

Summary of 44th Legislative Session

Updated as of June 18, 2025

Spring Session: April 15, 2025 - June 5, 2025	1
Legislation	1
Ontario Legislature returns with a new mandate	1
Bill 2, Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025	1
Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025	1
Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act 2025	2
Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act, 2025	3
Bill 10, Protect Ontario Through Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Act, 2025	3
Bill 11, More Convenient Care Act, 2025	3
Bill 13, Primary Care Act, 2025	4
Bill 14, Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act, 2025	4
Bill 17, Protecting Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act	4
Bill 18, Supply Act, 2025	4
Bill 24, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025	4
Bill 25, Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025	4
Bill 27, Resource Management and Safety Act, 2025	5
Bill 30, Working for Workers Seven Act, 2025	5
Bill 33, Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025	6
Bill 34, MPP Pension and Compensation Act, 2025	6
Bill 40, Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act Act, 2025	6
Bill 45, Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2025	6
Bill 46, Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape Act, 2025	6
Legislature rises until October 20, 2025	7
Regulations	7
Proposed regulation enables the Minister of Education to direct school boards to dispose of property in specific circumstances	7
Committee Work	8
Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs studied Bill 2	8
Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural policy to study Bill 9	8
Standing Committee on the Interior studies Bill 5	8
Standing Committee on Justice Policy Committee to resume intimate partner violence study	8
Other Public Policy Announcements	9
Province announces their first tariff relief package	9
Ontario raising minimum wage to support workers	9
Province expanding strong mayor powers	9
Changes to provincial Procurement Restriction policy	10

Spring Session: April 15, 2025 - June 5, 2025

Legislation

All legislation tabled by the sitting government is listed. However, ONN's analysis is only provided for those that have cross-cutting impact on Ontario's nonprofit sector and/or connect to ONN's public policy agenda.

Ontario Legislature returns with a new mandate

April 15 marked the beginning of Ontario's 44th legislative session. During the throne speech, the province outlined its priorities for the coming years, focusing primarily on economic policy in response to the ongoing trade tensions with the United States. The government highlighted the need to eliminate interprovincial trade barriers to strengthen economic collaboration and build a more resilient domestic supply chain. Ontario also emphasized the importance of using domestically mined metals and parts in public infrastructure projects, signaling a strong commitment to procurement reform. While the province announced plans to reintroduce the previously proposed anti-encampment legislation, it did not provide any substantial updates on housing policy.

[Bill 2, Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025](#)

Status: Royal Assent

Type: Omnibus bill

First bill of the session targets inter-provincial trade

- Streamlines the certification process for out-of-province businesses and professionals by switching certification timelines from business days to calendar days.
- Introduces mutual recognition framework with reciprocating provinces and territories for goods, services, and registered workers.
- Brings significant changes to labour mobility laws, preventing additional certification requirements for workers already licensed elsewhere in Canada.

[Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025](#)

Status: Royal Assent

Type: Omnibus bill

Backlash to Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, led by Indigenous communities

Bill 5 was one of the most controversial bills tabled this session. Advocates across the sector - [environmental groups](#), [conservation groups](#), cultural groups, [labour groups](#), and [civil rights groups](#) - highlighted how far reaching the legislation to expedite industrial and infrastructure development actually is.

Key provisions include:

- Creating “Special Economic Zones”. These zones exempt companies from laws and regulations including municipal by-laws and labour and environmental laws. Within these zones, companies can be exempted from many provincial and municipal regulations, and legal challenges to these exemptions are prohibited. As a result, third-party organizations such as nonprofits and community groups would be prohibited from contesting development projects in these special zones. It would also give the cabinet further power to exempt other projects from archeological assessment requirements.
- Repealing the existing Endangered Species Act passed in 2007, and replacing it with a new Species Conservation Act, which significantly alters and weakens protections for species at risk. Key changes include limiting the definition of habitat to the immediate nest area and requiring ministerial approval to list new species at risk or endangered.
- Fast tracking mine approvals and landfill approvals by eliminating the need for environmental assessments and exemptions from archeological assessment under the Ontario Heritage Act.
- Prohibiting lawsuits against the province related to various provisions in Bill 5, including the designation of Special Economic Zones.

