

JUSTICE UPDATE

Saskatchewan Justice

2015

***The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2015 / Loi de 2015 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard**

(Bill 165) Chapter 1

This Act amends *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997* to enable the Liquor and Gaming Authority to enter into agreements with the Government of Canada or any province or territory that will allow customers in Saskatchewan to directly import beverage alcohol into the province for personal consumption. The Act also provides the Lieutenant Governor in Council authority to make regulations respecting the importation of beverage alcohol by customers, including:

- the kind and quantity of beverage alcohol that may be brought or imported into Saskatchewan;
- the jurisdictions within Canada from which beverage alcohol may be purchased or acquired; and
- the types of vendors from whom the beverage alcohol may be purchased or acquired.

This Act came into force on June 30, 2015.

The Archives and Public Records Management Act

(Bill 141) Chapter A-26.11

This Act replaces *The Archives Act, 2004*. It makes the following changes:

- provides the records management framework for all government institutions, Crown corporations, the Legislative Assembly and the courts; and
- underlines the responsibility of government institutions to maintain the public record.

This Act came into force on August 24, 2015.

***The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2015 / Loi de 2015 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Archives and Public Records Management Act**

(Bill 142) Chapter 3

This Act amends *The Evidence Act* and *The Education Act, 1995* to update references to the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan.

This Act came into force on August 24, 2015.

The Automobile Accident Insurance (Motorcycles) Amendment Act, 2015

(Bill 184) Chapter 28

This Act amends *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* to implement a third option for injury coverage for motorcycle owners in addition to the current options of tort coverage or no-fault coverage. The Act details the benefits provided under this option. It also clarifies the legal actions available to persons who elect tort coverage and persons who elect motorcycle injury insurance.

This Act will come into force on proclamation.

The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015

(Bill 188) Chapter 29

This Act amends *The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997* and *The Public Works and Services Act* to provide that contracts will be awarded to the bidder whose bid offers the best value.

This Act came into force on November 19, 2015.

The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2015

(Bill 147) Chapter 4

The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2015 expands the ability of courts acting pursuant to *The Class Actions Act* to award costs in Saskatchewan class action proceedings. The courts are authorized to consider the following factors when determining whether or not to make a costs award:

- the public interest;
- whether the action involved a novel point of law;
- whether the action was a test case;
- access to justice for members of the public using class action proceedings; and
- any other factor that the court considers appropriate.

This amendment applies to proceedings commenced and costs incurred before, on or after the date the Bill came into force, May 14, 2015.

***The Degree Authorization Amendment Act, 2015**

(Bill 143) Chapter 5

The Degree Authorization Amendment Act, 2015 extends the exemption for an educational institution that, as at December 1, 2011, was directly or indirectly advertising or providing a degree program in Saskatchewan without authorization, from November 30, 2016 to a date prescribed in the regulations.

This Act came into force on May 14, 2015.

***The Education Amendment Act, 2015 / Loi de 2015 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation**

(Bill 163) Chapter 6

This Act amends *The Education Act, 1995* to:

- rename the Prince of Wales Scholarship Fund as the Education Scholarship Fund;
- clarify terminology in the French version of the Act respecting the phrases “home-based education program” and “pupil with intensive needs”;
- allow the Minister to set a starting date for a school year that is earlier than Labour Day, when Labour Day falls on or after September 5; and
- streamline provisions respecting the borrowing powers of boards of education and the conseil scolaire, including removing the requirement to obtain approval from the Minister on the rate of interest payable.

This Act came into force on May 14, 2015 other than the French language terminology and Education Scholarship Fund provisions, which came into force on October 19, 2015.

The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2015

(Bill 162) Chapter 7

This Bill will introduce amendments to:

- provide that a notice of seizure of employment income will last for the 24 month period of the enforcement instruction without requiring it to be renewed after 12 months;
- include a revised process for the sheriff to provide timely clear title to a third party purchaser of land where the judgment creditors and judgment debtor have agreed to payment out of the proceeds of the sale to address the judgment debt of the vendor;
- ensure that the sheriff is not considered to be an account debtor by reason of receiving funds from a debtor;

- provide additional direction on the payment of premiums to initiating creditors;
- revise certain seizure and enforcement instruction provisions to facilitate operations of the sheriff's office;
- provide for appointment of a Director of Sheriffs;
- address technical priority issues regarding advances and consistency of language with *The Securities Transfer Act*;
- allow the Director of Sheriffs to waive the enforcement of small amounts, such as fees that remain due on judgments after distribution;
- remove the forms from the regulations and allow the Director of Sheriffs to provide the required forms; and
- update language to reflect the wording in the new Queen's Bench Rules.

