

Draft 11
End of Sitting
Backgrounder
December 8, 2016
Written by: mg
Revised by: rp/AT
French: [If known, insert Yes or No]:
Visuals: [If known, insert Yes or No]:

Legend:

* – Bill expected to pass, but not confirmed

* – Bill expected to be introduced, but not confirmed

Highlighted – info TBC

19 Bills Passed and 8 Others Introduced During the Fall Sitting of the 41st Session of the Ontario Legislature

December 8, 2016

The 19 bills passed during the fall sitting of the Ontario legislature are helping Ontarians in their everyday lives by providing relief on electricity bills, cutting red tape, ensuring more people can access affordable housing and in other important ways.

Government Bills That Passed:

Bill 2, Election Finances Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016

Makes Ontario's election financing system one of the strongest and most transparent in Canada. The legislation bans corporations, unions and many other groups from making political donations. It also bans MPPs, party leaders, candidates and some staff from attending political fundraisers and reduces the maximum amount individuals can donate by almost 90 per cent.

Commented [EG1]: We wanted to ensure that the language included the corporate/union donation ban, as is it one of the most significant pieces of the legislation.

Bill 7, Promoting Affordable Housing Act, 2016

Makes it easier for people in Ontario to find affordable places to live by modernizing existing social housing; increasing the supply of affordable housing across the province; and helping to create integrated, inclusive neighbourhoods and communities. This Act makes housing programs more people-centred and coordinated, building on the government's [update to the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy](#).

Commented [EG2]: Passed on Dec. 6

Bill 13, Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016

Makes electricity more affordable by providing an eight per cent rebate on electricity bills to five million families, farms and small businesses, as of January 1, 2017. This will result in an average savings of about \$130 annually or \$11 each month for a typical residential electricity consumer. **Bill 28, All Families Are Equal Act, (Parentage and Related Registrations Statute Law Amendment), 2016**

Ensures that all families are treated equally by recognizing the legal status of parents more clearly and equitably, whether parents are LGBTQ2+ or straight, and whether their children were conceived with or without assistance.

Bill 37, Protecting Students Act, 2016

Ensures children, students and teachers are protected by an improved investigation and disciplinary process for the Ontario College of Teachers, and reduces the potential for conflicts of interest.

Commented [EG3]: Edits have been made to ensure that there is no suggestion that the conduct and integrity of educators requires increased oversight, or that the previous process may not have been clear/transparent based on flags from the ministry.

Bill 41, Patients First Act, 2016

Increases access for patients and their families to health care that is better coordinated and culturally and linguistically appropriate. This legislation makes it easier for people to get the care they need by enabling Local Health Integration Networks to better coordinate information and services across the health system and in the community.

***Bill 45, Election Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016**

Modernizes the electoral process and engages young people in the democratic process. This Act allows electronic vote counting, changes the date of scheduled provincial elections from the first Thursday in October to the first Thursday in June, and gives 16- and 17-year-olds the choice to join a provisional voter register that will help them get ready to vote when they reach the voting age of 18.

***Bill 70, Building Ontario Up for Everyone Act (Budget Measures), 2016**

Helps first-time homebuyers by doubling the maximum Land Transfer Tax (LTT) refund to \$4,000 while increasing LTT rates on one or two single family residences over \$2 million and all other properties over \$400,000. This Act also includes measures to improve consumer protection, extend whistleblower protection, enhance the fairness and effectiveness of the province's property tax and assessment system, and establish the initial parameters for the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario.

Private Member's Bills That Passed:

Bill 9, Improving Post-Stroke Recovery for All, 2016

Helps to improve patient outcomes, reduce hospital and system costs and ensure that all Ontarians have access to quality post-stroke care by committing the government to oversee and promote an evidence-based approach to the provision of physiotherapy services for post-stroke patients of all ages.

Commented [EG4]: We have rewritten this blurb based on MOHLTC feedback. They have advised that the original language is inaccurate because there is currently no reference to age discrimination in the bill.

***Bill 16, Hazel McCallion Day Act, 2016**

Recognizes the career and public service of Hazel McCallion, Mayor of Mississauga, who in her 36-year term oversaw the city's growth into one of Canada's largest and most vibrant urban centres.

Bill 34, Children's Law Reform Amendment Act (Recognizing Relationships with Grandparents), 2016

Amends the Children's Law Reform Act to clarify that grandparents have the ability to seek an order for access to their grandchild. The amendments also ensure that courts remain focused on the best interests of the children involved in any access dispute.

