### **VACCINES IN THE WORKPLACE**

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS WEEK



With BC exceeding its vaccination targets, regulations lifting and the reintegration of employees to the workplace on the horizon, employers are now faced with trying to navigate the changing dynamic of vaccines and the workplace. We anticipate that changes to legislation could happen on short notice and have created this Round-Up to help employers stay informed in a situation that is so rapidly evolving.

Here are a few important things I thought worth sharing this week:

### **OUR INSIGHTS**

1. I'll be moderating our next Ask Us Anything webinar which will address the legal and logistical implications of Covid vaccinations and the workplace. You can learn more about and register for the Harper Grey's upcoming "Ask Us Anything: Vaccinations in the Workplace" webinar <a href="here">here</a>.

#### IN THE NEWS

- 3. Federal public service unions support vaccine mandates but say letting managers determine who receives accommodation opens the "door to discrimination". CTV October 29, 2021- read the article <a href="here">here</a>.

#### **British Columbia**

- 4. Interior Health closes two operating rooms and reduces emergency room hours as vaccine mandate leads to healthcare staffing shortages across BC. Global News November 1, 2021 read the article <a href="here">here</a>.
- 5. Citing high community vaccination rates and potential staffing shortages, Surrey and New Westminster will not mandate vaccines for education staff. CBC November 2, 2021- read the article <a href="here">here</a>.
- 6. As skiers prepare to hit the slopes, Whistler residents anxious about unvaccinated visitors and say proof of vaccination should be required for ski passes and lift tickets. **CBC November 2, 2021-** read the article <u>here</u>.
- 7. BC expands vaccine mandate to include adults coaching or supervising youth sports teams. Vancouver Sun October 28, 2021 read the article here.

## Alberta

8. Proof of vaccination to be required for lift tickets at Alberta's major ski resorts. **Global News - October 22, 2021**- read the article <u>here</u>.

## Ontario

- 9. Ontario Judge lifts temporary injunction against Toronto-area hospital network's mandatory vaccination policy. CBC October 29, 2021 read the article <a href="here">here</a>.
- Ottawa Police Services reverses stance on vaccine mandates, announces all members must be vaccinated by January 31. CBC - October 29, 2021- read the article <u>here</u>.
- 11. The Toronto District School Board extends vaccination deadline for education workers, needs time to address "high number" of medical exemption claims. CTV October 27, 2021 read the article <a href="here">here</a>.

# Quebec

12. Quebec public health director "strongly recommends" education workers be vaccinated but says mandatory vaccination not necessary. CBC - October 27, 2021 - read the article <a href="here">here</a>.

### Nova Scotia

13. Public servants in Nova Scotia who have received first vaccine and are "on the path to full vaccination" to get eight extra weeks to get second shot. CBC - November 2, 2021 - read the article <a href="here">here</a>.

I hope you found this Round-Up helpful. If you have any questions relating to the reopening of your business or reintegration of your staff – our Workplace Law group is here to assist.

If you are seeing this Round-Up for the first time, you can read previous issues <u>here</u>.



Rose Keith, QC rkeith@harpergrey.com 604.895.2911

SUITE 3200 – 650 WEST GEORGIA STREET • VANCOUVER • BC • V6B 4P7 • 604.687.0411 • www.harpergrey.com