

# Summary of 44th Legislative Session

Updated as of December 10, 2025

## 44th Legislative Session: Same government, 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.

### About the summary

All legislation, regulatory consultations and decisions, committee work, and public policy announcements relevant to nonprofits and their communities are 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.

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# Fall Session: October 20, 2025 - December 11, 2025

## Ontario Legislature is back for the fall session

The legislature returned for its fall session - October 20 to December 11, 2025. Catch up on the [spring session](#).

Priorities for the sitting government remain a mixed bag: they picked up some second readings of legislation tabled in the spring session, tabled some predictable legislation such as red tape reduction, but also teased changes to Ontario elections (read below in the Democracy section). The other political parties also shared their priorities for the fall session:

- Ontario NDP: mitigating the impact of rising unemployment, advancing "buy-Ontario-first" procurement mandates, investing in colleges and universities.
- Ontario Greens: building affordable homes and addressing the root causes of homelessness, creating good jobs, and tackling the rising cost of living.
- Ontario Liberals: reducing the cost of living, housing, jobs and safer communities.

## Legislation

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

Status: Passed December 3, 2025

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 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.

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: 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 40, Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act 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.

## [\*\*Bill 56, Building a More Competitive Economy Act, 2025\*\*](#)

Status: Second Reading

Type: Omnibus Bill

## [\*\*Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025\*\*](#)

Status: Passed

Type: Omnibus Bill

## **Multiple concerns on Bill 60 surface as advocates dig into the big omnibus bill**

Bill 60, Fighting Delays, [Building Faster Act, 2025](#), introduced in Ontario's legislature in late October, passed. As nonprofits have had a chance to dig deeper into various schedules, multiple concerns have surfaced:

- Exacerbation of the housing crisis as it rolls back rental protections.
- Allowing the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to designate corporations under the Business Corporations Act to provide water and sewage services for certain lower-tier municipalities. Check out [CUPE Ontario, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Environmental Defence's](#) analysis.
- Blocking municipalities from constructing any new bike lanes that would involve road reconfigurations. Check out [Cycle Toronto's](#) analysis.

ONN's [Domino Effect blog](#) highlights the issue with underfunding one part of the social safety net and the critical role the housing crisis plays in worsening pressures on an underfunded nonprofit sector.

## [\*\*Bill 72, Buy Ontario Act, 2025\*\*](#)

Status: Third Reading

Type: Omnibus Bill

**Ontario tables Buy Ontario legislation, unclear if it applies to all nonprofits receiving any funding from the province**

Bill 72, [Buy Ontario Act, 2025](#) was tabled mid-November as a potential response to the U.S. tariffs that have plagued the Ontario and Canadian economy. The act aims to establish a framework for regulating procurement within the public sector in order to transform public sector procurement practices to support supply chain resilience and to promote, protect and build Ontario's economy and businesses. Key provisions of the act include:

- Require all public sector entities (ministries, agencies, the broader public sector, and municipalities) to prioritize Ontario and then Canadian made goods and services.
- Limit eligibility to participate in public sector procurements.
- Establish vendor performance standards, practices and reporting requirements.
- Require public sector entities to use specified compliance and enforcement measures and to impose those measures on vendors.
- Establish an Ontario and Canadian supplier vendor list.
- Failure to comply with any requirement imposed on the organization or entity under this act can result in the withholding of funds.
- Repeal the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative Act, 2022.

This act presents a new opportunity for nonprofit social enterprises in Ontario to [advocate for](#) better access to public procurement opportunities and their inclusion in future Ontario and Canadian supplier vendor lists. At the same time, as this act applies to the broader public sector, which can include nonprofits that receive funding from the Government of Ontario, it could have unintended impacts on nonprofits, such as increased red tape and administrative burden. We are also concerned about the withholding of funds in cases of failed compliance.

**[Bill 75, Keeping Criminals Behind Bars Act, 2025](#)**

Status: Second Reading

Type: Omnibus Bill

**Another omnibus bill tabled, this one includes setting service standards for police record checks**

The provincial government's [new omnibus bill](#), if passed, will create a new regulation-making authority to set service standards to improve the predictability of police record checks, including standards around processing times. Under Schedule 6 of Bill 75, Keeping Criminals Behind Bars Act, the Police Record Checks Reform Act will be amended to require police record check providers to comply with any prescribed services standards with respect to conducting police record checks.

ONN has been [advocating for](#) a more streamlined police record check application process to shorten processing times and address service inconsistencies across Ontario. We are encouraged to see the establishment of service standards for police record checks in Bill 75. Affordable, timely, consistent, and streamlined police record checks are key to reducing barriers of volunteering for nonprofits in Ontario. The design of service standards for police record checks must include input from the nonprofit sector.

