FOURTH EDITION

LABOUR RELATIONS

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Preface

Labour Relations, Fourth Edition, is intended to provide a practical text for labour relations, industrial relations, and collective bargaining courses. The book is based on the premise that employers, unions, and governments are all key players in labour relations and are affected by a challenging environment. Globalization, demographics, technological innovation, societal views, and other environmental factors pose threats and opportunities for the parties in the labour relations system. To deal with this challenging environment, a book on labour relations should be practical and applied, and should not lose sight of the context.

To meet the need for the practical, this book contains more of the "day-to-day" material required to: understand sources of employee discontent in union work settings; correctly respond to events in a union organizing campaign; grasp the nuances seen in collective bargaining behaviours; negotiate new or renewed collective agreements; and provide leadership in the day-to-day administration of a union contract. Common and unique terms seen in a collective agreement are outlined. The factors affecting the critical union—management relationship are also reviewed.

It is known that there are differences between the Canadian and American labour relations systems; however, the differences between Canadian jurisdictions may not have received the attention they deserve. Significant differences in labour relations policy have developed among Canadian provinces. In some jurisdictions, a union can be certified on the basis of membership cards; in others, a representation vote is mandatory. In some jurisdictions, the labour relations board has the authority to certify a union without a vote as a remedy for employer unfair labour practices. Most jurisdictions allow employers to use replacement workers during a strike; however, some restrict the use of replacement workers. Some jurisdictions prevent a union from terminating an employee's union membership for any reason other than failure to pay dues. Students do not need to know what the rules are for all jurisdictions, but it will help them to understand and appreciate the policy options that have been adopted in their jurisdiction if they are aware of the alternatives. Policy options are referred to throughout the text. In the final chapter, there is a new emphasis paid to employee relations. It must be remembered that one in three employees in Canadian work settings are union members. Human resources professionals in such work environments must also provide advice and counsel to line managers in areas related to the needs and demands of both management and non-unionized employees.

CHANGES TO THE FOURTH EDITION

A number of changes have been made to this edition to provide key concepts to human resources professionals and better prepare students for the National Knowledge Exam (Comprehensive Knowledge Exam in Ontario). The following are some of the more noteworthy updates and revisions:

- Opening vignettes. Several new vignettes have been written to introduce the reader to
 the topical content in each chapter. These short accounts draw on recent topical items
 that reflect the interplay between unions, employers, workers and society.
- Review and discussion questions. Based on user feedback, these end-of-chapter activities have been revised and updated to facilitate student understanding and application of key concepts and principles related to labour relations.
- Collective bargaining rights. Chapter 6 has been slightly revised to update and clarify external factors affecting unionization and the reasons why individuals consider seeking union representation. Content related to certification has been updated to take advantage of student access to online information.

- Collective agreements. In addition to a new opening vignette, Chapter 7's comprehensive outline of collective agreement structure and language has been enhanced with clarifications of topics related to union membership and union security.
- Contract negotiation. Chapter 9 has been updated in its perspectives on external factors that may influence union—management relationships as well as management bargaining team composition. Discussion questions have been reframed to facilitate more indepth exploration of key topics and concepts.
- Contract administration. In Chapter 9, the section dealing with grievance procedures has been revised and updated. Enhancements to the Web-research section at the end of the chapter will facilitate further exploration of grievance-related resources available on union websites.
- Public sector labour relations. Chapter 11 has been revised to reflect developments in key external forces challenging unions in this sector.
- Employee relations focus. In keeping with the HR credentialling body's interest in balancing knowledge resources toward both labour relations and employee relations, Chapter 12 reflects an introduction to key aspects of employee relations that most HR practitioners in a unionized work setting face in their professional lives.

FOR THE STUDENT

This book was written to help you understand an interesting and dynamic aspect of human resources management. Even if you do not intend to work as a HR professional in a unionized setting, an understanding of the labour relations process will increase your awareness of how companies that do not have good HR programs and practices may suddenly find themselves in the midst of union certification drives, collective bargaining, and contract administration. The following features are intended to make learning about labour relations easier and more interesting:

- Required Professional Capabilities (RPCs). A list of RPCs from the Canadian Council of Human Resources Associations has been provided in Appendix D. The table of learning objectives at the beginning of each chapter have been referenced to this list to show where the RPCs are covered.
- Learning objectives clarify the outcomes expected.
- Contemporary labour relations vignettes, which illustrate labour relations issues and processes, are provided at the beginning of each chapter.
- Key terms are bolded and defined in margin notes. A list of these terms with page references is provided at the end of each chapter.
- *Numerous examples* are used to illustrate important concepts.
- Numbered "Key Considerations" boxes summarize essential points.
- Numbered "Labour Relations Issue" boxes highlight questions of interest and importance
- Websites listed in the margins and in research activities at the end of chapters refer you to illustrations and sources of information. Labour relations is a changing field, and these sites will help you monitor developments.
- Case incidents, review questions, and discussion questions at the end of each chapter help you put the chapter material into practice.

FOR THE INSTRUCTOR

In Chapter 3, which discusses unions, the topics are presented in an order that may be unique: the structure and functions of union bodies are presented before their history. This is because the history of unions and the development of labour relations refer to structural

concepts such as the local union, national unions, and international unions. Problems have been encountered when the history has been considered before the student understands the concept of union locals and the distinction between national and international unions. Instructors who wish to follow a more traditional order might refer to the history component of Chapter 3 first.

Appendix A provides cases that could be used in classroom discussion or assignments. A grievance and arbitration exercise is provided in Appendix B, and a contract negotiation simulation is provided in Appendix C could be used to analyze a collective agreement and engage in a negotiation simulation. Additional instructions, which can be provided to union and management teams, are provided in the Instructor's Resource Manual that accompanies this text. The collective agreement in Appendix C is for a casino, and it is based on actual contract language and pricing in the industry. New contract terms have been added to the collective agreement, and new union and management bargaining team instructions are provided in the instructor's manual. The material is set up in a modular fashion so that instructors may choose which issues to cover, and whether to include the financial information provided.

Supplements

The following instructor supplements are available for downloading from a password-protected section of Pearson Education Canada's online catalogue. Navigate to your book's catalogue page to view a list of those supplements that are available. See your local sales representative for details and access.

Instructor's Resource Manual with Test Item File Questions. The Instructor's Resource Manual contains a summary of key points; answers to in-text questions; commentary on questions and cases; and a test item file containing short-answer, true-false, and multiple-choice questions.

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To the memory of my father, Len

—LS

To my wife, Deborah, who is an endless source of encouragement

—GLG

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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Larry has served as the vice-president and chief steward of the union local representing faculty and counsellors at Lambton College, and he is a member of the Human Resources Professionals Association, where he serves on the Educational Standards Committee. Larry enjoys hiking and you may see him on a trail—he will be the one carrying a recent labour arbitration decision.

Gary Gannon received his B.A. (Social Sciences) from York University. He also holds a Master in Health Sciences (Health Administration) and a Master of Arts (Higher Education) from the University of Toronto. In 2013, he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto/OISE (Leadership, Adult and Higher Education).

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Dr. Gannon is a certified member of the Human Resources Professional Association (HRPA) and is currently active in the Association's local chapter in Durham Region. He has also advised several not-for-profit organizations on HRM-related matters as part of his involvement in the local community.