



LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

- A Labour Relations Services Publication -

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UPDATE ON RCMP LEGISLATION – BILL C-7

On March 9, 2016 we provided a legislative briefing regarding the introduction of federal legislation (Bill C-7) to provide the RCMP with a labour relations regime (see http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/labour-relations/LabourRelationsPublications/V04-Legislative_Briefing-2016-03-09.pdf). On May 30, 2016 Bill C-7 passed 3rd reading and was referred to the Senate.

The Senate has now begun consideration of the Bill. One of the concerns of the senate committee reviewing the Bill is the number of issues that the legislation excludes from collective bargaining, including discharges, demotions, law enforcement techniques, conduct such as harassment, promotions and RCMP uniforms and equipment. News reports indicate that the committee is now considering further study of the Bill (see <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/rcmp-union-bill-senate-1.3622693?cmp=rss>).

BACKGROUND

On March 9, 2016, the Government of Canada introduced legislation (Bill C-7) to provide RCMP members with a labour relations regime. The Bill has now passed third reading in the House of Commons and has been referred to the Senate. One of the changes that occurred in the House of Commons was the removal of two clauses that would affect RCMP health benefits and which would have moved injured Mounties from an internal RCMP health services program to provincial workers compensation programs. The full text of the legislation as referred can be found at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=8305305> .

CURRENT STATUS

Senators have expressed concerns regarding the Bill, specifically with the number of issues that the legislation excludes from collective bargaining. Those exclusions include:

- law enforcement techniques,
- transfers from one position to another and appointments,
- appraisals,
- probation,
- discharges or demotions,
- conduct, including harassment,
- the basic requirements for carrying out the duties of an RCMP member or a reservist,

The Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence, which is reviewing the legislation, will continue discussions during the week of June 13, 2016, with the intent of bringing in witnesses, such as the RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson, to discuss their expressed concerns with the legislation.

Meanwhile, news reports indicate that Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale has asked his department to strike an independent committee with members who would have the necessary experience to review the list of exclusions in Bill C-7, in order to address the concerns raised by the Senate committee. This committee would be formed after the Bill is passed but prior to collective bargaining. The Senate committee has yet to respond to Goodale's proposition for such an independent committee.

We will provide more information as it becomes available.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any comments or questions about this update please contact Karen Jewell, Division Manager Base Services & Compensation at 604-432-6228 or by email at Karen.jewell@metrovancover.org.