

# LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

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## SPRING 2018 UPDATE

The 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia came to a close last week. This Legislation Briefing highlights two (2) Bills that will impact local government employers. Specifically, the *Employment Standards Amendment Act* (Bill No. 6) and the *Workers Compensation Amendment Act* (Bill No. 9). Employers are advised to review and update leave policies in response to Bill No. 6 and should update any policies/practices related to the treatment of mental disorders for eligible occupations in response to Bill No. 9.

### Employment Standards Amendment Act, 2018

The *Employment Standards Amendment Act* ([Bill No. 6](#)) received Royal Assent on May 17, 2018. Key amendments to the Act have been summarized in the April 12, 2018 publication ([here](#)). There are indications that the Provincial Government may implement broader changes to the *Employment Standards Act* in future Legislative sessions based on the recommendations from the ongoing British Columbia Law Institute's *Employment Standards Act Reform Project*.

### Workers Compensation Amendment Act, 2018

The *Workers Compensation Amendment Act* ([Bill No. 9](#)) received Royal Assent on May 17, 2018. Bill No.9 sets out that for workers of eligible occupations who are exposed to one or more traumatic events over the course of their employment and are subsequently diagnosed with a mental disorder, the disorder will be presumed to have been caused by the nature of the work unless the contrary is proven.

Eligible Occupations include the following:

- correctional officer;
- emergency medical assistant as defined in s.1 of the *Emergency Health Services Act*;
- firefighter;
- police officer;
- sheriff; and
- any other occupation prescribed by regulation.

### QUESTIONS?

If you have any comments or questions about this update please contact Rob D'Angelo, Division Manager, Information & Advisory Services and Compensation at 604-432-6233 or by email at [rob.dangelo@metrovancover.org](mailto:rob.dangelo@metrovancover.org).