## Regulation Consultations and Decisions

### Consultation to set standards for police record checks

The Solicitor General has [proposed Legislative Amendments to the Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015 \(PRCRA\)](#) to set service standards for police record checks in the future as well as help police services process police record checks more effectively and apply the Act more consistently. ONN is putting together a submission, in consultation with the Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) and the Ontario Volunteer Centres Network with the following suggestions:

- Set service standards to require all police services to process police record checks within a 1-2 weeks timeframe.
- Establish clearer guidelines to ensure consistent understanding across police record check providers regarding the appropriate use of Criminal Record Checks (level I); Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Checks (level II); Vulnerable Sector Checks (level III) and Broad Record Checks.
- Include free Level Three (Vulnerable Sector) checks for volunteers as soon as possible, with support for police services to offset potential revenue loss.

### Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy Consultation

ONN submitted to the latest government consultation to inform the province's 2025-2030 Poverty Reduction Strategy. As Ontarians struggle to meet their basic needs, the widening gap between income support and cost of living is resulting in a domino effect of the untenable demand for nonprofit programs and services, and Ontario's tertiary systems. Our submission called on the government to bolster Ontario's social safety net through:

1. An acknowledgement of the systemic causes of poverty and poverty's disproportionate impacts on Ontario's diverse communities, and plans to address each systemic cause.
2. Inclusive governance structures that enable those with lived experience of poverty to have a meaningful say in the design and implementation of anti-poverty initiatives as well as nonprofits that deliver programs and services on the ground.
3. Set specific targets for poverty reduction. Include specific targets, timelines, indicators for measuring progress, and robust reporting mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency.

4. Coordinated, dignified, adequate support for those living in poverty, primarily but not exclusively in the form of income security and access to affordable housing. This includes increasing Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and reducing claw backs on these programs.
5. Use Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) as a lever to create better and local employment opportunities for people. CBAs ensure that impacted communities benefit from the creation of targeted employment, training, and apprenticeship opportunities, social procurement, and improvements to neighborhood amenities.
6. Ensure investment in social services delivered by nonprofits that support individuals and families experiencing poverty, reflect the true cost of delivering services and programs, keep pace with inflation, wages, demand, population shifts, and respond to emerging needs.

Read [ONN's full submission here](#), and check out submissions from other nonprofits below:

- [United Ways of Ontario](#)
- [Maytree Joint Letter](#)
- [Income Security Advocacy Centre](#)
- [YWCA Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants \(OCASI\)](#)

## Police record check requirements raising concerns and causing confusion

In January 2025, the Ontario government introduced a new category of police record check named the Broad Record Check. Detailed in [Ontario Regulation 308/24](#), the Broad Record Check is required for anyone working with kids under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act. This new type of police record check is more extensive and requires law enforcement agencies to disclose “every contact between the person and a police service for which there is a written record,” which could include mental health crisis calls and non-criminal police encounters, such as noise complaints or 911 calls by victims of domestic violence. Since the requirements came into effect earlier this year, many police services have [raised concerns](#) around privacy issues and contradictions with existing laws. Some police services, including Toronto and Ottawa, are declining to issue the broad record checks while they seek guidance from police advocacy groups and legal advisers. This has led to more confusion among child welfare agencies and organizations that provide services to children and youth. ONN has been [advocating for](#) more streamlined, timely and barrier-free police record checks processes, including clarifications regarding the appropriate use of different types of police record checks. This is needed more than ever with the new broad record check requirements.

## Consultation on proposed Special Economic Zones criteria

The province is seeking feedback on the development of a regulatory framework under the [Special Economic Zones Act, 2025](#) to establish the criteria for designating special economic

zones. Organizations have until November 16 to submit comments on the [draft regulation \(designation criteria\)](#).

## Consultation on Health Care Staffing Agency Reporting Act, 2025

The Ministry of Health is consulting on the [regulatory framework that would be established under the Health Care Staffing Agency Reporting Act, 2025](#) for staffing agencies to report administrative, billing, or pay rate information to the government.

## Consultation on Prohibiting Vehicle Lane Reduction for New Bicycle Lanes

The Province is [proposing to amend the Highway Traffic Act \(HTA\) to prohibit](#) all municipalities from reducing traffic lanes when installing, implementing or marking new bicycle lanes.

## Committee Work

### Other Public Policy Announcements

#### **ONN seeking clarification from Premier's office on remarks about the sector**

ONN, alongside the thousands of nonprofits across Ontario, have strong partnerships with the government to deliver on shared priorities.

In November, we wrote to Premier Ford's office, seeking clarification on [remarks](#) made during question period on November 25. These remarks focused on auditing groups that receive provincial funding and claiming that these groups are not using funds for their intended purposes.

