

Growth, Enterprise and Trade

Labour and Regulatory Services

The current government has weakened programs and services for workplace safety and health, labour relations and employment standards through the introduction of legislation that is hostile to workers. Removal of card check, *The Public Service Sustainability Act*, being contested in the courts by the Manitoba Federation of Labour¹ (this act freezes public sector wages); amendments to the *Workplace Safety and Health Act* and proposed amendments to *The Labour Relations Act* are just a few examples.

The APB reflects workers' position that *The Public Service Sustainability Act* impedes workers' legal right to collective bargaining and should be abandoned. The APB sets aside a fund to support any wage increase arising from the reinstatement of standard collective bargaining practices. Details are provided in the Revenue section.

Conciliation and Mediation Services

Bill 18: *The Labour Relations Amendment Act*² would privatize Conciliation and Mediation Services. The government has not withdrawn this legislation even though the Labour and Manage-

ment Review Committee unanimously opposed dissolution of publically provided services.

Although the Bill is stalled, the office has been reduced to one employee who works with few resources. The APB restores the Conciliation and Mediation Services office to its original state and, in doing so, provides support to good jobs and economic development by preventing and reducing labour disputes.

New Expenditure: \$.8M

Worker Advisor Office

This provincial office provides free and confidential help to workers (and their families) who are dealing with the Workers Compensation Board (WCB). Navigating the WCB system while sick or injured can be confusing and stressful. The Worker Advisor Office provides valuable advice and support to workers when they need it most.

Unfortunately, the current government has not been filling positions, leaving the office under-staffed. The APB funds three new staff so the office can better fulfill its mandate.

New Expenditure: \$.275M

Workplace Health and Safety Inspectors
A dwindling of inspectors means that the department cannot properly fulfill its mandate to carry out “targeted enforcement activities of workplaces and industries throughout the province in order to

ensure high risk hazards are effectively managed”.³
The APB funds the hiring of six new inspectors.
New Expenditure: \$.8M

Total New Operating Expenditure: \$1.875M

¹ Kusch, Larry. 10/7/2019. “Pallister government seeks adjournment in public-sector wage trial.” *Winnipeg Free Press*. Available at: <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/pallister-government-to-examine-constitutionality-of-its-public-sector-wage-law-562476782.html>

² <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/41-4/bo18e.php>

³ <https://www.manitoba.ca/labour/safety/enforcement.html>