Bill 36, Albanian Heritage Month Act, 2016

Recognizes the history and achievements of the Albanian-Canadian community in Ontario and celebrates its contributions to Ontario's growth and prosperity.

Bill 38, Islamic Heritage Month Act, 2016

Recognizes and celebrates the contributions of Muslims to Ontario's cultural and economic prosperity. Islamic Heritage Month provides an opportunity for people in Ontario to learn more about the history and heritage of Islamic culture and help combat anti-Islamic sentiment.

Bill 43, PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day Act, 2016

Helps people in Ontario make more informed health care choices by increasing public awareness and education about paediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcus (PANDAS) and paediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, abbreviated as (PANS).

Bill 44, Bangladeshi Heritage Month Act, 2016

Celebrates the contributions the Bangladeshi-Canadian community has made and continues to make to the growth and prosperity of the province.

Bill 47, Protecting Rewards Points Act (Consumer Protection Amendment), 2016

Protects consumers by prohibiting the expiry of reward points based on time alone, ensuring that consumers get the full value of their loyalty program regardless of when they earned the points. The bill also ensures points that expired after October 1, 2016 will be credited back to the consumer.

Bill 55, Remembrance Week Act, 2016

Proclaims the week preceding Remembrance Day as Remembrance Week to honour the extraordinary courage and sacrifice made by men and women in the service of Canada.

Bill 56, Hindu Heritage Month Act

Celebrates the Hindu-Canadian community's history and heritage in Ontario, and its contributions to the economic and cultural vibrancy of the province.

Bill 63, Nurse Practitioner Week Act, 2016

Celebrates and recognizes the many contributions of nurse practitioners to the health and well-being of people in Ontario by proclaiming the second week in November as Nurse Practitioner Week.

Government Bills Introduced:

Commented [EG5]: We have rewritten this blurb as the bill description has been amended at Committee. Specifically, there is no talk about preventing unreasonable barriers.

Commented [EG6]: MGCS advises this phrase is necessary, and that the language is contentious without it.

Bill 27, Burden Reduction Act, 2016

Would reduce and streamline regulatory and administrative burdens that cost businesses time and money while protecting environmental and health standards and enhancing worker safety. It would change 50 different statutes to build a smarter, more modern and more efficient regulatory framework as part of Ontario's five-year, \$400-million [Business Growth Initiative](#).

Bill 39, Aggregate Resources and Mining Modernization Act, 2016

Would modernize the province's mining and aggregate extraction industries to help increase growth and improve environmental oversight. The Act would update fees and royalties, implement online registration of mining claims, and increase public participation in extraction application processes in order to balance growth and job creation with environmental sustainability.

Bill 59, Putting Consumers First Act (Consumer Protection Statute Law Amendment), 2016

Establishes mandatory licensing requirements for home inspectors in Ontario, increases confidence in real estate transactions and reduces consumer risk when making this important financial decision. The bill could be used to restrict unsolicited door-to-door marketing contracts, including contracts for sectors that receive complaints. The bill would also strengthen and expand the authority to make rules for alternative financial services such as payday loan providers, giving customers better financial protections when using these services.

Bill 65, Safer School Zones Act, 2016

Would make roads safer for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists by giving municipalities more tools to set reduced default speed limits and use automated speed enforcement systems in community safety zones and school zones.

Bill 68, Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2016

Would help local governments be more open, flexible and accountable to the people they serve. This legislation responds to feedback received during public consultations in 2015 by amending the *Municipal Act*, the *City of Toronto Act* and the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

Bill X, Medical Assistance in Dying Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016

Provides more protection and greater clarity regarding medical assistance in dying for patients, their families and health care providers. It would ensure that appropriate oversight of medical assistance in dying situations will [continue](#).

Commented [CTU7]: MOHLTC advises that due to contentious nature of bill, it is best to stick with their proposed and approved language

Bill X, Protecting Patients Act, 2016

Would protect patients and keep them healthy by making a number of improvements to health care for the people of Ontario, including upholding and reinforcing our zero-tolerance policy on patient sexual abuse by any regulated health professional. This aligns with the government's [Patients First Action Plan for Health Care](#).

Bill XX, Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2016

Would strengthen and modernize child and youth services to put children at the centre of decision-making. The bill would support more accountable, responsive and accessible child and youth services, and strengthen oversight for children's aid societies and licensed residential services.

Commented [CTU8]: MCYS advises that language of bill/associated NR is changing rapidly, so this is provisional.