Minimum Wage Increase



Effective June 1, 2014, the minimum wage in Ontario has increased to $11.00 per hour. The student minimum wage is now $10.30 per hour and the liquor services minimum wage is now $9.55 per hour.

Health and Safety Deadline

Effective July 1, 2014, all Ontario employers are required to ensure that their employees have received mandatory safety awareness training under the *Occupational Health & Safety Awareness and Training Regulation*.

New Leave of Absences for Ontario Employees

On April 29, 2014, Bill 21 received Royal Assent. It provides employees with the following additional leaves of absence:

1. **Family Caregiver Leave**: an employee is entitled to up to 8 weeks' unpaid leave per year to provide care and support to an immediate family member who has a serious medical condition.
2. **Critically Ill Child Care Leave**: an employee with at least six months' service is entitled to an unpaid leave of absence of up to 52 weeks to care for a critically ill child. The leave may be extended for an additional 52 weeks if the child remains critically ill.
3. **Crime-related Child Death or Disappearance Leave**: an employee is entitled to an unpaid leave of absence of up to 104 weeks if their child dies as a result of a crime. An employee is also entitled to an unpaid leave of up to 52 weeks if their child disappears as a result of a crime.

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