

Draft 06
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 \$4,000, meaning that qualifying purchasers would pay no Land Transfer Tax on the first \$368,000 of the cost of their first 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 electricity ratepayers' bills by about 20 per cent
- No longer treating child support payments as income for those receiving social assistance, leaving families with more income.

Commented [EG1]: Energy recommends against "northern" as the RRRP is not geographically based and many northern customers are not eligible.

To better protect consumers, Ontario is:

- Requiring restaurant chains and other food services providers with 20 or more locations in Ontario to include caloric content on menus, giving people the ability to make informed and healthier food choices
- Increasing protections for consumers who use towing and vehicle storage services by requiring towing and storage providers to disclose rates, notify drivers of where their vehicle is stored, and provide 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 street checks

- Allowing people to register a birth with, or change a name to, 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 postsecondary institutions are responsive to incidents of sexual violence

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

Commented [EG2]: MAESD and OWD have recommended softening this language.

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.
- 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 growth in real GDP than Canada, the U.S. and almost all other G7 countries.

LEARN MORE

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