This Act will come into force on proclamation.

The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act

(Bill 159) Chapter 8

This Act repeals *The Family Farm Credit Act*.

This Act came into force on May 14, 2015.

The Fee Waiver Act

(Bill 145) Chapter F-13.1001

The Fee Waiver Act creates a uniform system for the waiver of administrative fees for low income litigants at courts, tribunals and other government bodies. The Act will enhance the existing fee waiver system, which is currently governed by *The Queen's Bench Rules*, by:

- establishing a fee waiver program in Small Claims Court and updating the existing fee waiver program at the Court of Queen's Bench and the Court of Appeal;
- establishing a fee waiver program at tribunals, or other government bodies, that regularly adjudicate matters for members of the public, including:
 - o the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission;
 - o the Office of Residential Tenancies; and
 - o any other board, commission, ministry, Crown corporation or other government body prescribed in the regulations;
- developing simplified fee waiver application policy and processes that are uniform across all relevant courts and tribunals;
- transferring the fee waiver application process from the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission to individual courts and tribunals;

- implementing updated eligibility requirements through the regulations;
- granting courts and tribunals discretionary authority to grant a fee waiver to individuals who do not meet the eligibility requirements but demonstrate that they face special circumstances that impact their ability to afford administrative fees;
- allowing fee waivers to be granted at any stage of a proceeding;
- allowing self-represented litigants to apply for a fee waiver; and
- allowing courts and tribunals to award costs to or against the holder of a fee waiver, subject to special considerations such as access to justice and fairness to the parties.

This Act will come into force on February 26, 2016.

***The Fee Waiver Consequential Amendments Act, 2015/ Loi de 2015 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Fee Waiver Act**

(Bill 146) Chapter 9

This Act makes consequential amendments to bilingual legislation that are the result of the implementation of *The Fee Waiver Act*. In particular, *The Court of Appeal Act, 2000*, *The Queen's Bench Act, 1998* and *The Small Claims Act, 1997* are amended to clarify that any fee charged by the courts is subject to the provisions of *The Fee Waiver Act*.

This Act will come into force on February 26, 2016.

The Fire Safety Act

(Bill 170) Chapter F-15.11

This Act repeals and replaces *The Fire Prevention Act, 1992* and updates Saskatchewan's fire safety legislation to:

- revise and update the definitions of "firefighter" and "fire services" to reflect the inclusion of fire safety, search and rescue, emergency response and other services;
- establish clear liability protection for firefighters, including volunteers, whenever responding to a fire or emergency, including outside their community;
- expand and clarify the Fire Commissioner's authority to provide support and a coordinated response for local authorities and fire services that require equipment, resources and other assistance to adequately respond to a fire or other emergency;

- clarify authority relating to fire suppression and inspection of places open to the public and private dwellings;
- set out the rules respecting entry in situations involving fire, including new measures for firefighters to take pre-emptive action to address an imminent risk of fire or emergency;
- provide authority for municipalities to order the discontinuance of the manufacture of any material that contravenes a bylaw or the *National Fire Code*, to register fire safety orders on land titles, and to pass bylaws that exceed the minimum requirements set out in the *National Fire Code*;
- set out requirements for municipalities to provide information to the Minister and their residents on available fire services; and
- authorize the Fire Commissioner to provide recommendations and assistance regarding local fire services.

This Act came into force on November 2, 2015.

The Government Relations Administration Act

(Bill 168) Chapter G-5.101

The purpose of this legislation is to create one Act that reflects all areas of responsibility of the Minister of Government Relations. The Act reflects the Minister's current mandate as it relates to municipal affairs, northern affairs, public safety and First Nation and Métis relations. It consolidates and standardizes the general authorities of the Minister previously contained in four separate statutes (*The Urban Affairs Act*, *The Rural Affairs Act*, *The Rural Development Act* and *The Northern Affairs Act*), which are repealed.

The Act also includes new ministerial authority to ensure payment of education taxes from municipalities to school divisions and to help resolve intermunicipal disputes.

This Act came into force on May 14, 2015.

