Human Resources Legislative Update

Occupational Health and Safety Legislation Introduced

Date: March 4, 2011

On March 3, 2011, the Ontario government introduced Bill 160, the *Occupational Health and Safety Statute Law Amendment Act, 2011* (PDF).

The proposed Bill 160 amendments, which are intended to respond to the recommendations provided by the Expert Panel on Occupational Health and Safety, would significantly amend the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* ("OHSA"), by:

- empowering the Minister of Labour (the "Minister") to establish standards for training programs and training providers, and collect information and maintain records of workers' successful completion of approved training programs;
- empowering the Minister to establish training and certification standards for members of joint health and safety committees;
- requiring constructors or employers to provide health and safety representatives with training;
- enabling the co-chair of a joint health and safety committee to make written recommendations to a constructor or employer if the committee fails to reach consensus; and
- authorizing a Director designated under section 6 to establish policies respecting the interpretation, administration and enforcement of the OHSA, and to require an inspector to follow such policies.