

Government Orders

Flis	Foster
Gaffney	Gagliano
Gauthier	Gray (Windsor West)
Grey (Beaver River)	Guarnieri
Harb	Harvard
Heap	Hovdebo
Hunter	Jordan
Kaplan	Karpoff
Karygiannis	Keyes
Kindy	Langan (Mission—Coquitlam)
Langdon (Essex—Windsor)	Laporte
LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso)	Lee
MacAulay	MacDonald (Dartmouth)
MacLaren	MacLellan
MacWilliam	Manley
Marchi	Marleau
Martin (Lasalle—Émard)	McCurdy
McGuire	Mifflin
Milliken	Mills
Mitchell	Murphy
Nault	Nowlan
Nunziata	Nystrom
Ouellet	Pagtakhan
Parent	Parker
Peterson	Phinney
Pickard	Piamondon
Proud	Prud'homme
Rideout	Riis
Rodriguez	Rompkey
Samson	Skelly (North Island—Powell River)
Skelly (Comox—Alberni)	Speller
Stewart	Stupich
Taylor	Tobin
Vanclief	Waddell
Walker	Wappel
Wood	Young (Acadie—Bathurst)—102

PAIRED—MEMBERS

nil/aucun

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I declare the motion adopted.

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CANADA LABOUR CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour) moved that Bill C-101, an act to amend the Canada Labour Code and the Public Service Staff Relations Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Human Resources envelope.

• (1550)

He said: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address hon. members on the second reading of federal labour legislation which will reduce administrative and cost burdens, increase efficiency and competitiveness and enhance labour-management co-operation.

The proposed amendments to the Canada Labour Code are in a balanced package. They benefit employers, employees and government and are also timely. With the

support of this House we can move forward together to increase our investment in people and the ability of Canadian enterprises to be more competitive.

The majority of the amendments I am proposing relate to federal labour standards contained in the Canada Labour Code. These proposals were developed over a two-year period in partnership with federally regulated employer and employee representatives, the very parties affected by the changes. Some 700,000 working Canadians will benefit from these changes to federal labour standards.

The issues addressed in this proposal include streamlining modifications to standards, clarifying the relationship between minimum labour standards and collective agreements, more effective collection of unpaid wages, provision of wage and employment protection for workers injured on the job, greater flexibility in the timing of parental leave and maternity related reassignment.

I am also proposing the addition of a provision to the Canada Labour Code and the Public Service Staff Relations Act. These amendments will serve the public interest by providing an additional mechanism which could assist in the settlement of collective bargaining disputes.

[Translation]

I will give a few examples of the ways in which the proposed amendments to the Canada Labour Code will benefit employers and employees. Streamlining the procedure for modifying labour standards such as duration of work, annual leave and statutory holidays will benefit the employer.

Clarification of federal powers concerning wage and unemployment protection for workers injured on the job and the relationship between minimum labour standards and collective agreements will help save time and money and prevent overlap and duplication.

Pregnant and nursing workers will have the right to request reassignment, a change in their tasks or even a period of leave if their health is at stake. Employees injured on the job will benefit under provisions that guarantee wage protection, maintenance of social benefits and resumption of employment. New parents will be able to take parental leave at the time they see fit, during the first year in which they have an infant in their care.