

## Parliament Rises for Holiday Season

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament rose for the traditional holiday break on December 14. The session is scheduled to resume on January 29, 2008. In recent days, the normal work of Parliament has been overshadowed by the House Ethics Committee hearings into the Mulroney-Schreiber Affair and these hearings are expected to stretch well into 2008.

The Conservative minority government will spend some time over the holidays preparing its Budget expected early in the New Year. The opposition parties will continue to prepare for the next federal election which Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion has recently stated he will try to precipitate in mid-winter 2008.

## Bill C-12 Passes Senate Banking Committee and Receives Royal Assent

On December 13, the Senate Banking Committee unexpectedly moved Bill C-12, *An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, the Wage Earner Protection Program Act and chapter 47 of the Statutes of Canada, 2005* through clause by clause consideration. The decision to forgo hearings with at least 30 stakeholder groups (including Canadian Central) was made during an *in camera* meeting of the Committee the day before. The Bill was passed by the Senate without amendment and received Royal Assent on December 14.

The Committee issued a report indicating that the bill was passed ".without having conducted our usual comprehensive study and review". The report further noted that. "[W]e are doing so in support of stakeholders who have indicated that certain aspects of the bill should be implemented without delay in order to assist those workers who have unpaid wages or earned vacation pay." At Committee, some of the Senators had expressed concern that a winter election would prevent the Bill from being passed at all. Another concern among Senators was that



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Government Relations Department



the Bill might have been returned to the House of Commons with many amendments and this would, in effect, kill the Bill and the Wage Earner Protection Fund along with it.

Although the Bill has received Royal Assent, it has not yet come into force. Some sections of the Bill will require the development of regulations before they can come into force. Other sections will come into force on dates set by order of the Governor in Council.

It should be noted, the Senate Banking Committee's report indicated that the Committee ".intend(s) to continue our work on this important framework legislation, and will be inviting submissions from stakeholders in early 2008. It is our hope that recommendations made as a consequence of this study will receive serious consideration from the government."

## Anti-Money Laundering Public/ Private Sector Advisory Group

On November 27, the Anti-Money Laundering Public/ Private Sector Advisory Group held its first meeting at the Department of Finance in Ottawa. The group is chaired by Assistant Deputy Minister Serge Dupont and has a mandate to advise the government on issues of common interest and develop approaches for dealing with emerging issues. The group will serve as a discussion forum and will

likely meet twice a year. Canadian Central has a representative on the group.

### Draft Cooperative Credit Associations Act Regulations Published

On December 1, the Department of Finance published draft regulations in the *Canada Gazette Part I* for a 30 day comment period. The draft regulations stem from Bill C-37 amendments to sections 26.01 to 26.06 of the CDIC Act and created new sections 413 to 413.3 to the *Trust and Loan Companies Act* and new sections 378.1 to 378.4 to the *Cooperative Credit Associations Act* to allow trust and loan companies as well as retail associations to accept wholesale deposits without being members of CDIC. However, in order to bring such powers into force regulations needed to be developed that would ensure a consistent framework applies to all deposit institutions that are not members of CDIC. This first package for review includes draft *Cooperative Credit Associations Act* regulations including (follow the link):

1. Notices of Uninsured Deposits Regulations (Retail Associations)
2. Prescribed Deposits (Retail Associations Without Deposit Insurance) Regulations
3. Shared Premises Regulations (Retail Associations)

In the same issue of the *Canada Gazette* the Department of Finance has also published draft Corporate Interrelationships (*Cooperative Credit Associations*) Regulations that aim to mirror draft Corporate Interrelationships (*Bank Act*) Regulations that are published in the same *Canada Gazette*. See: Corporate Interrelationships (Cooperative Credit Associations) Regulations.

These regulations are also subject to a 30 day comment period and are currently being reviewed by Canadian Central's Legislative Affairs Committee. If required, Canadian Central will provide the Department of Finance with a submission on the proposed draft regulations based on Committee feedback. The Department has indicated that further regulations associated with Bill C-37 will be brought forward later this month and during the winter of 2008.

### Update: Government's AgrilInvest Program

As the end of 2007 approaches, the Federal Government is getting ready to discuss technical specifications of the newly created producer savings account with credit unions and other financial institutions. The credit union system, through Canadian Central, will be participating in a government-stakeholder meeting to be held early in 2008. This meeting will focus on the technical aspects of creating and administering such an account. The credit union system will have on hand system representatives with technical knowledge of their respective banking systems so that they can advise the government how best to proceed in these areas.

### Lobbying Act Regulations Expected in 2008

On December 5, the Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, announced a timeline for the tabling of regulations to implement provisions in the Federal Accountability Act during Question Period in the House of Commons. In response to a question from Pat Martin, M.P. (Winnipeg Centre, NDP), Minister Toews stated, "The pre-publication under the lobbyist regulation will take place in January (2008). We are hoping to see implementation next year, perhaps in the middle of the year". Members may view the official transcript from Hansard (Table of Contents /15:00

/ "Lobbyists") at: <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=39&Ses=2&DocId=3179270#SOB-2247984>

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For editorial inquiries or suggestions, please contact:  
Hugh Scott at [Hugh.scott@coopscanada.coop](mailto:Hugh.scott@coopscanada.coop)  
(613) 238-6747 ext. 218

**Credit Union Central of Canada**  
275 Bank Street, Suite 400, Ottawa, ON K2P 2L6  
Tel: 613.238.6747 • Fax: 613.238.7283 • [www.cucentral.ca](http://www.cucentral.ca)