

***Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2019***

October 28, 2019

Reducing Ontario's regulatory burden will be an ongoing part of our government's plan because getting this right matters to families, businesses and Ontario's bottom line. The regulatory knot that was stifling economic growth in Ontario wasn't tied overnight — untying it carefully and effectively will take time and persistence. Building on our successes over the past year, the *Better For People, Smarter for Business Act, 2019* is the latest in a series of red tape reduction measures that will continue to deliver meaningful results for Ontario — unburdening business, bringing new opportunities for hardworking Ontarians, and setting us up for success in the months and years ahead.

**Ministry of the Attorney General****Streamlines the process following the accession of a new sovereign***(Public Officers Act, Legislation Act, 2006)*

The proposed changes would allow government to continue the business of governing, uninterrupted, following a change of sovereign. Under the current legislation, a change in Sovereign requires administrative, formal procedures to be carried out. A change of sovereign occurs when the King or Queen of Canada is succeeded by a new monarch. Public Officers in Ontario already swear or affirm to bear true allegiance to “Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, her heirs and successors according to law.”

**Repeal of the *Local Planning Appeal Support Centre Act, 2017****(Local Planning Appeal Support Centre Act, 2017)*

A careful review found that there was a low demand for services at the Local Planning Appeal Support Centre. The centre closed on June 30, 2019. Since the agency is no longer in operation, the government is proposing to repeal the legislation pertaining to it.

**Expands alcohol service hours at Ontario's international airports**

Licensed establishments in Ontario airports are only allowed to sell and serve alcohol between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. These proposed changes would permit licensed bars and restaurants in certain commercial airports located after airport security to serve alcohol to customers 24 hours a day. This change would bring Ontario in line with the current rules surrounding the sale and service of liquor elsewhere in Canada and around the world.

**Ministry of Colleges and Universities****Expands degree granting authority for Algoma University and Ontario College of Art and Design***(Legislative Acts of two publicly-assisted universities: Algoma University (Algoma) and Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD) University)*

The current degree authorization process for OCAD and Algoma is burdensome, costly, and inefficient. It also does not work to the best interests of students, the institution, or the government. By allowing OCAD and Algoma to have full degree granting authority, both institutions will be able to see savings in time and costs. Removing red tape in the postsecondary sector allows all groups the

ability to focus on student success and providing them the skills and training they need to meet current employment needs.

**Updating degree consent process for publicly assisted colleges, universities with restricted degree-granting authority, private and out-of-province institutions, and streamlining the program funding eligibility approval processes for Ontario’s publicly assisted postsecondary institutions**

The ministry is updating the degree consent process for colleges, private and out-of-province institutions, and streamlining the program funding eligibility approval processes for Ontario’s publicly assisted postsecondary institutions.

These changes will help to reduce unnecessary delays and regulatory burden on Ontario’s postsecondary institutions, allowing them to offer programs to meet labour market demand more efficiently, which would increase program choices for students.

**Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade**

**Repeals legislation that was ineffective in promoting industry clusters**

*(Jobs and Growth Act, 2014)*

Ontario industries form clusters to achieve strategic goals on their own without a need for legislation to do so. This act from 2014 was never actually used by the government and created duplication and administrative roadblocks for industries who were already doing this type of planning. By clarifying the government is getting out of the way, industry sectors can now move at the speed of business to implement their strategies to grow investment and create jobs.

**Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines**

**Requires the government to acknowledge mine closure plan amendments within 45 days**

*(The Mining Act, 1990)*

Ontario is working to improve business certainty for proponents in the mining industry and to cut red tape to attract global investment and create new jobs. This proposed amendment would provide a more transparent process for proponents submitting a certified Closure Plan Amendment to the Director of Mine Rehabilitation. The amendment would place a 45-day timeline for the Director of Mine Rehabilitation to respond to the proponent on the approval of their closure plan. A closure plan outlines how the affected land will be rehabilitated and the costs associated with doing so. A closure plan must be developed and acknowledged by the ministry before mine development can begin.

**Repeals duplicated legislation on delivering social services in Northern Ontario**

*(Northern Services Boards Act, 1990)*

Local Service Boards play an essential role in Northern Ontario, allowing inhabitants of territories with no municipal organization to work together to provide basic community services. By removing duplicative programs between Part I and Part II of the act, we are making it easier for northern communities to navigate and establish service boards that provide essential services across the north.

**Removes outdated and unnecessary rules about the conversion of legacy claims**

*(O. Reg. 454/17 Conversion of Legacy Claim)*

This regulation provided detailed rules regarding merging mining claims under the under s.38.2 of the *Mining Act*. As part of the *Mining Act* modernization process, a new process has replaced the old and this regulation is no longer relevant.

### **Amends the Mine Rehabilitation Code under the *Mining Act* to comply with the Canadian Dam Safety Guidelines**

(O. Reg. 240/00, including the Mine Rehabilitation Code came into force in June 2000.)

The Mine Rehabilitation Code requires that all persons engaged in the design, construction, maintenance and decommissioning of tailings dams and other containment structures follow the procedures and requirements in the Dam Safety Guidelines published by the Canadian Dam Safety Association. This change will ensure updates in the most current version of the guidelines are added and must be followed.

### **Streamlines processes to allow clients to merge mining claims**

(*Mining Act, O. Reg 66*)

Since the launch of the Mining Lands Administration System (MLAS) in April 2018, several improvements and fixes have been made to improve the MLAS experience and the ability for claim holders to manage their claims. Feedback from clients indicates that timely improvements are essential to their ability to conduct business. As part of the implementation of MLAS, claim holders can merge or amalgamate two or more mining claims into a single cell claim for more efficient administration, except in certain situations (e.g., a current permit on the claim). The amendment would reduce the burden to industry by providing more flexibility to manage their mining lands rather than managing exploration activities individually.

