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TRADE UNION LAW IN CANADA M. Mac Neil, M. Lynk and P. Engelmann Release No. 1, February 2026

A resource designed around the concerns of labour unions, Trade Union Law in Canada comprehensively explains the various strands of the law that affect the internal affairs of trade unions. While examining the relationships between unions and their members, Trade Union Law in Canada provides analysis of the legal character of unions, including their legal status, security, and politics, as well as a review of union structures, constitutions, and the election of union leaders. Matters of internal discipline of union members and the duty imposed by law on unions to provide fair representation are examined and clearly explained.

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What’s New in This Update:

This release adds significant material to chapters 4, 5 and 6 to account for over 70 courts and tribunals decisions published between June 2024 and May 2025.

Highlights

- Reorganizes § 4:18 on Union Financial Statements to more clearly articulate differences in the text of financial disclosure obligations across jurisdictions, in order to highlight potential consequences of those differences in existing jurisprudence.
- Updates § 4:25 and adds a new section § 4:26 addressing Alberta’s union dues election regime. These sections address inter alia the Alberta Labour Relations Board’s *Vos* decision, which gives the first substantive interpretation of the “core activities”/ “non-core activities” distinction, and its *Daudlin* decision, which addresses procedural norms for the adjudication of claims based on non-compliance with the dues election provisions.
- Reorganizes the introduction to § 5:10 to more clearly conceptualize the challenges of certification in multi-tiered unions.
- Significantly amends § 6.16 to address the continuing evolution of jurisprudence concerning union standing, in light of Ontario’s *Rights of Labour Act* and changing conceptions of union status instigated by the Supreme Court of Canada’s *Berry v. Pulley* decision.
- Significantly amends § 6:30 to more carefully explain the interaction between collective agreements and labour relations statutes in the regulation of local union representatives.