***The Health Administration Amendment Act, 2015**

(Bill 149) Chapter 10

The Health Administration Act is amended to allow for a full transfer of health registration functions to eHealth Saskatchewan. The amendment enables the Minister to designate a Crown corporation or an agency of the Government of Saskatchewan to exercise the powers and perform the functions of the Minister.

This Act came into force on May 14, 2015.

***The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2015/Loi de 2015 sur les directives et les subrogés en matière de soins de santé**

(Bill 155) Chapter H-0.002

This Act will repeal and replace *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act* with a new bilingual Act. There are no changes in substance.

This Act will come into force on proclamation after bilingual regulations are passed.

***The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2015**

(Bill 156) Chapter 11

This Act makes consequential amendments to four Acts that reference *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act*, to reference the name of the new Act. There are no changes in substance to any of the Acts amended by this bill.

This Act will come into force on the day that *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2015* comes into force.

***The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2015**

(Bill 164) Chapter 12

This Act creates three new offences:

- failure to keep secure personal health information;
- willful disclosure of personal health information by a trustee or employee of a trustee;
- inappropriate use of personal health information by employees who intentionally access information without a need for that information.

It also authorizes the Minister to take control of the abandoned records of an active trustee.

This Act will come into force on proclamation.

***The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2015**

(Bill 157) Chapter H-15.1

This Act repeals and replaces *The Human Tissue Gift Act*, creating an updated legislative scheme respecting organ and tissue transplants. In particular, the new Act:

- grants the Lieutenant Governor in Council authority to make regulations, including regulations that:
 - establish standards, practices, conditions, protocols or procedures respecting transplants; and
 - prescribe exemptions from the prohibition against the purchase and sale of tissue and organs for transplants;
- clarifies the manner in which a person may revoke a consent to donate organs or tissue;
- implements rules respecting the sharing of information by organ procurement organizations; and
- increases the maximum fine for a person who is guilty of an offence under the Act from \$1,000 to \$100,000.

This Act will come into force on proclamation.

The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015

(Bill 178) Chapter 13

This Act amends *The Income Tax Act, 2000* to:

- implement the manufacturing and processing exporter non-refundable hiring and head office tax credits for the 2015 through 2019 taxation years;
- implement the corporation income tax rebate for capital investment in primary steel production;
- replace the existing research and development tax credit with a non-refundable research and development tax credit;
- change the \$20,000 tuition rebate for graduates to a non-refundable tax credit and extend the time for claims from seven to ten years;
- implement income testing for the active families benefit tax credit; and
- make technical amendments with respect to testamentary trusts, the definition of total charitable gifts, foreign interest income, the goods and services tax credit and the refund of excess instalment amounts.

This Act came into force on May 14, 2015, but is retroactive to January 1, 2015, except section 3, which is retroactive to December 21, 2002; section 4, which is retroactive to January 1, 2012; section 5, which is retroactive to February 27, 2004; section 8, which is retroactive to January 1, 2014; sections 12 and 13, which are retroactive to April 1, 2015; subsections 14(2) and 15(2), clause 17(1)(b) and subsection 17(3), which are retroactive to March 19, 2015; and section 16, which is retroactive to June 26, 2013.

The Insurance Act

(Bill 177) Chapter I-9.11

Sections 1-2, 5-1, 5-19, 5-29, 5-44, 5-45, 5-46, 5-52, 5-70, 7-1, 7-16, 7-23, 7-27, 8-28, 8-30, 8-33, 8-65, 8-83, 8-89, 8-98, 8-99, 8-104, 8-106, 8-107, 8-114, 8-147, 8-155, 8-156, 8-160, 8-164, 8-166, 8-168, 8-178, 8-193, 10-25, 10-26, 10-27, and 10-29 amended on Third Reading

This Act repeals and replaces *The Saskatchewan Insurance Act* and updates Saskatchewan's insurance legislation to:

- modernize the regulation of the Saskatchewan insurance industry;
- carry forward the duty for insurers to be licensed and set out the licensing process and requirements;
- carry forward the governance requirements for provincial companies;
- maintain existing licensing restrictions and set out the governance requirements and special rates for fraternal societies that act as insurers;
- establish a new licensing regime for insurance intermediaries, which include insurance agents, insurer's representatives, managing general agents and third party administrators;
- set out business conduct rules, reporting mechanisms, prohibitions and penalties for insurance intermediaries, insurance adjusters and restricted insurance agents;
- implement revisions regarding insurance councils, including a restructuring and consolidation of the councils and a redefinition of their powers and procedures;
- establish requirements respecting unsolicited insurance, reinsurance and special brokers;
- set out consumer protection requirements and provide for market conduct and fair practice rules for insurers;

- set out general provisions regarding contracts of insurance and specific provisions respecting contracts of property and casualty, automobile, crop hail, life and accident and sickness insurance;
- provide the Superintendent of Insurance with general powers to ensure compliance with the Act; and
- set out standard offence, penalty and enforcement provisions regarding contraventions of the Act.