### **Sparing owners of up to 9,000 smaller commercial, industrial and multi-unit residential buildings from a new reporting burden**

(*O.Reg. 506/18*)

The Energy and Water Reporting and Benchmarking (EWRB) program allows building owners to review a building's energy and water use and compare its own past performance and the performance of other similar buildings. Having access to this information helps them manage energy and water usage and costs to make decisions on cost effective investments for future energy efficiency upgrades.

However, for smaller building owners with fewer staffing resources, the reporting requirements can be burdensome. That's why we are proposing to make changes to the EWRB initiative to stop further roll-out that would increase reporting burden on building owners whose buildings are under 100,000 sq ft and allow them access to the reporting tools on a voluntary basis. The affected group of smaller building owners could save up to a total of \$2.7 million from this change.

### **Supporting consumer choice by giving energy consumers access to their data**

Most Ontarians have limited access to their energy data and have no way of assessing their consumption. There's no better way to take control of our in-home energy usage, and bring down costs, than by monitoring our use.

That's why we're currently exploring the potential costs of expanding Green Button — Connect My Data to give Ontarians more choice and flexibility, including the ability to monitor their energy usage and make better choices about their energy usage.

This initiative is part of an effort by our government to respond to consumer demands, promote innovation in the sector, help the environment and drive energy savings.

## **Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks**

### **Eliminates the Board of Negotiation**

*(Environmental Protection Act)*

Ontario is proposing to eliminate an outdated method for resolving disputes over environmental impacts that result in economic loss — the Board of Negotiation. Revoking a board that has not been convened in over 20 years reflects our strong commitment to streamlining government to be more efficient and effective. We support Ontario farmers and agricultural businesses and that is why we are committed to reducing existing duplication and overlap in investigative powers, helping provide greater clarity for dispute resolution mechanisms.

### **Creates an electronic system, to be redeveloped and managed by the Resource Productivity and Regulatory Authority, to allow businesses and governments to better track and report on hazardous wastes**

*(Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016, Environmental Protection Act, Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016)*

Ontario is modernizing government so that it works more efficiently and effectively for the people of Ontario by ensuring we have the right rules and regulations in place and supported by effective enforcement. We are also following through on the commitments from the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan to ensure waste is properly stored, transported, recycled, recovered and disposed. To make reporting easier, we are working to change the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority's mandate to include the development and delivery of digital waste and resource recovery reporting services and offer easier, faster reporting for the regulated community. Using modern information technology will save the regulated community time and money, and ensure the ministry focuses on risk-based program compliance and enforcement activities so that polluters are held accountable for the waste they create. These changes will help Ontario monitor and track the most hazardous waste moving across the province in real-time.

### **Increases accountability, helps level the playing field and saves time and money by introducing administrative penalties as an enforcement tool for environmental violations**

*(Environmental Protection Act, Ontario Water Resources Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Pesticides Act, Nutrient Management Act)*

Ontario is blessed with some of the most breathtaking natural landscapes anywhere in Canada. We care about our waterways, farmlands, food quality, and the air we breathe. Our government is committed to safeguarding our environment and protecting public health for future generations. That's why we're protecting our environment by expanding the use of monetary penalties for environmental violations to hold polluters accountable, as committed to in our Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan. The broader use of strong monetary penalties will allow the ministry to take strong action against illegal activity, protect our environment, and level the playing field for responsible businesses.

We are also proposing the launch of a new program, modeled on the Ontario Community Environment Fund, which will reinvest any collected penalties into local communities to fund environmental initiatives. This will support key priorities in the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan to protect and preserve our air, land, water and parks.

### **Streamlines waterpower approvals under the act**

*(Ontario Water Resources Act, Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act)*

The government is committed to ensuring the safety of secure, reliable sources of water. Through our Made-in-Ontario plan, we committed to promoting a healthy economy and supporting healthy environment. That's why we are developing sensible, practical solutions to modernizing Ontario's environmental assessment processes to better serve the people of Ontario now and into the future.

By modernizing and streamlining the province's approach for approvals for the operation of a waterpower facility by moving towards a one-window system for the industry, we will be working to reduce delays on projects that matter most to Ontario communities and businesses while ensuring strong environmental protections. This proposal to reduce regulatory burden will ensure appropriate management and oversight through effective and efficient class environmental assessments and existing processes such as the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* (LRIA).

Concurrently, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is also proposing amendments to the *Lake and Rivers Improvement Act* to maintain the existing requirements for new and existing facilities related to mercury-related monitoring and reporting, and notification that are currently in place under the Permit To Take Water program. These proposals are in response to Private Member's Bill (Bill 128) that was introduced on June 5, 2019, and address concerns that there is duplication and overlap between the existing regulatory regimes.

### **Amends the *Pesticides Act* to speed up access to new pesticide products**

*(Pesticides Act/O.Reg 63/09)*

Ontario is proposing to reduce complexity and burden associated with pesticide management while ensuring continued environmental protection. We are proposing to align Ontario's pesticides classifications with the federal government as all other provinces have done, in order to remove duplication and create a more efficient process for sale and use of pesticides in Ontario. This will result in the elimination of the application process for pesticides, as well as the Ontario Pesticides Advisory Committee, as its primary function of advising on the classification of pesticides would no longer be needed. This change will ensure a more standardized regime across Canada.

Ontario is also proposing to maintain restrictions on neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seeds to ensure environmental protection, with some administrative burden relief, and maintain the cosmetic pesticide ban to protect Ontario families and children from the unnecessary risks of using pesticides for cosmetic purposes. Ontario is proposing to add cemeteries to the list of exemptions from the ban, under certain conditions similar to exemptions for golf courses, sports fields, agriculture, specialty turf and invasive species control.

### **Integrates vehicle safety and emissions inspection program for transport trucks into a single inspection**

*[Environmental Protection Act, Ontario Regulation 361 (Motor Vehicle), Highway Traffic Act, Ontario Regulation 628 (Vehicle Permits)]*

Each year, Ontario trucks must complete multiple inspections to ensure that they are meeting Ontario's high environmental standards and safety requirements. These inspections are important, so we are creating a one-stop approach — one place, one test, one result — for truckers to complete both their 3-hour annual safety inspection and their 30-minute emissions testing.

