



Issue Update

New Approach for Employment Standards

The Ministry of Skills Development and Labour has announced a new program designed to promote healthy workplace relationships.

The pilot program is based on an agreement signed between the provincial government and the B.C. Restaurant and Foodservices Association. Under the agreement an employment standards branch officer is designated to work exclusively with the association to educate members of the association and workers on issues relating to employment standards. Payroll information will be reviewed and disputes mediated in an effort to be pro-active and improve voluntary compliance.

According to a Ministry of Skills Development and Labour news release the new program is expected to protect vulnerable workers while increasing prosperity in the workplace. Labour Minister Graham Bruce indicated that this model could potentially be a fit for other industries.

The Alberta government instituted a similar model for the restaurant and food service industry in 2000, with apparent success in reducing employment standards complaints.

The BC Construction Association will be interested in the results of this program and considering its potential for the construction industry.

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The mission of the BCCA is to provide leadership and excellence in the representation of, and service to, British Columbia's construction industry.