

Ontario to Launch Public Consultations on Labour Laws

Province Aims to Address the Changing Workplace

NEWS

February 17, 2015

This spring, Ontario will launch public consultations on the changing nature of the modern workplace.

The public consultations will focus how the Labour Relations Act, 1995 ([link](#)) and Employment Standards Act, 2000 ([link](#)) could be amended to best protect workers while supporting businesses in our changing economy.

Workplace trends that will be examined include:

- The increase in non-standard working relationships such as temporary jobs, part-time work, and self-employment.
- The rising prominence of the service sector.
- Globalization and trade liberalization.
- Accelerating technological change.
- Greater workplace diversity.

Two special advisors will lead the consultations: C. Michael Mitchell, formerly of Sack Goldblatt Mitchell LLP, and the Honourable John C. Murray, a former justice of the Ontario Superior Court and prominent management labour lawyer. Following the conclusions of the consultations, the advisors will provide the government with a written report and recommendations.

Reviewing the changing nature of the workplace is part of the government's economic plan for Ontario. The four-part plan is building Ontario up by investing in people's talents and skills, building new public infrastructure like roads and transit, creating a dynamic, supportive environment where business thrives and building a secure savings plan so everyone can afford to retire.

QUOTES

"Our government agrees with business and workers who want our laws to recognize the realities of the modern economy. The Special Advisors will engage with Ontarians so we can ensure our workplace laws strike the right balance in the new world of work, and I look forward to reading their report."

— Kevin Flynn, Minister of Labour

QUICK FACTS

- Non-standard employment (which includes part-time, temporary, self-employment and job sharing) has grown almost twice as fast as standard employment since 1997.
- Private sector services account for more than half of employment in Ontario.

LEARN MORE

Read the [Backgrounder](#) on the two Special Advisors for the consultation.

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