

Ontario Helping Businesses Save Time and Money

Province to Introduce Measures to Help Small Businesses and New Legislation to Cut Unnecessary Red Tape

NEWS

May 18, 2017

Ontario is working to make it easier for businesses to grow and create more jobs.

Proposed measures to help small businesses grow and cut red tape, to be introduced this fall, include:

1. **Reducing regulatory costs:** Requiring all ministries introducing new regulations that result in new administrative costs on business provide an offset through other regulatory or non-regulatory cost reduction.
2. **Streamlining compliance for small business:** Ensuring that undue burdens aren't placed on small businesses when new or amended regulations are introduced, while maintaining robust environmental, health and safety requirements and other public interest protections.
3. **International or national standards alignment:** Increasing harmonization with other jurisdictions and adopting international or national standards, where appropriate, when developing or reviewing regulations.
4. **Rewarding good actors:** Recognizing businesses that have a good compliance record and lowering their costs by reducing the requirements, such as the number of inspections, without compromising the environment health and safety, and other protections.
5. **Electronic transmission guarantee:** Providing businesses the option to electronically submit any required documentation to the government of Ontario instead of more costly paper submissions.
6. **Government procurement:** Introducing a preferred procurement policy for small businesses that would help provide better access to government contracts.
7. **One-Window Service:** Implementing a new program that would help small businesses access support, information and resources by phone, online and in person.
8. **Reviewing fees and other costs:** Reviewing fees paid by small- and medium-sized businesses and exploring options to reduce costs.

These proposed changes support Ontario's five-year, \$650-million [Business Growth Initiative](#) that is helping to grow the economy and create jobs by promoting an innovation-based economy, helping small companies scale-up and modernizing regulations for businesses.

Supporting businesses is part of Ontario's plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

QUOTE

"Small businesses are critical for vibrant main streets across Ontario. These business owners contribute by creating jobs and strengthening local economies. Supporting these business owners by streamlining their dealings with the province and providing new opportunities for growth will help Ontario prosper."

— Jeff Leal, Minister Responsible for Small Business

Commented [SM(1)]: Note the Cabinet minute required the ministries to report back by Fall 2017 with a plan to dedicate a portion of government procurement contracts to small businesses. Announcing this now may have procurement implications.

Commented [SM(2)]: Note the Cabinet minute requires ministries to report back with options for reducing fees. Announcing that fees would be reduced may be premature prior to the report back to TB/MBC.

“Cutting unnecessary red tape helps keep Ontario businesses competitive in a fast-changing global economy. These changes reflect our commitment to developing modern, evidence-based regulations that will save businesses and taxpayers both time and money.”
— Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development and Growth

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is committed to reducing business costs and burdens while maintaining a competitive tax environment. The government's recent business tax reforms have cut taxes and lowered compliance costs to encourage investment and job creation.
- Ontario has introduced [legislation](#) that would, if passed, lower electricity bills by 25 per cent on average, with rates being held to inflation for four years. The proposed Fair Hydro Act, 2017 would result in lower electricity bills for all residential consumers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms, starting this summer.
- Ontario's [2016 Burden Reduction Report](#) highlighted significant progress, featuring 26 initiatives across government and identified that the government's burden reduction efforts have saved businesses a total of \$122 million since 2011, surpassing the province's goal to save businesses \$100 million by 2017.
- [The Red Tape Challenge](#) is part of Ontario's five-year Business Growth Initiative.

LEARN MORE

[Read the 2017 Ontario Budget](#)

[Burden Reduction Act, 2017](#)

Daniel Bitonti, Minister's Office, 416-325-7569
Jessica Hume, Communications Branch, 416-325-2479

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