After the question period the premier also made additional, [clarifying remarks](#), where there was some acknowledgement that there already exists strong accountability processes and requirements in place for organizations receiving provincial funds.

However, we are concerned as these remarks are deeply troubling and confusing for Ontario's nonprofit sector, which includes charities, agencies, and other community based groups and organizations, who deliver vital programs and services to Ontarians. These remarks also impact the sector's public reputation, as trusted community partners.

ONN has requested a prompt, clarifying response, and an opportunity to meet with the premier. We have also connected with the NDP, Green Party, and Liberal Party to convey our concerns.

#### **Ontario's fall economic statement: the plan to protect Ontario is unclear**

On November 6, Ontario's Finance Minister delivered the [province's fall economic statement](#) - an outlook based on the past six months of the fiscal year. The province is projecting a deficit of

\$1.1 billion, nearly \$5 billion lower than the outlook [published in the 2025 budget](#). While hot on the heels of the federal budget, the province notes its outlook does not consider the federal budget.

The statement restates its “Plans to Protect Ontario”, previously announced in Budget 2025 and over the summer: investments for manufacturing, steel, construction, and energy as the traditional pathways to bolstering and protecting Ontario’s economy during uncertain economic times. The nonprofit sector, despite being a key player in supporting and bolstering Ontario’s economy, seems to remain a low priority in the economic statement. Investments into the nonprofit sector, similar to those recently seen for the [energy and manufacturing industry](#), would also function to protect jobs and Ontario’s economy.

The Finance Minister did however tease upcoming Budget 2026 consultations as the time for Ontarians to pitch their ideas for the next fiscal year. ONN’s budget submission will be shared with the sector in early December so we can collectively reinforce that:

- Nonprofits are economic actors and ready for government investments to strengthen communities.
- The sector is getting Ontarians back on their feet.
- We are a ready on-the-ground ally, providing responsive community supports and strong local capacity to partner with government.
- Our solutions continue Ontario on the path to prosperity.

## Ontario minimum wage increases

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.

## Provincial government announces increases in funding for long-term care and home and community care

In two separate announcements ahead of tabling the Ontario Fall Economic Statement, the province announced:

- Increase to \$1.92 billion dollars in [annual funding to the long-term care \(LTC\) sector](#) to combat the long-running [health and human resources crisis](#).
- Investment of \$1.1 billion over three years to extend home care services and the Hospital to Home (H2H) program to thousands more patients every year.

Both provincial associations for nonprofit long-term care homes and home and community care welcome the increases in funding, acknowledging the pressure an aging population is putting on care.

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

## Legislation

### [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 for third reading

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

## Regulation Consultations and Decisions

### Decision on regulation enabling the Minister of Education to direct school boards to dispose of property in specific circumstances

The Ontario government [proposed and approved](#) 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.

## Decision on Inclusionary Zoning and definition of affordable housing

In the Fall of 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing consulted on a regulatory proposal for establishing an upper limit on the number of units that would be required to be set aside as affordable, set at 5% of the total number of units (or 5% of the total gross floor area of the total residential units, not including common areas). It would also establish a maximum period of twenty-five (25) years over which the affordable housing units would be required to remain affordable.

The government [is not proceeding with the definition of affordable residential unit as initially proposed in ERO-019-6173](#). The Province and municipalities seeking to implement IZ may rely instead on the definition of "affordable residential unit" as set out in the Development Charges Act, 1997 (DCA) and the Provincial Planning Statement, which came into effect on October 20, 2024. See ONN's submission [here](#).

## Amending the Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation Act, 2011

The Spring 2025 Red Tape Reduction Package contains amendments to expand eligibility of the Infrastructure Ontario Loan Program (IOLP) to District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs). ONN [submitted](#) to the regulatory consultation supporting this inclusion and underscoring the importance of continuing to expand the IOLP eligibility criteria to include nonprofit child care, nonprofit housing providers, Indigenous Friendship Centres, nonprofit social services agencies, and arts and culture nonprofits. ONN has been advocating for improved access to finance tools, such as the IOLP, for the expansion of nonprofit ownership and social purpose real estate. Learn more about our work on social purpose real estate [here](#).

## Ontario rules and regulations coming into effect as of July 1, 2025

Relevant to nonprofits (full list is [here](#)):

- Exemption of the new federal [Canada Disability Benefit](#) (CDB) as income for Ontarians receiving social assistance.
- Licensed child-care operators will have to share with families the communications they receive from the provincial minister responsible for the file.
- Licensing and enforcement measures for the licensed children's out-of-home care sector under the Supporting Children's Futures Act, 2024 - which amends the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017 (CYFSA) - is in effect.