Ontario's [First Nations](#) warned of re-igniting the Idle No More movement as the bill infringes on Treaty Rights and lacks meaningful consultation at the outset. It [has been compared to](#) the Jobs and Growth Act of Stephen Harper's federal government, which sparked the Idle No More protest movement over a decade ago. As a result, [the province amended the bill](#) by explicitly adding “duty to consult provisions” throughout. Both the Minister of Energy and Minister of Indigenous Affairs stated they will not designate the Ring of Fire a special economic zone until meaningfully consulting with all First Nations in the area.

[Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act 2025](#)

Status: Royal Assent

Type: Omnibus bill

Resurfacing the encampment legislation with new exceptions

Bill 6 was first introduced in November but died on the order paper due to the snap election. Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Bill 6 is framed as a response to public concern over drug use and safety in public spaces with its steep enforcement provisions that allow officers to fine or jail individuals. A notable change in this version are exemptions to

the bill, which include use within federally approved supervised consumption sites, individuals with lawful authority, i.e. medical exemptions, and individuals seeking emergency services.

Nonprofits across the province have criticized the government's approach to the homelessness crisis. [The Encampment Justice Coalition](#) has penned a letter to the government stressing the loss of affordable rental housing, skyrocketing rent, and increased cost of living as the driving factors of the homelessness and addiction crisis in Ontario. The letter encourages the government to turn away from criminalization that will only exacerbate the crisis, and instead turn to evidence-based solutions that centre dignity and uphold human rights.

[Police in northeastern Ontario](#) have also noted disinterest in enforcing the legislation stating, “[Y]ou definitely can't arrest and charge your way out of this,” noting that not only does local legislation already prohibit open drug use on city property, many of those who would be targeted by this new legislation would be served better with medical or mental health help and support for drug addiction. This shows a stark contrast from police in Southern Ontario, specifically Toronto, who have already begun using expanded powers to clear encampments.

[Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act, 2025](#)

Status: Ordered referred to Standing Committee

Type: Omnibus bill

[Bill 10, Protect Ontario Through Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Act, 2025](#)

Status: Royal Assent

Type: Omnibus bill

Bill 10 forces nonprofit housing providers to be enforcers as well

Bill 10 is an omnibus bill framed as public safety legislation that amends several provincial laws and creates a new schedule targeting illegal drug activity in rental properties. Currently, in Schedule 8, the bill's definition of “landlord” is vague and thus can include any nonprofit that provides housing services as a landlord (e.g. supportive housing, transitional housing, deeply affordable housing). It is unclear if shelters would be included as well. [ONN's letter](#) to government highlights significant concerns on the implications of this bill for nonprofits including that the legislation positions nonprofits as enforcers vs. care providers, over-reaches into nonprofit operations and places disproportionate administrative burden on nonprofits to comply.

[Bill 11, More Convenient Care Act, 2025](#)

Status: Royal Assent

Type: Omnibus Bill

[Bill 13, Primary Care Act, 2025](#)

Status: Royal Assent

Type: Specific

[Bill 14, Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act, 2025](#)

Status: Royal Assent

Type: Omnibus bill

[Bill 17, Protecting Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act](#)

Status: Royal Assent

Type: Omnibus bill

Bill 17 guts environmental protections and neglects housing affordability in the name of building faster

Bill 17 is an omnibus bill that seeks to cut red tape and speed up home construction. The bill reflects several [recommendations](#) from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. The elimination of municipal development charges [for long-term care homes](#) is also a welcomed measure as it would make it easier for nonprofit long-term care to move forward with new build and redevelopment projects. However, the bill's restrictions on inclusionary zoning rules and development standards have raised concerns over its impact on affordability and [environmental](#) issues. The bill reduces the ability of municipalities to impose inclusionary zoning rules in their cities near protected major transit station areas. It also prohibits municipalities from adding any building requirements outside of the provincial building code, [threatening](#) municipal green development standards. Developers can also delay development charge payments until the unit has been occupied.

