and provide comments back to the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Sometime in the fall session, hopefully early in the fall session, the Bill should receive second reading and be referred to a Standing Committee of the Legislature. Once the Bill makes its way onto the agenda of the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee will convene public hearings (probably one or two days of hearings) and will conduct a clause-by clause review with the possibility of amendments. The Bill will then be reported back to the Legislature for third reading and Royal Assent.

Attorney General Naqvi, who is also the Government House Leader who determines the agenda for the Legislature, has promised to do his best to move the Bill through the legislative process and passed into law before the end of 2017. We remain as optimistic as possible given the uncertainties of the political arena.

OCoT Strikes New C&E Policy

Further to the requirements of the recent amendments to the Ontario College of Trades and Apprenticeship Act, the OCoT Board of Governors has approved a Compliance and Enforcement Policy. Click on the following link to access this new policy <https://goo.gl/wAMGFh>

Meilleur Appointment

In case you were wondering about former Ottawa-Vanier MPP and the former Ontario Attorney General who got the ball rolling with the review of the Construction Lien Act and prompt payment, Madeleine Meilleur was recently appointed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as the Official Languages Commissioner. Meilleur's selection was somewhat controversial with both opposition parties pushing back on what they perceive as a highly partisan appointment. The Official Languages Commissioner is an Officer of Parliament and is expected to operate independently and to report to the House or the Senate.

Don't Count the Liberals Out Yet

A recent opinion poll conducted by Campaign Research concluded that if an election was held at the time of the poll:

- 37% of Ontarians would vote Liberal
- 34% would vote PC
- 22% would vote NDP

A recent Forum Research poll shows that the Ontario race is getting slightly closer. Their results were as follows:

- PCs at 41%
- Liberals at 28%
- NDP at 23%

Soo By Election Update

There will be seven names on the ballot for the by election in Sault Ste. Marie on June 1st:

- Green Party of Ontario candidate Kara Flannigan, a public health sector employee and arts supporter
- Ontario Libertarian Party candidate Gene Balfour, a retired IT recruiter who represented his party in three provincial and one federal elections in Thornhill before moving to Fenelon Falls from where he was parachuted into the Soo
- None of the Above Party candidate Above Znoneofthe who had his name officially changed

from Sheldon Bergson and who was previously a federal candidate in Thornhill and a provincial candidate in by-elections in Oshawa-Whitby and Scarborough

- Pauper Party of Ontario candidate John Turmel who is believed to have previously contested and lost about 90 elections over almost 40 years
- Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario candidate Ross Romano, a lawyer and city councillor for Ward 6
- New Democratic Party of Ontario candidate Joe Krmpotich, a Steelworker and city councillor also for Ward 6
- Ontario Liberal Party candidate Debbie Amoroso, a small business owner and former mayor

The three major parties have campaigned hard in the riding and it's thought to be a tight race.

Jack MacLaren Ousted from PC Caucus

Jack MacLaren, the MPP for Carleton-Mississippi Mills, who has been an ongoing source of embarrassment to his Progressive Conservative Party was ousted from the Tory Caucus by party leader Patrick Brown on May 28th.

The expulsion came after a 2012 video showing MacLaren telling his Landowner supporters that a PC government would change bilingual employment requirements in Ottawa, came into the public eye once again. MacLaren is now portraying himself as a member of the Ontario Trillium Party but sits in the Legislature as an Independent because the Trilliums haven't achieved party status. He has also been removed from his position on a Standing Committee of the Legislature.

Real Estate Speculators Tax and Seniors Transit Tax Credit Introduced

Following the passage of Bill 127, Stronger, Healthier Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2017, Finance Minister Charles Sousa proceeded to introduce complementary legislation to implement components of the Budget. Bill 134, the Budget Measures Act (Housing Price Stability and Ontario Seniors' Public Transit Tax Credit), if passed will implement a 15% speculation tax on non-Canadians buying residential properties in the Greater Golden Horseshoe and enact a 15% public transit tax credit for seniors.

Tories Hire PWC to Oversee Nominations

With the governing Liberals scraping rock bottom in the polls, there are many who believe the Tories will sail to an easy victory in the June 2018 Ontario general election. As a result, interest in running as a PC and becoming an MPP is high. Nomination contests in many ridings have had numerous candidates and have been spirited. To deal with this set of circumstances, PC leader, Patrick Brown, has engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers to oversee the nominations process.