

Draft 12

End of Sitting

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## 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 makes 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 creating an 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 (Bill not passed, passage expected Dec 5)
- 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.

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

- Make it easier for people to access government funding for prescriptions written by Nurse Practitioners and expand opportunities for Ontario seniors to stay healthy, active and engaged
- Reduce red tape for businesses, strengthen worker 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 government finances in a responsible and fiscally sound way, including taking a cautious approach to estimating pension expense, Ontario forecasts a balanced budget in 2017–18 and in 2018–19.
- Employment in Ontario increased by 60,500 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](https://ontario.ca/BuildON)

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