[Bill 18, Supply Act, 2025](#)

Status: Royal Assent

Type: Omnibus Bill

[Bill 24, Plan to Protect Ontario Act \(Budget Measures\), 2025](#)

Status: Royal Assent

Type: Omnibus Bill

[Bill 25, Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025](#)

Status: Ordered for Second Reading

Type: Omnibus bill

Provincial over-reach for nonprofit directors and officers in Bill 25, Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025

A retabling of a [Bill 238](#) from the last legislative session, Bill 25 tabled by the Minister of Emergency Management, amends the existing Ministry of Community and Social Services Act to expand the powers of the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS). The legislation grants powers to the minister to issue any directives to organizations receiving funding for community and social service provision in extraordinary circumstances. If the funded organization is non-compliant with the directive, the minister can force the organization into compliance and/or clawback funding, and/or fine directors and officers of the organization.

ONN will continue to monitor this bill as we work with our network to understand its implications. At the outset, the bill legislates significant over-reach into nonprofit operational matters. It raises questions such as: What if the directive is contrary to what is in the best interest of the community the organization serves? What if the organization does not have the financial resources to implement the directive? What if there is a conflict between the fiduciary duty of board members and the directive? How is the fine levied? And will existing directors and officers liability insurance cover fines? In a time when it is harder to recruit volunteer board members and shed risk-averse decision making for bold action, the bill puts up barriers.

[Bill 27, Resource Management and Safety Act, 2025](#)

Status: Second Reading

Type: Omnibus bill

[Bill 30, Working for Workers Seven Act, 2025](#)

Status: Ordered for Second Reading

Type: Omnibus Bill

Working for Workers Act 7 tackles fraudulent job postings, extended lay-offs, and municipal control of skills development

The province's seventh Working for Workers Act looks to confront fallout from the trade war, tariffs, and a looming recession. The bill includes amendments to the Employment Standards Act, 2000 including new regulations around fraudulent job postings, allowing job seeking leave during mass terminations, and increases to the amount of time employers can lay-off staff.

The bill also includes schedules that authorizes the Lieutenant Governor to make regulations imposing limits and conditions on the power of a municipality related to training or skills development under The Planning Act, The City of Toronto Act, and the Municipal Act.

[Bill 33, Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025](#)

Status: Second Reading

Type: Omnibus Bill

[Bill 34, MPP Pension and Compensation Act, 2025](#)

Status: Royal Assent

Type: Omnibus Bill

[Bill 40, Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act, 2025](#)

Status: Ordered for Second Reading

Type: Omnibus Bill

[Bill 45, Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2025](#)

Status: Ordered for Second Reading

Type: Omnibus Bill

[Bill 46, Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape Act, 2025](#)

Status: Ordered for Second Reading

Type: Omnibus Bill

Red tape reduction package expands Infrastructure Ontario Loan eligibility and commits to exempting the Canada Disability Benefit from clawbacks

Of note for nonprofits in the new omnibus red tape reduction bill is the amendment to the Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation Act, 2011 to add district social services administration boards (DSSABs) as eligible public organizations that can access the [Infrastructure Ontario Loan Program](#) (IO). The [Red Tape Reduction Package](#) also commits to exempting the Canada Disability Benefit from being counted as income for recipients of the Ontario Disability Support Program, Ontario Works, and Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities program. It will also explore potential future legislative amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 to reduce delays and backlogs at the Landlord and Tenant Board. ONN continues to [advocate for the expansion of the IO loan program to all public benefit nonprofits](#) looking to develop bricks and mortar buildings for community programs and services.

Legislature rises until October 20, 2025

After two winter snap selections, the spring legislative session for the provincial government's third term came and went in a flurry. The province tabled and passed a number of controversial bills, bypassing community consultations, including Bill 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 17, 18, and 25. The later start date to the Fall session is attributed to the fact that much implementation work needs to happen now that these bills have passed.

