Human Resources Legislative Update

Affordable Housing Legislation (Bill 140) Passes Second Reading

Date: March 11, 2011

On March 8, 2011, Bill 140, *Strong Communities Through Affordable Housing Act*, carried at Second Reading and was ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy.

Bill 140 would, if passed, repeal the *Social Housing Reform Act, 2000* and enact the *Housing Services Act, 2010*. The legislation relates to the provision of housing and homelessness services under provincial oversight. Among other measures, the proposed legislation:

- sets out defined matters of “provincial interest” relating to housing and homelessness services and provides for Ministerial policy statements on such matters;
- requires prescribed housing and homelessness plans to address the matters of provincial interest and be consistent with the Ministerial policy statements;
- provides for the designation of “service managers” (i.e. a municipality or a district social services administration board) and their service areas by regulation;
- sets out the general powers and duties of service managers, including reporting to the Minister and public; and
- sets out the rules governing the operation of defined “local housing corporations”.