These proposed changes will allow for a new, enhanced program for heavy-duty vehicle emissions tests which will be combined with Ontario's existing commercial motor vehicle safety inspection program in 2021. Completing both tests at the same time will save truckers time and money so they can focus on keeping goods moving across Ontario, while maintaining the necessary protections for our environment and safety.

### **Removes outdated acetone reporting requirements**

*[Revoke O. Reg. 127/01 (Airborne Contaminants Discharge Monitoring and Reporting, Amend O. Reg. 455/09 (General Regulation) under the Toxics Reduction Act, 2009, Consequential amendments will need to be considered to address references to O. Reg. 127/01 in the following regulations: O. Reg. 397/01; O. Reg. 194/05)]*

Ontario is the only jurisdiction in Canada that requires facilities to report acetone emissions. In 2014, after carrying out a science-based screening assessment, the federal government determined that acetone was not considered a toxic substance under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* and is not entering the environment in a quantity or concentration that constitutes a danger to human life or health. The federal government also stopped requiring acetone reporting under the National Pollutant Release Inventory after 1998, as ambient levels were below the levels considered harmful to human health and not likely to adversely impact the environment. Ontario is proposing regulatory changes to end acetone reporting in the province and will continue to ensure that facilities do not release harmful levels of acetone into the air through Ontario's air standard for acetone under Ontario Regulation 419/05: Air Pollution – Local Air Quality.

### **Removes outdated regulations and duplicative federal requirements for dry cleaners**

[O. Reg. 323/94 (*Dry Cleaners*)]

Federal regulations introduced in 2003 resulted in stronger rules and more stringent federal inspections of Ontario dry cleaners. Evidence shows that the federal requirements are effective at reducing environmental impacts. Ontario is proposing to revoke the mandatory training requirements for dry cleaning businesses under the *Environmental Protection Act* and defer to the stricter federal regulations. This will reduce burden for small businesses while continuing to ensure human health and the environment are protected.

### **Streamlines permitting approvals for combined heat and power systems that use wood biomass fuels**

(*Environmental Protection Act*)

Regulatory burden and cost for combined heat and power systems that use wood biomass fuels often deter businesses from moving forward with these projects. This initiative would make it easier for northern communities to move off of diesel onto low-carbon locally sourced wood chips and create additional economic opportunities in Northern Ontario for timber by-products. This energy efficient technology can replace fossil fuel consumption (i.e., diesel) in parts of rural and Northern Ontario, and will make it easier for hospitals and universities to adopt the technology making them more resilient to natural disasters and weather-related emergencies.

### **Streamlines permitting approvals for combined heat and power systems that use natural gas turbines**

(*Environmental Protection Act*)

Like combined heat and power systems that use wood biomass as fuels, regulatory burden and cost for combined heat and power systems that use natural gas often deter businesses, hospitals and universities from moving forward with these projects. This initiative would make it easier for businesses to manage their costs and for hospitals and universities to adopt the technology to make them more resilient to natural disasters and weather-related emergencies, ensuring that they are better equipped to remain open and functional in times of need.

### **Amendments to the Wells Regulation**

[Reg. 903 (Wells), under the *Ontario Water Resources Act*]

Ontario is making it easier for the well construction industry to operate in Ontario by modifying minimum insurance requirements for licensed well contractors to match with what is available in the insurance marketplace; harmonize well casing standards with international standards and clarify rules to streamline construction of test holes and dewatering wells to support the remediation of contaminated sites and brownfield redevelopment.

### **Allows permits to take water to be issued electronically**

[O. Reg. 226/07 (*Service of Documents*)]

These amendments would enable a transition of the province's Permit to Take Water approvals from a paper-based process to an electronic online system. Electronic services reduce burden on industry and improve government service delivery timelines.

### **Successful pilot project for flexible environmental compliance approvals**

*[Environmental Protection Act]*

Ontario is committed to cutting red tape to get out of the way of job creators in the auto sector and other manufacturing sectors, while continuing to maintain strong environmental protections. We worked with General Motors, a company that has a strong environmental record, to develop a single, flexible, multi-media environmental approval for the CAMI automotive facility in Ingersoll. The approval consolidates multiple environmental compliance approvals for the facility into a single outcomes-based approval, providing operational flexibility and eliminates unnecessary extra steps, as GM already adheres to a comprehensive third-party ISO certified Environmental Management System. The government encourages other Ontario manufacturers to explore the option of a single, flexible multi-media environmental compliance approval.

### **Ministry of Finance**

### **Introduces greater regulatory flexibility for transferring assets from single employer pension plans to new jointly sponsored pension plans**

*(80.4 & 81.0.1 of the Pension Benefits Act and Ontario Regulation 311/15)*

Pension plans are an important part of Ontarians' retirement future and the government is making these changes to ensure their sustainability and affordability while reducing costs and burden to administer them.

This proposed amendment to the *Pension Benefits Act* (PBA) will empower the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) with discretion to vary or waive certain prescribed requirements for the conversion of single employer pension plans (SEPP) to jointly-sponsored pension plans (JSPP).

This change enables some conversions in Ontario to be completed more quickly and efficiently, allowing employers to move to a JSPP model which increases overall plan sustainability and affordability through cost and risk sharing.

### **Providing flexibility for new established jointly sponsored pension plans**

*(80.4 of the Pension Benefits Act, Ontario Regulation 311/15)*

Currently, there is no regulatory discretion for the regulator to respond to circumstances where single-employer pension plans (SEPP) are seeking to convert into a new established jointly-sponsored pension plan (JSPP) through a transfer of assets.

This proposed amendment to the *Pension Benefits Act* (PBA) reduces red tape and creates efficiencies in the public sector by making it easier for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) to approve the transfer of assets from a single-employer pension plan (SEPP) to a newly established jointly-sponsored pension plan (JSPP).