This Act will come into force on proclamation.

The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2015/ Loi de 2015 modifiant la Loi de 2007 sur l'Assemblée législative

(Bill 180) Chapter 14

The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2015:

- creates a stand-alone status for the Office of the Speaker and his or her employees, separate from both the Legislative Assembly Service and the Public Service;
- requires the Board of Internal Economy to establish an anti-harassment policy for Members of the Legislative Assembly;
- sets out appointment, removal, suspension, salary, human resources and financial management provisions for the Clerk in a manner consistent with other Officers of the Legislative Assembly;
- adds a special warrant provision applicable to the Legislative Assembly;
- provides that the Clerk, rather than the Speaker, will appoint the Legislative Assembly Service employees;
- requires all government ministries, agencies and Crown corporations and the Officers of the Legislative Assembly to provide the Legislative Library the number of complimentary copies of publications requested by the Legislative Librarian, rather than the eight copies that the Act previously required.

This Act came into force on May 14, 2015.

***The Local Government Election Act, 2015**

(Bill 166) Chapter L-30.1

This Act repeals and replaces *The Local Government Election Act* and updates Saskatchewan's local government election legislation to:

- combine and standardize the provisions respecting urban and rural elections wherever possible while retaining traditional differences where appropriate;

- revise and clarify voter identification requirements;
- retain staggered elections at two-year intervals for rural municipalities;
- clarify voting eligibility requirements and the division in which a person is entitled to vote in a rural municipality;
- implement a six-month deadline for councils to hold a by-election to fill a vacancy, unless the vacancy occurs in a general election year;
- clarify the requirements for referenda and plebiscites, including impartiality requirements for municipal employees;
- introduce residency exceptions for students and members of the Canadian Armed Forces, consistent with the exceptions in *The Election Act, 1996*;
- clarify requirements for the use of advance polls in care facilities; and
- remove eligibility requirements for advance polls.

This Act came into force on January 1, 2016.

***The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2015 / Loi de 2015 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Local Government Election Act, 2015**

(Bill 167) Chapter 15

This bilingual Act makes consequential amendments to *The Education Act, 1995* that are a result of the implementation of *The Local Government Election Act, 2015*.

This Act came into force on January 1, 2016.

The MRI Facilities Licensing Act

(Bill 179) Chapter M-23.001

This Act:

- provides for the licensing of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) facilities, removing those facilities from the former ambit of *The Health Facilities Licensing Act*;
- introduces the option for patients to directly pay for MRI scans obtained in private facilities in Saskatchewan;
- requires the assessment by regional health authorities of the expected impact of an MRI facility that provides private pay MRI services on the public system before that MRI facility is licensed;

- authorizes regulations to govern all aspects of MRI facility operations, including standards of operation, requirements for physician referral for service, maintenance of patient records and regulating and governing charging at private pay MRI facilities.

This Act will come into force on proclamation.

The Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2015

(Bill 186) Chapter 30

This Act amends *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act* and *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010* to implement updated conflict of interest provisions for municipal councils, together with other related amendments. The amendments:

- require councils to adopt a code of ethics that applies to all members of council, based on a model code of ethics prescribed in the regulations;
- require councils to establish and make public a code of conduct for employees that includes rules respecting conflicts of interest;
- clarify what constitutes a conflict of interest;
- require members of council to file and regularly update public disclosure statements;
- require members of council to provide more detailed declarations of conflicts of interest;
- expressly prohibit a member of council from using his or her office to influence a decision made by another person to further the member of council's private interests or the private interests of a closely connected person;
- improve the authority of the government to address or prevent situations of conflict of interest with municipal councils, including powers to remove members of council in appropriate circumstances;
- standardize rules respecting the disqualification of members of council; and
- require council to adopt procedural bylaws that address matters such as delegations and submissions to council.

