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**Happy Holidays to all our friends, clients, and supporters.**

**BOTTOM LINE:**

Christmas and New Year's Day are deemed "general holidays" in Nova Scotia, "public holidays" in New Brunswick, and "paid holidays" in PEI. In federally regulated industries, Christmas, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day are general holidays. Since entitlements to holidays vary across jurisdictions, employers should ensure their Holiday policy is consistent with the applicable provincial or federal regulations.

**Holiday Bonuses - To Bonus or Not Bonus?** [Read on](#)

**ARTICLES OF INTEREST TO EMPLOYERS:**

**Investment banker awarded damages in wrongful dismissal suit.** An Ontario Superior Court judge has awarded an investment banker \$920,000 in damages in a wrongful dismissal suit. [Investment Executive 22 November.](#)

**Honda v. Keays sideswipes Merrill Lynch for \$2.2 million wrongful dismissal award.** Alberta judge awarded \$2.2 million to the plaintiff for the "unfair and insensitive conduct" of Merrill Lynch on dismissing him. [Financial Post 26 November.](#)

**Salary Freezes Start to Thaw as Organizations Rethink Increases for 2010.** 73% of employers are planning average salary increases of 2.6% in 2010. On the other hand, 81% of companies will not give a holiday gift or bonus. [CNW Group 10 December.](#)

**Handing off the business.** Discusses the challenges of succession planning for family owned businesses. [Globe and Mail 10 December](#).

**Making Flex Time a Win-Win.** How flex time options can be used to reduce costs while retaining top talents. [New York Times 12 December](#).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, AND SEMINARS:**

**Open House - 17 December.** [Apeeling Orange](#) is hosting an open house on Thursday 17 December at their office - 15 Alderney Drive, Unit 2 from 13:00 to 16:00.

**DartNet 1st year anniversary - 5 Jan 2010.** The [Dartmouth Business Networking](#) group will celebrate its 1st anniversary at Rocco's Restaurant at 1000 on 5 January. Congratulations to Rich Black of Rich Graphics for all his efforts in organizing this popular event.

**Business After Hours - 20 January.** Laurissa Manning, owner of [Core Essentials](#), will be welcoming guests at her new location - 50 Queen Street, Dartmouth on Wednesday 20 January from 17:00 to 19:00.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Kings Processing Ltd** of Middleton, NS is the recipient of the Inclusive Employer Award from Company Inc. Company Inc is a community based employment services for persons with disabilities; both physical and mental, apparent or hidden disabilities. Company Inc match their clients with local employers that can provide meaningful and viable employment opportunities. Congratulations to owner Bruce Rand and to plant manager Jeremy Hunter.

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