- Certain employers to provide new workers, before their first day on the job, with written job information including the employee's pay rate and initial anticipated hours of work. Employers that employ less than 25 employees are exempt from this requirement.
- Workers who are facing long-term illnesses and have been working at the same job for at least 13 consecutive weeks, can have up to 27 weeks of leave without pay because of a serious medical condition (came into force June 19, 2025).

Government of Ontario sought feedback on engagement activities to increase participation in Ontario public sector procurements

To support Ontario and Canadian business participation in public sector procurements, the Ontario government sought [public input](#) on the type of activities (e.g. promotional, market engagement, and market creation) that can increase local business participation in public sector procurements. The consultation aims to identify systemic barriers to participation in public sector procurements as well. [ONN highlighted](#) benefits of [social procurement](#) and provided feedback on ways to help Ontario nonprofit social enterprises and nonprofit co-operatives access public procurement opportunities.

## Committee Work

[Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs studied Bill 2](#)

[Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural policy studied Bill 9](#)

[Standing Committee on the Interior studied 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. The committee did not meet over the summer to complete its study of intimate partner violence (IPV) and review the report.

## Other Public Policy Announcements

### Province announces first tariff relief package in April 2025

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.

### 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](#).

## Ontario's economic outlook and trends

Ontario's socio-economic landscape is rapidly shifting and the [uncertain economy](#) (i.e. tariffs and global trade war) is impacting nonprofits in many ways. As employers, procurers of goods and services, and service providers, keeping up to date with Ontario's economic trends can help inform nonprofits' work:

- [Ontario Economic Monitor: January to June 2025](#): The most recent report from the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario provides an overview of the latest trends in the Ontario economy from January to June 2025. Key findings from the report include:
  - Employment: Employment in Ontario declined significantly by 38,000 (or -0.5 per cent) in 2025 Q2, the first quarterly loss in nearly three years. The unemployment rate rose for the ninth consecutive quarter, reaching 7.8 per cent in 2025 Q2, which marks the highest unemployment rate since late 2012, excluding the pandemic.
  - Housing starts: Housing starts in 2025 Q2 totalled 17,300 units in Ontario, a 37.3 per cent increase from the low of 12,600 units started in 2025 Q1.
  - Impact of tariff on Ontario's economy: Ontario's economic indicators in 2025 Q2 were consistent with FAO's previous projection. The report finds that the potential impact of US tariffs pose modest upside risks to the economic outlook of Ontario, while subsequent tariff changes are expected to have both positive and negative impacts.
- [Government of Ontario's 2025-2026 first quarter finances](#): This report contains information about Ontario's 2025-2026 fiscal outlook, primarily as of June 30, 2025. Highlights include:
  - The province's 2025-2026 deficit is projected to be \$14.6 billion, consistent with the outlook published in the 2025 budget.
  - Total revenues and expenses are projected to be \$219.9 billion and \$232.5 billion, respectively, unchanged from the outlook in the 2025 Budget.

## Province facing \$2B budget funding shortfall for the \$10-a-day Child Care

The Office of the Auditor General's report highlights how Ontario [is currently facing a \\$2B dollar shortfall](#) in funding for the national \$10-a-day child care program. The report notes that the province still needs to address both staffing and space shortages across the province as well as the budgeting shortfall. The Ontario government has stood by their choice to raise wages for child care workers by 1 dollar a year, despite other provinces (Manitoba, Yukon, New Brunswick, and BC) choosing to add their own money to raise wages faster, [enabling them to strengthen their recruitment and retention strategy](#), while also prioritizing decent work for the workforce. In March the province announced [they were reducing their space targets](#) as part of a recalibration

exercise. Inability to come to a deal with the federal government and failure to [invest in the wages of the Early Childhood Educators](#) (ECEs) and leverage programs like the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC) child care expansion loan program will leave families across Ontario stranded and unable to plan ahead and meet their child care needs. Without proper investments, a program that is [known to help stimulate job and GDP growth](#), is at risk of failing and failing Ontario families during a critical time with it.

## Bonnie Crombie to resign as Ontario Liberal Party leader

While 57 per cent of Ontario Liberal Party delegates chose to keep Crombie as leader rather than hold a new leadership race, she announced her intention to resign. She has been the leader for the past two years, after resigning as the Mayor of Mississauga and leading the party through a snap election earlier this year. According to the Trillium, in the lead-up to this vote, organized opposition to Crombie came from a group calling itself the “New Leaf Liberals,” which campaigned in favour of a leadership race and called on Crombie to step down if fewer than two-thirds of the votes were for her to stay on. It remains to be seen when the leadership race will take place and who will run.