The Act consequentially amends *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to:

- clarify that the above-noted provisions respecting conflicts of interest and financial interests apply to a member of a Development Appeals Board, a municipal planning commission, a district planning commission, a district planning authority, a northern planning commission and a northern planning authority;

- grant the Minister authority to require an infrastructure plan be submitted with a community plan; and
- grant the Minister authority to require a council to include, as part of a community plan amendment, a cost-benefit analysis that considers financial, environmental, social and other impacts of the amendment.

This Act also consequentially amends *The Ombudsman Act, 2012* to grant the Provincial Ombudsman authority to investigate matters respecting municipal entities, including matters respecting conflicts of interest or alleged contraventions of a code of ethics.

This Act came into force on November 19, 2015, except for provisions respecting municipal codes of ethics, which will come into force on proclamation.

The Naturopathic Medicine Act

(Bill 172) Chapter N-3.11

This Act repeals and replaces *The Naturopathy Act* to make numerous updates to the regulation of naturopathic medicine, including:

- changing the name of The Saskatchewan Association of Naturopathic Practitioners to The College of Naturopathic Doctors of Saskatchewan;
- allowing the Lieutenant Governor in Council to appoint up to three public members to the council of the College;
- granting the College enhanced bylaw making powers, including authority to establish qualifying examinations and eligibility requirements for practicing naturopathic doctors;
- providing enhanced title protection for naturopathic doctors;
- expanding the scope of authorized practices to allow naturopathic doctors to perform practices in accordance with their full level of training and expertise;
- creating enhanced provisions and powers for the College respecting investigations, hearings and discipline for professional incompetence or misconduct.

This Act will come into force on proclamation.

The Officers of the Legislative Assembly Standardization Amendment Act, 2015

(Bill 181) Chapter 16

This Act amends *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act, The Election Act, 1996, The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, The Members' Conflict of Interest Act, The Ombudsman Act, 2012, The Provincial Auditor Act* and *The Public Interest Disclosure Act* to:

- make the appointment, suspension, acting and termination provisions for these Officers of the Legislative Assembly as uniform as possible;
- provide for renewable five year terms for the majority of Officers. The Provincial Auditor will move from a ten year renewable term to an eight year non-renewable term. The Chief Electoral Officer will continue to serve for two general elections;
- confirm that the employee benefits applicable to public servants apply to employees of the Officers;
- provide that each Officer shall administer, manage and control the Officer's office and the general business of the office and hire, oversee and direct their staff;
- require each Officer to file quarterly financial forecasts;
- require each Officer to file human resources and financial management policies;
- add a special warrant provision to each Act; and
- confirm that Officers cannot exceed their budgets (these last two provisions do not apply to the Chief Electoral Officer, since that budget is statutory).

This Act came into force on May 14, 2015.

***The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2015**

(Bill 151) Chapter 17

The amendments to *The Pharmacy Act, 1996* change the name of the legislation to *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act*, and expand the scope of practice for pharmacists by allowing pharmacists to prescribe and administer drugs and order, access and use laboratory tests, in accordance with the bylaws.

The Bill also adds provisions respecting licensing and regulation of pharmacy technicians. They will be authorized to prepare and dispense drugs.

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists will become the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals, responsible for regulating both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The Act also clarifies terminology concerning pharmacy ownership to ensure that pharmacists remain in control of pharmacies.

This Act came into force on October 5, 2015.

The Registered Teachers Act

(Bill 174) Chapter R-15.1

This Act:

- establishes the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board (SPTRB);
- prescribes the SPTRB's duty and objects;
- grants the SPTRB authority to issue teacher certificates;
- grants the SPTRB responsibility for investigations, hearings and discipline of teachers for professional misconduct or incompetence;
- establishes a public register;
- establishes a transitional board of directors to manage the SPTRB until members are elected.

Sections 2 to 18, 49 and 58 were proclaimed in force on July 1, 2015. The remainder of the Act (sections 1, 19 to 48, 50 to 57 and 59 to 63) came into force on October 19, 2015.

***The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2015 / Loi de 2015 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Registered Teachers Act**

(Bill 175) Chapter 18

This bilingual Act consequentially amends five Acts to reference *The Registered Teachers Act*.

This Act came into force on October 19, 2015.

