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1. Expedited Service Changes at Companies Office

The Companies Office advises that due to the significant increase in requests for expedited service, the service has been reorganized to ensure that it can continue to meet client expectations. Therefore, effective January 28, 2008, the following changes to expedited service will occur:

- If your request for "expedited service" is received before 11:00 a.m. your documents will be ready by 11:00 a.m. the next working day (same day service will normally no longer be offered); and
 - A Request for Service will be required when filing all documents on an expedited basis (*i.e.* including Business Name Registrations). This form has been modified to include a section that must be completed when requesting expedited service (section E). This form is available on the [Companies Office web site](#).
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2. Manitoba Business Tax Reductions

On December 28, 2007, Finance Minister Greg Selinger announced reductions in the business income tax, which took effect January 1, 2008, and included the following:

- The small business tax rate was reduced from 3% to 2%.
- The corporate capital tax rate was reduced from 0.5% to 0.4% for corporations with taxable paid-up capital over \$20 million, and from 0.3% to 0.2% for corporations with taxable paid-up capital between \$10 million and \$20 million.
- The refundable portion of the Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit was increased to 70 per cent from 35 per cent.

For further details of the tax reductions, see the December 28, 2007 [press release](#).

3. Bill C-12 Receives Royal Assent

[*An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, the Wage Earner Protection Program Act and chapter 47 of the Statutes of Canada, 2005*](#), S.C. 2007, c.36 received Royal Assent on December 14, 2007. Section 113, the Act contains the information on coming into force. For more information on the legislation (previously known as Bill C-12 and before that, as Bill C-62), see the website of the [Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals](#).

4. Upcoming Franchise Law Symposium

On March 14, 2008, the Asper Chair of International Business and Trade Law and the Desautels Centre for Private Enterprise and the Law will present a *Franchise Law Symposium*. Complete details of the day's sessions, including speaker bios, advance reading materials and an online registration form can be found on the [University of Manitoba website](#).

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