



# Acoustical Association Ontario

Provincial in scope ...

Provincial in outlook

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## Executive Director's Report

### Bill 147

REPEAL MUCH OF BILL 148 & WIND DOWN THE COLLEGE OF TRADES



BILL 47, *Making Ontario Open For Business Act*, was introduced in the house on October 23, 2018 (See The Mathews Dindale Minute in this newsletter for more details).

The Act is presently in second reading debate, after which if carried will go to Committee Hearings, Third Reading then Royal Assent. As the final day approaches for the current government session, December 13, 2018, the government is acting swiftly to get this legislation through by year end. AAO is monitoring the progress of this legislation.

### WSIB Claims

New Document Upload Toll



The WSIB is making it easier and faster for employers to send claim information. By going to their website, you can complete and submit forms, letters and documents related to WSIB claims, online.

[http://www.wsib.on.ca/WSIBPortal/faces/WSIBDetailPage?cGUID=WSIB073925&rDef=WSIB\\_RD\\_ARTICLE&\\_afLoop=755728238677000&\\_afWindowMode=0&\\_afWindowId=12q0kyk3x2\\_126#%40%3FcGUID%3DWSIB073925%26\\_afWindowId%3D12q0kyk3x2\\_126%26\\_afLoop%3D755728238677000%26rDef%3DWSIB\\_RD\\_ARTICLE%26\\_afWindowMode%3D0%26\\_adf.ctrl-state%3D12q0kyk3x2\\_154](http://www.wsib.on.ca/WSIBPortal/faces/WSIBDetailPage?cGUID=WSIB073925&rDef=WSIB_RD_ARTICLE&_afLoop=755728238677000&_afWindowMode=0&_afWindowId=12q0kyk3x2_126#%40%3FcGUID%3DWSIB073925%26_afWindowId%3D12q0kyk3x2_126%26_afLoop%3D755728238677000%26rDef%3DWSIB_RD_ARTICLE%26_afWindowMode%3D0%26_adf.ctrl-state%3D12q0kyk3x2_154)

Forms for businesses that can be completed online include:

- Registration
- Claims
- Employer Coverage
- Health and Safety, and
- Premiums

### Upcoming Events

November 2018



**IHSA Drywall Labour-Management Committee Meeting** - November 1, 2018 (Paul Gunning attending)

**IUPAT Meeting – General Secretary-Treasurer George Galis** - November 27, 2018 (Paul Gunning attending)

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# Mathews Minute



## Bill 47

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If always seems that as the political pendulum swings from left to right and back again, labour and employment laws are on the front line. Nowhere was this clearer than in Ontario over the last year.

In late 2017, the then Liberal Ontario government drove through sweeping changes to the Employment Standards Act, 2000 (the “ESA”) and the Labour Relations Act, 1995 (the “LRA”) as well as making amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The Bill implementing the changes was called Bill 148. The Liberal government positioned these changes in their press releases as designed to ensure “fairness” in the Ontario working world. Not surprisingly, these changes were applauded by trade unions and workers advocate groups and decried by most voices in the business sector.

Last spring’s election brought a change in government, deposing the Wynn Liberals in favour of Doug Ford’s Conservative. While other issues appeared to be the government focus through the summer and early fall, rumours started to be heard that they were now focussing on Bill 148 and that it might be subject to wholesale repeal. While not a wholesale repeal, the plan for Bill 148 saw the light of day on Tuesday, October 23rd when Bill 47 received first readings. The first version of Bill 47 includes the following:

- holding the minimum wage at \$14.00/hr instead of the planned further increase to \$15.00;
- replacing the 10 Personal Emergency Leave days (2 of which are currently paid) with leave for sickness (three days in a year), leave for urgent matters involving family members (3 days in a year) and leave for bereavement (2 days in a year), none of which are paid, and restoring employer rights to require doctor’s notes as proof of the grounds for absence;
- eliminating scheduling rules that allowed employees to request changes to their schedules;
- repealing provisions of the LRA that allowed unions to apply for an employee list with personal contact information if they had the support of 20% of the employees in the unit;
- looking at de-prescribing 24 low volume trades who currently require certificates under the Ontario College of Trades & Apprenticeship Act, 2009;
- lowering apprenticeship to journeyman ratios;
- reducing regulatory burdens for businesses, apprentices and journeypersons.

The response was quick, with most employer groups supporting the proposed changes and worker groups decrying the loss of what they now appear to consider fundamental rights. Sadly, it went so far that the Minister of Labour’s constituency office was broken into and vandalized including furniture being overturned and the message “Attack workers we fight back \$15” spray painted on the building where her office is located.

Many of the provisions of Bill 148 that the government plans to repeal were set to kick in on January 1st, 2019 so the government will have to hurry. Bill 148 went through many revisions as it made its way into law and it will be interesting to see if there are any changes to Bill 47 through this process.

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## November 2018



### UPCOMING Mathews Dinsdale Seminars/Webinars

Copy the following URL to your browser to register for new sessions or review archived session videos:

<http://www.mathewsdinsdale.com> (see right side)

**Webinar : OHS IN CANADA: THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2018** - 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm, Thursday November 22, 2018

If you have any questions, please call me at 519-671-5930.

Paul Gunning  
Executive Director