***The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2015**

(Bill 150) Chapter 19

The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2015 amends *The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* to make a number of amendments:

- adds a provision defining “housing program” and addresses a number of issues faced by social housing programs related to converting properties to and from housing programs and ensuring that the housing is available to those who need it;

- amends the landlord's 7-day time limit to refund a security deposit so that the time period begins when the landlord is aware that the tenant has vacated, and extends the tenant's time limit to claim a security deposit from 120 days to two years;
- gives landlords the right to impose reasonable rules, with remedies for tenants if the rules are not reasonable and for landlords if there are ongoing violations of the rules;
- permits a landlord to evict a tenant who has violated a municipal bylaw or failed to pay municipal charges resulting in an additional tax assessment on the property, subject to the tenant's right to remedy the grounds for eviction;
- lengthens the notice period for evicting a tenant to two months if the unit is to be rented to a close friend or family member, demolished, renovated or converted to a condominium or social housing;
- adds appeal provisions allowing appeals from ex parte decisions and orders; providing for the court to extend the time for appeal if a proposed appellant did not receive notice of the decision; requiring the appeal to be made to the judicial centre nearest to the property; and requiring a tenant who is appealing a possession order for non-payment of rent to deposit half a month's rent with the court or prove that the rent has been paid as a condition of having the appeal filed.

Other than the appeal provisions, this Act came into force on July 1, 2015. The appeal provisions will come into force on proclamation.

The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015

(Bill 183) Chapter 31

This Act repeals and replaces *The Public Service Essential Services Act*. The key changes from that Act are:

- removing the definition of “essential services”;
- establishing an Essential Services Tribunal that will render decisions on what services are essential, if the parties are unable to agree. The Tribunal can also rule on whether an essential services agreement substantially interferes with the exercise of a strike or lockout. The Tribunal will be comprised of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Labour Relations Board and a representative appointed by each of the parties to the dispute;

- providing for binding mediation-arbitration by a three-person panel when an essential services agreement or decision is found to substantially interfere with the exercise of a right to strike or lockout.

Changes to vPart VI of the Act include:

- if collective bargaining has reached an impasse, requiring the parties to include in the Notice of Impasse the essential services that must be maintained in the event of a strike or lockout;
- establishing a maximum time period of 60 days for mandatory mediation/conciliation under Part VI, except where the parties agree to a longer time period;
- providing a cooling off period of 7 days before a work stoppage can begin after unsuccessful mediation/conciliation if essential services were identified in the Notice of Impasse.

The Act also repeals and replaces Division 7 of Part III (Occupational Health and Safety) to adopt the national standard for a workplace hazardous materials information system.

This Act came into force on December 31, 2015.

The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Act, 2015

(Bill 187) Chapter 32

This Act amends *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act* to clarify rules respecting farm land ownership in Saskatchewan. In particular, the amendments:

- exclude land that is used primarily for sand and gravel extraction from the definition of “farm land”;
- prohibit pension funds, administrators of pension funds and large investment trusts from purchasing farm land;
- clarify that having an interest in farm land includes any type of interest or benefit, either directly or indirectly, that is normally associated with ownership of land;
- allow the Farm Land Security Board to direct any person acquiring, or proposing to acquire, a farm land holding to complete a statutory declaration in accordance with terms and conditions prescribed in the regulations;
- clarify that a person obtaining, or proposing to obtain, a farm land holding has the burden of proving to the Board that the person is in compliance with the Act;

- increase fines for committing an offence under the farm ownership provisions from \$10,000 to \$50,000 for individuals, and from \$100,000 to \$500,000 for corporations;
- authorize the Board to impose administrative penalties of up to \$10,000 for contraventions of the Act’s farm ownership provisions;
- clarify that the Board may, for the purposes of investigations, conduct hearings at any time and place within Saskatchewan that the Board considers appropriate;
- grant authority to the Lieutenant Governor in Council to prescribe additional rules in the regulations respecting farm land ownership; and
- implement gender-neutral language within the Act.

This Act came into force on January 4, 2016.

***The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2015**

(Bill 158) Chapter 20

This Act amends *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Act* to:

- establish procedures for the division of a pension on the breakdown of the spousal relationship of a member;
- permit the Board of Trustees to allow the Fund to implement unitization;
- authorize the Board to establish specialty investment funds for members;
- update sections that enable transfers into the Plan of money in certain other locked in pension accounts;
- allow the Board to introduce new retirement products to members; and
- repeal *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013*, as the provisions of that Bill are included in these amendments.