### **Streamlining process for finding missing pension beneficiaries**

*[Subsection 27(3) (4) (5) (6) of the Pension Benefits Act]*

Pension plan administrators are required to provide periodic statements to all pension plan beneficiaries. This is difficult and costly for plan administrators when former and retired members cannot be located.

In cases where plans have missing beneficiaries, pension plan administrators have indicated that the costly search can sometimes be greater than the value of the pension benefit.

This proposed amendment to the *Pension Benefits Act* (PBA) would provide the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) with discretion to waive the requirement for pension plan administrators to provide biennial statements to former and retired members, if the CEO is satisfied that the administrator has made a reasonable effort to locate such members and has not been able to locate them, reducing the burden for pension plan administrators while ensuring reasonable efforts are made.

### **Allows pension plan administrators to make electronic communications the default method for communicating with plan members**

[*Pension Benefits Act*]

Electronic communication from plan administrators to pension plan members currently requires individuals to opt-in to electronic communications, leading most administrators to rely on paper communications which are costly and inefficient.

The 2019 Budget announced that the government is considering legislative changes to the *Pension Benefits Act* (PBA) to help facilitate further electronic communication between plan administrators and their members.

This proposed amendment would allow plan administrators to use electronic communication as the default method to communicate with their members while ensuring plan members have the opportunity to opt-out of electronic communications at any time, if they wish to do so.

### **Allows the Financial Services Regulatory Authority to create rules tailored to specific situations in the settlement of pension assets when a spousal relationship breaks down**

[*Pension Benefits Act, 1990 and Family Law Act*]

Family law is a dynamic area and as such, unique issues can arise in practice which are not addressed in legislation. Rule-making may be used to address these issues.

The proposed amendment to the *Pension Benefits Act* (PBA) would provide the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) with appropriate rule-making authority to prescribe requirements for pension plans when certain family law matters arise, which are not currently addressed by the legislation.

### **Updating pension plan actuarial standards**

[*Pension Benefits Act and Regulation 909 (General Regulation) and O. Reg. 310/13 (Asset Transfers under sections 80 and 81 of the PBA) and O. Reg 311/15) and O.Reg. 287/11 (Family Law Matters)*]

Like other Canadian jurisdictions, Ontario's pension legislation requires that if a plan member terminates employment or dies prior to retirement, the member or the member's beneficiary is entitled to receive the commuted value (CV) of their promised benefits under defined benefit (DB) pension plans.

Ontario is proposing legislative changes to reduce the cost and burden of administering plans in Ontario. This includes automatically incorporating the up-to-date standards adopted by the Actuarial Standards Board, including standards for determining a commuted value (CV) for defined benefit plans, into Ontario regulations.

Ensuring Ontario refers to up-to-date actuarial standards reduces uncertainty and regulatory burden on defined benefit plans and helps to keep compliance costs low.

### **Expands the definition of pension administrator to make it easier for single employers to create jointly sponsored pension plans**

*[Subsection 8(1) of the Pension Benefits Act]*

To increase the sustainability of its pension plans, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) pension plan is seeking to convert to a single employer jointly sponsored pension plan (JSPP), which is targeted for July 1, 2020.

An expansion to the definition of a pension plan administrator for purposes of a jointly sponsored pension plan (JSPP) is required, as the current definition does not allow a single employer JSPP to be administered by a Board of Trustees.

The proposed amendment will be of general application and will help facilitate the WSIB conversion to a single employer JSPP and increase the sustainability of pension plans in Ontario.

### **Increases the threshold for audited financial statements for pension plans**

*[Regulation 909 (General Regulation)]*

The *Pension Benefits Act* (PBA) requires the administrator of a pension plan to file financial statements as of the plan's fiscal year end. Currently, an auditor's report in respect of the financial statement must be filed for plans with assets of \$3 million or more. These proposed amendments would increase the threshold for which an audited financial statement must be filed for a pension plan from \$3 million to \$10 million of assets.

The result would be a reduction in the compliance costs for modest sized plans, whose investments may not require the level of oversight appropriate for those of larger plans.

This change would reduce costs by approximately \$10 million annually for all plans with assets between \$3 million and \$10 million allowing these funds to be freed for investment elsewhere.

### **Ensuring up-to-date accounting standards are referenced**

*[Regulation 909 (General Regulation)]*

Accounting references in the *Pension Benefits Act* (PBA) are outdated and refer to accounting standards of a professional body that no longer exists. On November 1, 2013, the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) merged with the Certified Management Accountants of Canada (CMA Canada) to form Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada). Housekeeping changes are proposed that would update the name of the Canadian accounting standards professional body, as referring to out-of-date accounting standards can create confusion in the pension industry.

### **Non-auto insurance act amendments**

*(Insurance Act and O. Reg 121/08: Investment and Lending Activities – Life Insurers)*

The *Insurance Act* does not have a comprehensive legislative review requirement. As a result, it has never undergone a comprehensive review to remove outdated provisions. These proposed changes would remove outdated, confusing and unnecessary regulatory requirements and frameworks to make it easier and more efficient for business to navigate the *Insurance Act* and make regulatory requirements clearer and consumer friendly.

### **Removing interprovincial personal exemption limits on beverage alcohol**

Ontario is committed to being a leader in removing interprovincial barriers to trade.

Removing outdated personal exemption limits on the amount of beer, wine and spirits that an individual can bring into Ontario on their person from another province or territory for personal use allows alcoholic beverages to move more freely across provinces. It provides Ontario consumers

with more choice in products and allows individuals visiting retailers, wineries, distilleries or breweries in other provinces to bring back more products with them into Ontario for personal use.

The government is committed to working with all provinces and territories to remove unnecessary barriers and promote job creation and economic growth by removing barriers to trade, in a way that works for everyone and doesn't disadvantage our local Ontario producers and retailers.

