

Payroll leadership leads Alberta government to cut red tape

The Canadian Payroll Association has been actively engaged with the Alberta Government, advocating for legislative changes to ease the administrative burden on payroll by reducing unnecessary red tape.

On July 29, 2020, that effort bore fruit when Bill 32, the Restoring Balance in Alberta’s Workplaces Act, received Royal Assent. The Bill includes several of the 16 recommendations shared by the Association with the provincial government in 2019 that are [summarized here](#). Just one of these recommendations, allowing businesses more time to provide terminated employees with their final pay, has the potential to save Albertan employers \$100 million annually in administrative costs — while ensuring the right of every working Canadian to be paid accurately.

The key to achieving this result was consistency.

Following our recommendations, we were hopeful that they would make their way into the 2019 provincial budget. They did not, but the commitment made by the government that, “Red tape will be removed from government processes [...],” indicated high-level alignment.

The Canadian Payroll Association responded by issuing this press release, which reiterated that “Payroll is ready to help the government achieve [the] critical and forward-looking goals,” it set forth. And in late November, we asked members to raise the voice of payroll by completing a government survey to gain “input on potential changes to employment standards rules [...].”

Since that time, and throughout 2020, the Canadian Payroll Association has continued to collaborate with the Alberta government. We met with both Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, and Grant Hunter, Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction (in person and virtually). We highlighted the contributions of payroll in discussions with top-level officials. And we asked, at every opportunity, for the implementation of sensible payroll-related reforms that benefit payroll and Albertan employers.

On July 29, 2020, that effort bore fruit – but we’re certainly not finished. In the weeks since and the months to come, the Association will continue to work with the government to ensure the new legislation does not inadvertently impact payroll processes and practices. And that the needs of our members and the greater payroll community are understood by policymakers and bureaucrats alike. As more information with regards to implementation is released, we will be sure to share the details on Late-Breaking Payroll News.