

ANNOUNCEMENT

On November 30, 2000, Bill No. 75 the *Law Reform (2000) Act* received royal assent. Section VIII of this Act amends certain sections of the *Pension Benefits Act* effective June 4, 2001, as follows:

Clause 26 amends the definition of "spouse" in the *Pension Benefits Act* by repealing Section 2(aj)(iv) and adds a definition of "common-law partner" under Section 2(ga).

Clause 27 repeals Section 61 of the *Pension Benefits Act*, which deals with the division of pension benefits on marriage breakdown, and replaces it with a new Section providing for the division of pensions or pension benefits as prescribed.

Clause 28 adds a provision to the *Pension Benefits Act* providing for garnishment or attachment of pension benefits, retirement savings or annuities pursuant to the *Maintenance Enforcement Act*.

Clause 29 amends the regulation-making power in the *Pension Benefits Act* in relation to division of pensions and pension benefits on the breakdown of a marriage or common-law partnership and adds regulation-making powers in relation to the division of benefits.

Clause 30 amends various provisions of the *Pension Benefits Act* to extend the application of that Act to common law partners.

The *Law Reform (2000) Act* can be viewed at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca> under "legislation."

Draft Regulations relating to these amendments will be released for public comment in the spring of this year and will be posted on this site.