## **Ministry of Government and Consumer Services**

### **Removes outdated legislation of the paperback and periodical distribution sector**

*(Paperback and Periodical Distributors Act)*

We live in a globalized world. Where once most of our information came from printed books and magazines, now we primarily look online to engage with, and learn from, the world. This proposal to repeal the *Paperback and Periodical Distributors Act*, which has only two registered entities today, recognizes these changes and would remove outdated requirements from the 1970s. This would make it easier to do business in Ontario and save businesses time and money.

### **Simplifies laws on residential and commercial real estate transactions**

*(Residential Complex Sales Representation Act)*

The laws around the sale of homes and businesses are unnecessarily complex, creating a barrier for people to easily understand the protections that apply to them. This proposal to repeal the outdated *Residential Complex Sales Representation Act* will help simplify the laws governing these sales.

### **Ensures search warrants are properly completed by making a report to a justice of the peace**

*[Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000, Vintners Quality Alliance Act, 1999, Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, Consumer Protection Act, 2002, Payday Loans Act, 2008, Collection and Debt, Settlement Services Act, Consumer Reporting Act, Bailiffs Act, Ticket Sales Act, 2017, Condominium Management Services Act, 2015, Motor Vehicle Dealers Act, 2002, Travel Industry Act, 2002, New Home Construction Licensing Act, 2017, Protections for Purchasers of New Homes Act, 2017, Electricity Act, 1998, Home Inspection Act, 2017]*

Today, the rules around evidence seized under warrant are inconsistent. We are proposing to provide clarity by requiring evidence under consumer protection and public safety statutes to be reported to a Justice of the Peace who would then determine whether the evidence be kept or returned. This will give certainty that seizures of evidence under warrant are subject to appropriate judicial oversight. This will be accomplished by these proposed amendments which will ensure that consumer protection and public safety statutes are aligned with the *Provincial Offences Act*.

## **Ministry of Health**

### **Amending the Ontario Public Drug Program's Reporting Requirements**

*(Ontario Drug Benefit Act)*

While current legislation requires that the Executive Officer of Ontario's Public Drug Program prepare an annual report to the Minister of Health, it is no longer the preferred way for stakeholders to find the information they need. To address this, the government is ending duplication by eliminating the requirement for an annual report and focusing its efforts on providing transparent and current information through more timely, accessible and efficient channels such as Ministry of Health website and monthly formulary updates.

### **Increases flexibility for small businesses and consumer choice and convenience by allowing tobacconists to sell more products**

*(Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017)*

Existing tobacconists that have registered with their board of health prior to 2020 will have increased flexibility to sell products unrelated to specialty tobacco products, while maintaining regulatory requirements that protect our youth from accessing tobacco products. The requirements for specialty vape stores and newer tobacconists that register with their board of health in 2020 and onwards are not changing.

**Stops requiring barbers and hairdressers to collect name and contact information from their clients**

*(No affected act or legislation)*

Today in Ontario, businesses offering personal services to Ontarians are required to have a dedicated sink for cleaning their tools and to keep a record of the name and contact information of all of their customers. This makes sense for tattoo artists and tanning salons. But to barbers and hairdressers, this represents a burden with limited benefit. These proposed changes would make it easier for our community barbers and hairdressers to do business and reduce the need for the people of Ontario to share their personal contact information for something as routine as a haircut.

**Reduces administrative burden for drug manufacturers and pharmacies**

*(O. Reg. 201/96 under the Ontario Drug Benefit Act and Reg. 935 under Drug Interchangeability and Dispensing Fee Act)*

Ontario is home to some of the world's biggest prescription drug manufacturers, investing significantly to bring new drugs to market. Certain regulations and requirements slow the process and make it difficult to provide seniors and families access to the medications they need.

Based on the advice of pharmacists, the life sciences sector and the Auditor General of Ontario, the government is adjusting requirements to bring Ontario in line with other provinces, territories and national processes.

Among the benefits, these changes will help bring down the cost of medications in Ontario and help us be prepared for potential drug shortages in the province.

**Reduces administrative burden for grocery and other retailers by changes to clarify menu labelling requirements for food counters in grocery stores**

*(Healthy Menu Choices Act, 2015, O.Reg. 50/16)*

In some instances, grocery store items are being captured under the menu labelling requirements under the *Healthy Menu Choices Act*. This has led to ambiguity regarding whether or not unprepared fruit and vegetables that are normally sold by weight or unit in a grocery store, like a banana, require calories to be posted on a menu, label or a tag. To address these issues, Ontario is proposing changes, one of which will clarify when the posting of calorie counts is and is not required for certain food items in grocery stores. This will ensure Ontarians have access to the calorie information they need to make healthy choices, while giving grocery store owners clearer guidelines on what does and does not require posted information.

**Permitting dogs in food premises**

*(Health Protection and Promotion Act)*

Ontarians love our pets. But today, pet owners are not allowed to bring their dogs with them onto restaurant patios, unless they are service animals, which means business owners miss out on potential customers.

They are also not allowed to bring them to a brewery where only beverages and low-risk pre-packaged foods are served. Dog owners know how frustrating this can be — especially since dining rules in other parts of Canada, like New Brunswick and B.C. are more relaxed (not to mention other parts of the world like Paris, Tokyo, London and New York City).

That's why we're proposing to ease the restrictions on having dogs in outdoor eating areas, like patios, and in breweries indoors where only low-risk food such as beverages and shelf-stable or pre-packaged ready to eat foods are served. The Ministry of Health will develop an education and awareness campaign to ensure business owners and public health inspectors are aware of these changes. It will mean more business for those who serve food and make it easier for dog owners to enjoy a meal when they are out with family and their furry best friend.

### **Consultation on a separate, tailored regulation to support safe food donation and Ontario's soup kitchens**

*(Health Protection and Promotion Act)*

Community feeding organizations like food banks and faith-based charities are committed to serving others and feeding the less fortunate among us. Currently, Ontario doesn't distinguish between fast-food chain restaurants and the various not-for-profit soup kitchens, after school programs and new and innovative food rescue and delivery organizations which operate in schools, community centres, churches, mosques, temples and synagogues.

