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## BRITISH COLUMBIA

### LEGISLATIVE BILLS/ACTIONS

#### MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2007

**M 214 - 2007: Minimum Wage Fairness Act of 2007 (Ms. Carole James MLA [Victoria-Beacon Hill])**—would amend the Employment Standards Act by increasing the minimum wage and providing that it be reassessed on a yearly basis to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index. The bill also reduces the small business tax rate by one percent through an amendment to the Income Tax Act.

**Status:** First Reading on April 18, 2007.

### LEGISLATIVE BILLS/ACTIONS

#### WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

**M 233 - 2007: Whistleblowers Protection Act of 2007 (Mr. Shane Simpson MLA [Vancouver-Hastings])**—would facilitate the disclosure and investigation of serious matters in the public interest that are potentially unlawful, injurious, or dangerous to the public. The bill would also protect people who disclose information in the public interest against reprisals from their employers.

**Status:** First Reading on November 27, 2007.

### LEGISLATIVE BILLS/ACTIONS

#### WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT ACT OF 2007

**M 206 – 2007 (Mr. Chuck Puchmayr MLA [New Westminster])**—would amend the Workers Compensation Act and the Motor Vehicle Act to increase the safety of workers who are transported in vehicles (e.g., seat belts rules).

**Status:** First Reading on March 15, 2007.

## ONTARIO

### LEGISLATIVE BILLS/ACTIONS

**Bill 7: Employment Standards Amendment Act of 2007 (Raising the Minimum Wage) (Ms. Cheri DiNovo, MPP [Parkdale, High Park])**—would amend the Act to provide that the general minimum wage is either \$10 an hour or the prescribed minimum wage, whichever is greater. The minimum wage is to be indexed to the Consumer Price Index each year. A regulation prescribing the minimum wage rate cannot prescribe a rate lower than the rate for any previous time period. (NOTE: The Employment Standards Act of 2000 currently provides that minimum wage rates are to be prescribed by regulation).

**Status:** First Reading carried on December 4, 2007, but the Second Reading lost on division after it was debated on December 6.

### LEGISLATIVE BILLS/ACTIONS

#### EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS (WAGE SECURITY)

**Bill 6: Employment Standards Amendment Act of 2007 (Wage Security)(Mr. Paul Miller MPP [Hamilton East, Stoney Creek])**—would amend the Employment Standards Act of 2000 by adding Part XV.1 which establishes the

Employee Wage Security Program and provides for the appointment of a Program Administrator. Under the program employees will be eligible for compensation for certain types of unpaid wages.

**Status:** First Reading carried on December 4, 2007, and the Second Reading carried after debate on December 6 (ordered referred to the Standing Committee on General Government).

### LEGISLATIVE BILLS/ACTIONS

#### PENSION BENEFITS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2007

**Bill 17: Pension Benefits Amendment Act of 2007 (Mr. Paul Miller MPP [Hamilton East, Stoney Creek])**—would amend the Pension Benefits Act to raise the amount guaranteed by the Pension Benefits Guarantee Fund from \$1,000 per month to \$2,700 per month.

**Status:** First Reading carried on December 11, 2007.

### LEGISLATIVE BILLS/ACTIONS

#### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT ACT OF 2007 (HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE)

**Bill 29: Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act of 2007 (Harassment and Violence) (Ms. Andrea Horwath MPP [Hamilton Centre])**—would amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to require employers to protect workers from harassment and violence in the workplace, to give workers the right to refuse to work in certain circumstances when faced with harassment or violence, to require an investigation of allegations of workplace-related harassment and violence, and to require employers to take steps to prevent further occurrences of workplace-related harassment or violence.

**Status:** First Reading carried on December 13, 2007.

Please visit <http://www.finishingcontractors.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=3514> for a summary of 2007 legislation.

### RESOURCES

#### United States

- Look up a bill at [www.thomas.gov](http://www.thomas.gov)
- For Congressional information, visit <http://www.congress.org>

#### Canada

- Ministry of Labour <http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/>
- Labour Unions <http://canadianlabour.ca/>

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