This Act will come into force on proclamation.

***The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2015**

(Bill 153) Chapter 21

This Act amends over 100 Acts to update out of date language, ensure gender neutral language is used, and correct grammatical and reference errors.

This Act came into force on May 14, 2015, except section 23, which will come into force on the coming into force of *The Lobbyists Act*; and subsection 64(3) and Schedule 3, which will come into force on the coming into force of Part XXI of *The Credit Union Act, 1998*.

***The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2015 (No. 2) /
Loi no 2 de 2015 modifiant le droit législatif**

(Bill 154) Chapter 22

This Act amends 12 bilingual Acts to update out of date language, ensure gender neutral language is used, and correct grammatical and reference errors.

This Act came into force on May 14, 2015.

***The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2015**

(Bill 176) Chapter 23

This Act amends *The Traffic Safety Act* to implement a three-day licence suspension for a driver operating a commercial vehicle that is seized and impounded. The circumstances in which licences will be suspended and the procedures to be followed for a review of the suspension are outlined in the regulations.

This Act came into force on April 30, 2015.

**The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous Measures)
Amendment Act, 2015**

(Bill 185) Chapter 33

This Act amends *The Traffic Safety Act* to:

- protect data gathered with facial recognition technology used with driver's licences in Saskatchewan;
- increase the length of time to complete an educational or recovery program following a drinking and driving offence from 90 to 120 days;
- allow specific helmet, face shield, safety glasses and goggles requirements to be prescribed in the regulations;
- allow the registration of an impounded vehicle to be cancelled by the owner;
- clarify the definition of "owner" to confirm that it includes owners of vehicles that are registered in any jurisdiction; and
- implement other housekeeping amendments.

This Act came into force on November 19, 2015, except the amendment to the definition of "owner", which is retroactive in effect to July 1, 2006.

***The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment
Act, 2015**

(Bill 144) Chapter 24

The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2015 renames *The Victims of Domestic Violence Act* as *The Victims of Interpersonal Violence Act*. Other amendments provide for:

- extending non-contact provisions to prohibit contact at the victim's school and workplace in the case of an emergency intervention order;
- listing harassment and deprivation of necessities as prohibited interpersonal violence;
- direction for a Justice of the Peace on matters that should or should not be taken into account when deciding whether to grant an emergency intervention order;
- extending the scope of the Act to include care giving relationships regardless of cohabitation; and
- modernizing the Act to include prohibitions on electronic contacts between parties.

This Act came into force on May 14, 2015.

***The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential
Amendment Act, 2015/Loi de 2015 portant
modification corrélative à la loi intitulée The
Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential
Amendment Act, 2015**

(Bill 152) Chapter 25

The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2015 is the bilingual companion legislation to *The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2014*. The Act amends the bilingual *Queen's Bench Act, 1998* to update the reference in that Act from *The Victims of Domestic Violence Act* to *The Victims of Interpersonal Violence Act*.

This Act came into force on May 14, 2015.

***The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2015 / Loi de
2015 modifiant la Loi de 2009 sur les services de
l'état civil**

(Bill 148) Chapter 26

This Act amends *The Vital Statistics Act, 2009* to:

- allow birth, death, stillbirth and marriage statements to be submitted electronically;
- enable nurse practitioners to sign medical certificates of death and stillbirth and allow for additional prescribed practitioners to be added in the future;

- update provisions respecting the disclosure of vital statistics information by the Registrar of Vital Statistics and e-Health Saskatchewan;
- authorize the Minister, on the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to enter into an agreement with a person or agency to provide the person or agency with vital statistics information for specified purposes; and
- implement additional housekeeping changes.

This Act came into force on January 1, 2016.

***The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2015 / Loi de 2015 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune**

(Bill 161) Chapter 27

Section 10 amended on Third Reading

This Act amends *The Wildlife Act, 1998* to:

- clarify the licensing authority for scientific permits;
- improve legislative authority to manage vendor responsibility for hunting and angling issuance;
- implement additional hunting suspensions;
- lengthen the amount of time wildlife officers have to bring forward charges for wildlife violations.

This Act came into force on July 1, 2015.

These Bills were introduced in 2014 but not passed until 2015. The short titles of these Bills were corrected by the Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel, to indicate the year in which the Act was passed and received Royal Assent.