

2. **Developments in the statute law**

In June, 1991, the President of the Treasury Board introduced into the House of Commons the Bill to establish the Public Service Reform Act. The Bill is aimed at significantly reducing red tape and modernizing the way in which the public service operates. It is just one step in the implementation of the recommendations of PS 2000.

This Bill, if passed into law, would among other things, streamline procedures for settling disputes between the government and its employees and provide for a wider range of acceptable solutions; major changes would occur with respect to the recruitment, deployment, promotion and release of civil servants. Amendments to the Bill have been suggested with respect to the classification of government positions.

In addition to this legislative initiative, other PS 2000 generated changes are being introduced in the public service. The current practice of splitting budgets into three: one for person years, one for operations and one for capital expenditures, may be replaced by one operating budget to cover salaries, operational and minor capital expenditures. In this new system, person year controls would be removed and managers would have more flexibility but also more accountability for making expenditures necessary for the delivery of the government programs for which they are responsible.

3. **The Strike**

Our Unit advised the EAITC Strike Committee on a variety of legal matters arising from the public service strike in September, 1991. Advice was given on limits to picketing on government premises and on the documentary requirements that must be met in the event that injunctions were required to restrain picketers.

Our Unit was in daily contact with our sister legal services unit at Treasury Board and the Justice objective of providing consistent legal advice across the government on the strike was achieved. This was in large measure due to good preparation: weeks in advance of the strike, the relevant law was reviewed, briefings were held, precedents and checklists were prepared and lines of communication were set.