

Human Resources Legislative Update

Federal Budget Implementation Legislation Introduced

Date: April 11, 2017

On April 11, 2017, the federal government introduced [Bill C-44](#), the *Budget Implementation Act, 2017, No. 1*, omnibus legislation that would enact various measures outlined in its [2017 Budget](#).

The accompanying [Department of Finance Backgrounder](#) indicates that Bill C-44 would, among other things, amend the *Employment Insurance Act* to:

- allow parents to choose to receive Employment Insurance (EI) parental benefits over an extended period of up to 18 months at a lower benefit rate of 33 per cent of average weekly earnings, or to receive EI at the existing benefit rate of 55 per cent over a period of up to 12 months
- permit women to claim EI maternity benefits up to 12 weeks before their due date, instead of the current standard of 8 weeks.

The above changes would be effective as of the 2017 tax year.

Bill C-44 further proposes supporting amendments to the *Canada Labour Code* to, among other things, increase the maximum length of parental leave and extend the period prior to the estimated date of birth when the maternity leave may begin.

We are reviewing [Bill C-44](#) and will be providing you with further updates on our website.