

Human Resources Legislative Update

Ontario Government Introduces Budget 2013

Date: May 3, 2013

On May 2, 2013, the Ontario government tabled its Budget 2013, "[A Prosperous and Fair Ontario](#)" as well as [Bill 65, Prosperous and Fair Ontario Act \(Budget Measures\), 2013](#), legislation which, if passed, would implement certain initiatives contained in the Budget.

Among other things, the measures contained in the Budget of interest to employers include:

- reaffirmation that the compensation restraint measures imposed by Part II.1 of the [Broader Public Sector Accountability Act, 2010](#) are to remain in effect until the elimination of the deficit;
- a review of compensation practices for executives in the Broader Public Sector;
- commitments to consider possible "modest enhancements" to the CPP and to commence consultations regarding the viability of implementing Pooled Registered Pension Plans in Ontario;
- a review of the Court of Appeal for Ontario decision in *Carrigan v. Carrigan Estate* regarding spousal entitlements under the [Pension Benefits Act](#);
- an intention to amend the pension benefit legislation to permit the transfer of assets from and/or conversion of a single employer pension plan ("SEPP") to a jointly sponsored pension plan ("JSPP");
- a proposed increase of the Employer Health Tax exemptions for small businesses, from \$400,000 to \$450,000;
- the establishment of a Minimum Wage Advisory Panel to review the minimum wage rates in Ontario; and
- additional funding to hire more officers and staff to enhance enforcement of the [Employment Standards Act, 2000](#).

An *FTR Now* providing a more detailed analysis of the Budget proposals will be available shortly on our [website](#).

For an analysis of the *Carrigan v. Carrigan Estate* decision, see our *FTR Now* of March 28, 2013 "[Supreme Court Denies Leave in Carrigan](#)."