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For Immediate Release
December 8, 2005

NEW LAW TO END MANDATORY RETIREMENT WILL ALLOW ONTARIANS TO DECIDE WHEN TO RETIRE

Plan Offers Fairness And Choice; Protects Existing Rights And Benefits

TORONTO — Ontario's new law to end mandatory retirement will provide greater fairness and choice for workers aged 65 and older, Labour Minister Steve Peters announced today.

“Ending mandatory retirement is the right thing to do. It provides choice and removes discrimination in the workplace against older workers without undermining existing rights to pensions, early retirement and benefits plans,” said Peters.

The Ending Mandatory Retirement Statute Law Amendment Act is expected to receive Royal Assent shortly. The legislation will take effect one year later.

“We want to give Ontarians time to get ready for the change. Some employers, for instance, may need to adapt their human resources policies and practices to comply with the law,” said Peters. “People are healthier and living longer so it is unfair to insist that they stop working simply because they turn 65. Ending mandatory retirement allows workers to decide when to retire based on lifestyle, circumstance and priorities.”

The Ontario Human Rights Code will protect people aged 65 and over from age discrimination for most employment purposes. The legislation also amends a variety of other statutes that have provisions connected to mandatory retirement.

Public inquiries may be made by calling 1-800-531-5551.

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