

Draft 13
End of Sitting
Release
December 8, 2016
Written by: mg
Revised by: rp, Sue, Bryan, Andrew, Ian
French: [If known, insert Yes or No]:
Visuals: [If known, insert Yes or No]:

Legend: Need to confirm passage

Ontario Enacts New Bills to Help People in their Everyday Lives

New Legislation Also Helps Strengthen the Economy

NEWS

December 8, 2016

Ontario's legislators took significant action this fall to support the people of Ontario and help keep the province's economy one of the strongest in Canada.

The **Building Ontario Up for Everyone Act (Budget Measures), 2016**, passed today, is central to supporting economic growth, innovation and job creation.

The Act includes making housing more affordable by doubling the maximum Land Transfer Tax refund to \$4,000 for eligible first-time homebuyers. It also strengthens consumer protection by setting the parameters for a new independent financial services and pensions regulator and extending Ontario Securities Commission whistleblower protections.

Other legislative achievements include:

- Reducing electricity costs by eight per cent for five million families, farms and small businesses, for a savings of about \$130 a year per household
- Making Ontario's election financing system one of the strongest and most transparent in Canada
- Increasing the availability of affordable housing in the province (Bill not passed, passage expected Dec 8)
- Making it easier for patients and their families to get health care that is better coordinated and culturally and linguistically appropriate
- Ensuring all families in Ontario are treated equally and that the legal status of all parents is recognized more clearly, regardless of how their child was conceived.
- Helping consumers make the most use of their loyalty program points by prohibiting expiry dates on those points from time alone.

During the fall sitting, the government also introduced bills that, if passed, would:

Commented [CTU1]: MGCS advises this phrase is necessary due to stakeholder preferences; language is contentious without it.

- Strengthen and modernize Ontario's child welfare system with new measures to protect the rights of children and make sure their voices are heard on decisions that affect their well-being
- Make it easier for people to access government funding for prescriptions written by Nurse Practitioners and enhance opportunities for Ontario seniors to stay healthy, active and engaged
- Reduce red tape for businesses, strengthen worker health and safety and protect environmental and health standards
- Give municipalities more tools to improve the safety of cyclists and pedestrians of all ages in community safety zones and school zones.

Enacting legislation that addresses the needs of people in Ontario is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

QUOTES

"Our government is focused on helping create more opportunity and security in people's lives today as we build a stronger province for families tomorrow. In this sitting, we have passed legislation that will help people achieve their goals, provide for their loved ones, take advantage of new opportunities and build a better future for all of us."

— Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario

QUICK FACTS

By managing provincial finances in a responsible and fiscally sound way, including taking a cautious approach to estimating pension expense, the government continues to forecast a balanced budget in 2017–18 and in 2018–19.

- Employment in Ontario increased by 44,300 from September to November and unemployment has been lower than the national average for 19 months in a row. The majority of jobs created since 2009 are full time positions in the private sector and in industries that pay above-average wages.

Ontario is making the largest infrastructure investment in hospitals, schools, public transit, roads and bridges in the province's history. To learn more about what's happening in your community, go to Ontario.ca/BuildON

LEARN MORE

[Backgrounder title](#)