As a result, these charitable organizations are left with a confusing and convoluted set of rules through which to navigate. They're forced to spend needless hours trying to understand what applies to them and what doesn't so they can continue their good work in our communities.

To better help them help others, Ontario is launching a consultation on additional exemptions for these organizations that serve low-risk food (e.g., most baked goods, fruits and vegetables), protecting health and safety while ensuring that they can focus on feeding those in need rather than spending their time deciphering government regulations.

### **Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries**

#### **Encourages participation and increases flexibility for Ontario's Library Boards**

*(Public Libraries Act (PLA) Subsection 16 (1) — No regulations affected)*

Ontario's government recognizes that public libraries help to build strong and vibrant communities by supporting life long learning. Currently, the *Public Libraries Act* requires library boards to hold regular meetings once a month for at least 10 months out of the year. Our government is committed to reducing burdens for library boards in Ontario and to create a larger pool of potential board members that reflect our province's unique social composition. Amendments to the *Public Libraries Act* will provide greater flexibility to libraries to manage their governance more appropriately and permit Canadian permanent residents to serve on public library boards.

#### **Supports inclusion on Ontario's Public Library Boards by widening the pool of potential board members**

*(Section 10(1) of the Public Libraries Act)*

Currently, the *Public Libraries Act* excludes all those who do not hold Canadian citizenship from serving on library boards. Our government is committed to reducing burdens for library boards in Ontario and to create a larger pool of potential board members that reflect our province's unique social composition. Amendments to the *Public Libraries Act* will provide greater flexibility to libraries to manage their governance more appropriately and permit Canadian permanent residents to serve on public library boards.

### **Streamlines the regulatory process for protecting Ontario cultural institutions from seizure of foreign cultural objects on temporary display**

*(Foreign Cultural Objects Immunity from Seizure Act)*

Each year, museums and galleries across the province borrow cultural objects and host temporary exhibits from around the world to provide Ontarians the opportunity to learn and explore diverse experiences. The administrative process to facilitate these activities can be time-consuming and complex, requiring institutions to apply to government each time they wish to bring a cultural object to the province and protect it from seizure. Ontario's government for the people is repealing and replacing the *Foreign Cultural Objects Immunity from Seizure Act* (FCOISA) with modern legislation to reduce the administrative burden and bring Ontario's practices in line with other international jurisdictions. The new legislation will create an efficient and transparent process whereby institutions will be designated and need to apply only once rather than exhibition-by-exhibition. Lenders of cultural objects will continue to be assured that their cultural objects are protected from foreign seizure while entrusted to Ontario's highly credible and respected cultural institutions.

### **Review of the Act to establish new ways to meet the needs of Ontario's horse-boarding industries**

*(The Innkeepers Act, 1990)*

First enacted in 1874, the *Innkeepers Act* is out of date. Our government will consider new ways to better meet the needs of Ontario's horse-boarding industry, including possible new legislation in Spring 2020.

## **Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development**

### **Eliminates duplicative Federal notification requirement for introducing new chemicals**

*[Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)]*

Employers currently have to notify two levels of government — provincial and federal — when they bring new chemicals into their workplace. This means businesses have to go through the same costly, time-consuming process twice. Our government is eliminating this duplication, by removing the requirement to notify the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development. This will save businesses time, money and effort while still ensuring hazardous products are treated safely.

### **Revoking the outdated Garment Industry regulation**

*(Ontario Regulation 291/01: Terms and Conditions of Employment in Defined Industries — Women's Coat and Suit Industry and Women's Dress Sportswear Industry)*

Ontario is revoking Ont. Regulation 291/01 commonly referred to as the Women's Garment Regulation. The regulation was enacted in 1935 to increase protection for employees against low wages and poor working conditions. The rules in this regulation became unnecessary when new employment standards legislation was introduced in 2001. Repealing the regulation will place Ontario's garment industry under one set of harmonized rules.

### **Provides free access to Ontarians searching for arbitration awards online**

*(Labour Relations Act)*

We are providing free access to Ontarians searching for grievance arbitration awards filed with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development. This self-serve, online tool replaces a fee-based search service for grievance arbitration awards. This will help businesses and unions make informed decisions at their own workplaces, while reducing wait times and administrative burdens, and saving them money.

## **Online Employment Standards Policy and Interpretation Manual**

*(Employment Standards Act (ESA))*

Ontario is making it easier for employers to understand their rights and obligations under the *Employment Standards Act* by posting the ESA policy and interpretation manual online. Accessing the manual online 24/7 is simple, free, and convenient, making it easier to start, run and grow small businesses in Ontario. By putting the manual online employers now have a simple way to check their rights and obligations.

## **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

### **Dissolves the Building Code Conservation Advisory Council**

*(Building Code Act, 1992)*

Ontario is proposing to amend the *Building Code Act* to permit the use of email as a method to serve notice or an order required by the Act. Ontario is also repealing subsection 34.1 of the Act to dissolve the Building Code Conservation Advisory Council as recommended by the Agency Review Task Force to save money and cut red tape. Ontario will still seek expert advice on building code conservation matters through other methods of consultation such as the use of working groups.

### **Repeals legislation on fence disputes among property owners**

*(Line Fences Act)*

To reduce red tape, Ontario is proposing to repeal this legislation that was created to help resolve fence disputes between neighbours. Municipalities already have powers to locally regulate fencing matters through municipal bylaws and standards. Fencing disputes can be addressed through such municipal standards, and through action taken in the courts and resolution between neighbours. While repealing the Act, Ontario is also proposing to maintain provisions for fencing lands on former railway lines abutting farming businesses to protect farmers from having to share these costs.

