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Legs and Regs
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New 2017 Regulations to Lower Household Costs and Increase Consumer Protection

Ontario Implementing Changes to Help People in their Everyday Lives

NEWS

December 20, 2016

Starting January 1, legislation and regulation changes come into effect that will help lower the cost of living, strengthen protections for consumers, and make Ontario a more inclusive place to live, work and raise a family.

To help address rising costs, Ontario is:

- Doubling the maximum refund of the Land Transfer Tax for eligible first-time homebuyers to \$4000, meaning they would pay no Land Transfer Tax on the first \$368,000 of the cost of their home
- Reducing electricity bills by an amount equal to the eight per cent portion of the HST for five million families, farms and small businesses and providing additional relief to reduce eligible rural and northern electricity ratepayers' bills by twenty per cent
- No longer treating child support payments as income for those receiving social assistance, leaving families with more income.

To better protect consumers, Ontario is:

- Requiring restaurant chains and other food services providers to include caloric content on menus, giving people the ability to make healthier food choices
- Increasing the rights of drivers who have to use towing and vehicle storage services, with measures such as disclosing rates, notifying drivers of where their vehicle is stored, and providing an itemized invoice
- Requiring travel agents and wholesalers to display the total price for travel services in all advertising, increasing transparency for consumers
- Lowering the maximum total cost of borrowing for a payday loan from \$21 to \$18 per \$100 borrowed.

To help build a fairer society that benefits all, Ontario is:

- Recognizing more clearly the legal status of all parents, regardless of how their child was conceived, helping ensure all families are treated equally
- Prohibiting the arbitrary collection of identifying information by police, also referred to as carding or street checks

- Allowing people to register a birth using a single name if it is in accordance with their traditional culture
- Requiring all publicly assisted colleges and universities, and private career colleges, to have a sexual violence policy, helping ensure everyone is free from the threat of sexual violence and harassment.

Modernizing laws and regulations is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

QUOTES

“With these changes, people across the province will save more money and be more confident that their rights as consumers are protected and respected. We are building an Ontario where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from our growing economy, our inclusive communities and our high quality of life.”

— Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario

QUICK FACTS

- The government releases a list of the regulations and fees coming into effect twice per year, on January 1 and July 1.
- About 660,000 new jobs have been created in Ontario since the recessionary low in June 2009.
- For the first half of 2016, Ontario posted stronger economic growth than Canada, the U.S. and almost all other G7 countries.

LEARN MORE

[Regulation and Fee Changes Coming Into Force January 1, 2017](#) [\[Link to BG\]](#)