

## INFORMATION SHEET

### WHAT IS EXPEDITED ARBITRATION?

Expedited arbitration is a mechanism for resolving rights disputes (grievances). The objectives of expedited arbitration are to:

- reduce delays in scheduling arbitration hearings;
- manage the costs of hearings; and
- establish statutory time frames for the issuance of a binding award/decision.

### WHO DOES EXPEDITED ARBITRATION APPLY TO?

The *Trade Union Act* was amended effective October 1, 2006 to include an expedited arbitration process for organized workplaces governed by:

- the *Trade Union Act* (Part I only);
- the *Civil Service Bargaining Act*;
- the *Corrections Act*; and
- the *Highway Workers Collective Bargaining Act*.

### HOW DOES EXPEDITED ARBITRATION WORK?

Either the union or the employer may apply to the Minister of Environment and Labour for the appointment of an arbitrator if:

- the grievance procedures under their collective agreement have been exhausted;
- five months or more have passed since the dispute was referred to arbitration; and
- no hearings have been commenced to resolve the dispute.

The Minister of Environment and Labour will appoint a single arbitrator, and order that a hearing be set down. The Minister may also order the arbitrator to issue a decision within a fixed time. The union and employer share the costs of the arbitration equally.

A committee has also been established to advise the Minister about the process of selecting arbitrators, and other arbitration matters. The Arbitration Advisory Committee is composed of three employer representatives; three trade union representatives; and a neutral chair, chosen by the Minister.

For more information about expedited arbitration, please contact the Labour Services Division at (902) 424-7904; or 1 (877) 424-6730.