### **Repeals outdated legislation so communities can modernize their road maintenance management**

*(Statute Labour Act)*

The *Statute Labour Act* dates back to 1840 and is now seldom used. The Act provides a way of raising resources supporting the maintenance of local roads through requiring unpaid labour or commuted payments from property owners. It is used in some unincorporated communities outside of municipalities. Today there are modern, tax-based alternatives to fund public works, such as local roads boards under the *Local Roads Boards Act*. Ontario is proposing to repeal the Statute Labour Act and will assist any remaining local areas to transition to a more modern approach to road maintenance.

## **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**

### **Reduces duplication and streamlines approvals in the aggregate industry**

*(Aggregate Resources Act)*

The Greater Golder Horseshoe region is projected to grow by approximately four million people by 2041. To support that growth, we will need aggregates to build our homes, schools, roads and transit systems. That's why we have developed this proposal to create opportunities and support growth, while maintaining a steadfast commitment to protecting the environment and addressing impacts to our communities. These proposed changes include reducing overlap between the *Aggregate Resources Act* and municipal processes; improving flexibility for accessing aggregates; enhancing a process to better protect ground water; and facilitating a streamlined approval process to better clarify the roles of the province, municipalities and operators.

**Increases efficiencies and streamlines approvals under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act***  
(*Crown Forest Sustainability Act*)

Today, some non-forestry activities, like building infrastructure for northern communities, become tied up in forestry permitting processes. This proposal would create a new “permit to remove forest resources”, which would streamline the authorization process for cutting trees on Crown land for approved non-forestry activities like electricity transmission lines and roads to far north communities.

Sustainable forest management is critical to the long-term health of Ontario’s forests while providing social, economic and environmental benefits to Ontarians. Forest management activities within this area are required by law to be managed sustainably. Ontario divides its Crown forests into management units, which all require 10-year sustainable forest management plans and are prepared by foresters with input from Indigenous, stakeholder and public groups. These plans take more than two-years to develop and be approved. The proposed changes would enable streamlined processes and approvals once a sustainable forest management plan is officially adopted.

Ontario’s forest industry generates over \$16 billion in revenue and supports approximately 155,000 jobs across the province and is recognized as an innovator and leader in the global industry. Our government is committed to supporting the forestry sector and the tens of thousands of jobs this renewable resource provides for Ontarians. The projected cost savings for industry through streamlining will support growth and innovation in the sector.

**Reduces time, costs and uncertainty from regulation of the oil, gas and salt sector**  
(*Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act*)

There is lack of clarity and consistency in rules for the oil, gas and salt sectors in Ontario which has created confusion. These amendments will address these concerns by placing new requirements on pre-existing activities and reducing ambiguity on what constitutes the definition of a well for geological testing. These changes would benefit businesses in the oil, gas and salt sectors in Ontario by providing clarity to the rules, potentially reducing the time, costs and uncertainty associated with doing business in Ontario.

**Enables the government to respond more quickly to an outbreak of a wildlife disease**  
(*Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*)

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a progressive, fatal brain disease that mostly affects deer and elk, was recently discovered in deer in Quebec and has also been found in six nearby states in the Great Lakes region. Rapid response is critical in eradicating CWD. That is why our government has developed a plan so we can act quickly if CWD is discovered in Ontario. We are committed to ensuring sustainable wildlife populations for generations to come.

**Repeals the *Freshwater Fish Marketing Act* and its regulation**  
(*Freshwater Fish Marketing Act*)

The *Freshwater Fish Marketing Act* (Ontario) and associated regulation have not been in use since 2011, when Ontario formally withdrew from mandatory participation in the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation in favour of an open market for buying and selling commercially caught fish. By removing the non-operational legislation and regulation, we would provide clarity to commercial fishing licence holders and make government more efficient. We are committed to modernizing government and creating efficiencies to save taxpayer dollars and get out of the way of job creators.

**Provides clarity for waterfront property owners**

(*Public Lands Act, Occupation of Public Lands under Section 21.1 of the Public Lands Act*)

Individuals and businesses who want to build a dock or a single-storey boathouse on Crown shorelines road allowances are required to pay a fee and annual rent, which is unnecessary and

burdensome. These minor changes would enable clarity and efficiency for property owners and businesses, allowing these structures to be located on Crown land without the need for a permit or annual rent, saving taxpayers money and creating efficiencies for the government.

### **Streamlining waterpower approvals under the Act**

*(Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act)*

Currently, waterpower dam owners deal with multiple ministries during the development and operation of their dams. This proposal allows for the development of a one-window system for some dam operators. The one-window approach would provide time and cost savings to the industry, while continuing to require monitoring, reporting and notification related to mercury.

### **Ministry of Transportation**

#### **Gives municipalities the power to decide whether to allow off-road motorcycles to drive on or across local roads to access trail networks**

*(Highway Traffic Act)*

Off-road motorcycling (dirt biking) is a popular recreational activity that supports tourism and contributes to Ontario's local economies. Currently these vehicles are not allowed to cross, ride on or along municipal roads. As a result, we are expanding the authority of municipalities so that they can create by-laws to allow the use of off-road motorcycles on local roads to support Ontario's trail systems.

#### **Switches to a one-stop payment option for the 407 ETR enforcement fee**

*(Legislative changes required to Highway 407 Act, 1998 and Highway 407 East Act, 2012)*

Ontario is improving customer service by proposing changes that would allow Highway 407 Express Toll Route customers to pay all outstanding fines at once to clear their licence plate denial. The changes would add the \$20 enforcement fee as part of the licence plate denial notice. We are committed to delivering simpler, faster and better services to all Ontarians.

#### **Allows Long-Combination Vehicles to travel during peak travel times in the GTA**

*(Ontario LCV Program Conditions)*

Long-combination vehicles reduce the number of vehicles on Ontario highways and reduces costs and greenhouse gas emissions from transporting Ontario's goods. After a decade of piloting, Ontario will be updating the rules to permit more long-combination vehicles on Ontario's highways to allow for a more efficient way of moving goods safely across the province, bringing the province into line with other jurisdictions who have already made this move.

