

# **Business Law Update**

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## 1. Amendments to OBCA

Ontario's Bill 152, an omnibus piece of legislation that was enacted late last year as Chapter 34 of the Statutes of Ontario, 2006 and will come into effect on August 1, 2007, amended, *inter alia*, the Ontario Business Corporations Act. A recent Law Times article, Bill 152 Good News for Public Companies highlights some of the resulting changes, and quotes Wayne Gray of McMillan Binch Mendelsohn LLP, author of a detailed summary of the legislation.

## 2. Sentencing for Workplace Safety Breach: P.C.

In *R. v. De Fehr Furniture Ltd.*, 2007 CanLII 13899 (MB P.C.), the corporate defendant pled guilty to a charge of breaching a provision of *The Workplace Safety and Health Act*. Taking into account the company's acknowledgement of a failure to properly supervise its employees, the guilty plea, the fact that this is a relatively large employer in Winnipeg, the fact that a serious and permanent injury was sustained, as well as the fact that the accused implemented a variety of safety training and other steps in follow up to the injury, the court orders a fine of \$17,000 plus costs of \$5,940 and a victim surcharge of \$3,400.

## 3. Update on Small Claims

Small Claims Court can be an important tool for business clients seeking to collect outstanding accounts. For an update on the procedures in this court as well as a review of the recent amendments to *The Court of Queen's Bench Small Claims Practices Act*, attend the upcoming Law Society CLE program, *Small Claims Court: Amendments, Significant Decisions & Practical Considerations* on June 19. For more details, please visit our website.

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