Regulations

Proposed regulation enables the Minister of Education to direct school boards to dispose of property in specific circumstances

The Ontario government [proposed a regulation](#) that once approved, will give the Minister of Education the power to direct school boards to sell their properties. As under Ontario Regulation 374/23, the property would first be considered for the needs of other school boards within the same jurisdiction and then considered by the government for other provincial priorities such as long-term care and housing. If not needed for these purposes, school boards could dispose of the property to any person or body. The minister may identify to whom the property must be offered or inform the board that it can offer the property to any person or body through the open market. Under the regulation, the school board property must be disposed of at fair market value. School board properties are considered public assets built with public dollars and therefore should remain in community hands to benefit the public, rather than being sold off to the highest bidder for short term gain. School board properties not only provide space for pupils but also provide much needed community space for local residents, communities, and nonprofits.

Committee Work

Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs studied Bill 2

Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural policy to study Bill 9

Standing Committee on the Interior studies Bill 5

Standing Committee on Justice Policy Committee to resume intimate partner violence study

An NDP bill tabled in March 2024 to declare a [provincial intimate partner violence epidemic](#), following suit of what many municipalities have already passed, was ordered to second reading in a rare show of bipartisanship. The bill was sent to the Justice Policy Committee in April 2024 to undergo “an in-depth study on all of the aspects, with respect to intimate partner violence, both the current programs that are available, some of the root causes of it, and how we can do better in the province of Ontario.” However, [the study was cancelled](#) given the snap provincial election, much to the gender-based violence subsector’s dismay.

Before the legislature rose, [the same Bill was proposed again](#) but stuck down. Instead, the government house leader moved a motion to reinstate the work of the Justice Policy Committee which MPPs agreed to unanimously. It’s unclear if the committee will meet over the summer to complete its study of intimate partner violence (IPV) and review the report.

Other Public Policy Announcements

Province announces their first tariff relief package

The Ontario government's first tariff relief package provides \$11 billion in economic relief measures for businesses to support cash flow and helps retain workers and maintain wages:

- Six month reprieve for businesses on some provincial taxes to a tune of \$9 billion dollars.
- \$2 billion rebate for safe employers through the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

The package sparked much debate as some characterized it as a bail out for businesses, rather than actual and tangible direct support for workers. The two measures do not bind businesses to refrain from laying off their workers and maintaining wages.

Ontario raising minimum wage to support workers

Effective October 1, 2025 [Ontario's minimum wage](#) will rise from \$17.20 to \$17.60 per hour, based on a 2.4 per cent increase tied to the Ontario Consumer Price Index. This change will give full-time minimum wage workers an annual boost of up to \$835 and position Ontario's rate as the second highest among Canadian provinces. However, according to the [Ontario Living Wage formula](#), this new increase still misses the mark when considering what is required to afford basic needs in a community.

Province expanding strong mayor powers

Starting May 1, 2025, the provincial government is expanding [strong mayor powers](#) to another 169 municipalities. This represents single and lower-tier municipalities with municipal councils of six members or more.

Strong mayor powers were first introduced in 2022 and expanded in 2023 as a tool to advance provincial priorities such as housing, transit, and other infrastructure projects. Mayors can veto and override council processes. [The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers](#) have raised concerns on how the powers threaten the neutrality of the public service and politicize local government leadership. [The Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#) has expressed openness to the idea since 2022, but also expressed concerns over the provision eliminating the need for majority council support for certain decisions related to provincial priorities. The Rural Ontario Municipalities of Ontario are supportive of the announcement since it will impact housing builds, a disproportionate concern for rural communities.

Changes to provincial Procurement Restriction policy

The government quietly announced a [Procurement Restriction Policy](#) to restrict U.S. firms from accessing public sector procurement in Ontario. This includes all government entities and broader public sector organizations (such as Children Aid's Societies and anyone receiving \$10 million or more in government funds in the fiscal year prior). The policy came into effect on March 4, and will remain in place until U.S. tariffs are lifted. Ontario and its agencies spend approximately \$30 billion annually on procurement. This new procurement policy highlights how government spending can be leveraged to achieve multiple policy goals, including additional social, cultural, and environmental benefits. This announcement is an opportunity for the sector to push for a [province wide social procurement policy](#).