#### **Eliminates paper copies by moving to an electronic International Registration Plan**

*[IRP Policy Manuals, IRP Renewal forms or applications with renewals built in (4 in total)]*

The International Registration Plan (IRP) is a U.S.-based registration reciprocity agreement among states of the United States and Canadian provinces, including Ontario. The plan distributes commercial vehicle registration fees based on the total distance travelled in each jurisdiction.

As part of Ontario's Digital First Strategy, the International Registration Plan program in Ontario will stop mailing renewal packages to registered fleets prior to their expiry. As of January 1, 2020, all carriers must obtain their renewals online through the Permitting and Registration for International Registration Plan and Oversize/Overweight System. This approach aligns with other North American jurisdictions.

### **Explores ways to make it easier for drivers to get their three-wheeled motorcycle licence**

Ontario is exploring actions that would make it easier for drivers to get their licence to drive a three-wheeled motorcycle. The proposed changes would cut red tape, give consumers more choice and align rules with neighbouring jurisdictions like Quebec. This is part of our government's commitment to reducing unnecessary burden and keeping Ontario open for business.

## **Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**

### **Repeals provision for the *Fish Inspection Act***

*(Fish Inspection Act)*

Ontario supports the growth and development of a strong fish processing industry in Ontario. We are proposing to allow for the repeal of the *Fish Inspection Act* at a future date. Timing of the repeal would coincide with implementation of a new regulation under the Food Safety and *Quality Act*, 2001 (FSQA).

### **Updating references to federal food legislation**

Several pieces of federal legislation have been repealed and replaced by the *Safe Food for Canadians Act*. References in the *Fish Inspection Act*, *Food Safety and Quality Act*, 2001, *Milk Act* and the *Livestock and Livestock Products Act* will be updated to reflect the new federal legislation. Having accurate and up-to-date references reduces the risk of confusion and helps businesses understand what requirements apply in Ontario.

### **Makes the farm business registration program more farmer-friendly**

*(Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act, 1993)*

The government is committed to cutting red tape and reducing the regulatory burden for Accredited Farm Organizations. Changing the length of time an AFO is accredited would save AFOs money and time spent on preparing paperwork, allowing them to dedicate more of their resources to supporting farm businesses across the province. We are also proposing legislative changes that will make the Farm Business Registration program more farmer-friendly and reduce costs for Accredited Farm Organizations.

### **Facilitates discussions to modernize outdated animal health regulations**

*(Animal Health Act, 2009)*

Due to legislative requirements, clauses that have not been proclaimed after a certain time period expire. We are proposing to substantially re-enact certain clauses of the *Animal Health Act*. While we are not proposing further regulatory changes at this time, extending the timeframe provides flexibility for future changes in consultation with industry.

### **Removes unnecessary requirements in regulation of agricultural and horticultural organizations**

*(Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act)*

Our government is committed to supporting agricultural and horticultural organizations and their many volunteers. Thousands of Ontarians are members of their local agricultural and horticultural societies and some of the changes will reduce compliance costs and the burden on volunteers while increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of these organizations.

Organizations would have increased flexibility to decide on the method of providing the required notice to their members, and consequently organizations will save time and money. Agricultural societies serve an important role in their communities: preserving and celebrating the rural way of life in Ontario, including by hosting agricultural fall fairs.

### **Dissolving the Livestock Medicines Advisory Committee**

*(Section 2 (subsections: (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5)) of the Livestock Medicines Act)*

The federal government recently changed the rules to require a prescription for higher-risk medicines. As a result, there is no longer the same need for the Livestock Medicines Advisory Committee. Several other avenues for obtaining stakeholder advice on livestock medicines already exist and are being used by the ministry.

This decision will not have an impact on the way livestock medicines are regulated in Ontario as they are still regulated by the Ministry of Health. The ministry will continue to solicit and receive advice on the control and regulation of livestock medicines and will do so through existing and actively used stakeholder outreach contact.

### **Reduces paperwork for farmers for agricultural products insurance**

*(Agricultural Products Insurance Act)*

The Ontario government is making it quicker and easier for farmers to obtain or renew coverage for agricultural production insurance by reducing the amount of paperwork farmers have to review or complete. For example, farmers will no longer have to complete the yield confirmation form or, in many cases, the proof of loss form that they currently receive. These changes would reduce repetitive paperwork by the equivalent of up to 1 million pages per year, or approximately 120 trees.

The Ontario government is also making changes to expand appeal rights for producers and ensure that farmers have adequate time to prepare and file appeals.

### **Updates regulation of beef cattle marketing so government can be more responsive to industry needs**

*(Beef Cattle Marketing Act)*

Ontario is proposing changes to the *Beef Cattle Marketing Act* to improve government response time in making and improving regulatory amendments requested by industry. The Ontario government will continue to consult with the industry to consider other changes to reduce costs to business, such as updating recordkeeping requirements.

### **Repeals outdated and unnecessary legislation on the grading and sales of farm products**

*(Farm Products Grades and Sales Act)*

This piece of legislation, which dates back to the 1930s, no longer has any regulations under it and is not used. The rules that were found in regulations are located in other pieces of legislation.

### **Consulting on Proposed Amendments to the *Drainage Act***

*(Drainage Act)*

We will be consulting on changes to the *Drainage Act* that would streamline processes for critical infrastructure projects that will benefit our farmers and municipalities, while maintaining environmental standards.

### **Ministry of the Solicitor General**

#### ***Private Security and Investigative Services Act, 2005***

*(Ontario Regulation 26/10 – Training and Testing)*

In order to become a private career college (PCC), an organization must be registered under the *Private Career Colleges Act* (PCCA), and at least one of the programs or courses offered must be approved by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. One of the requirements for a course to be approved by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities is that the course costs a minimum of \$2,000 (increased from \$1,000 due to an amendment on January 1, 2019).

Currently under the *Private Security and Investigative Services Act* Training and Testing Regulation, any security guard or private investigator training courses provided by a PCC have to be approved by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. The ministry plans to remove this requirement, which would allow PCCs to deliver security guard and/or private investigator training at a lower fee for students.

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