

Minister's Message

Fall 2022 Red Tape Bill



Parm Gill
Minister of Red
Tape Reduction

Reducing red tape is about streamlining regulations so entrepreneurs can grow their businesses. It's about cutting unnecessary fees and making paperwork simpler, so people spend less time filling out forms or tangled in complex government processes.

It is an important part of our government's plan to create jobs and make it easier to invest and build in Ontario. And we are getting it done.

Since 2018 we have reduced regulatory requirements by 6.5 per cent, saving individuals and businesses \$576 million in annual compliance costs.

Common sense changes such as eliminating licence plate renewal fees, making it easier for restaurants and bars to include alcohol with delivery and takeout orders, and making it simpler to interact with government are saving people and businesses time and money.

We've come a long way, but there's more work to be done.

The global supply chain crisis brought on by COVID-19, shifts in demand, and labour shortages are impacting day-to-day life in Ontario and impacting our economy.

Our proposed *Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario Act, 2022* includes a number of legislative, regulatory and policy measures designed to improve Ontario's competitiveness, strengthen our local supply chains, and make government services easier to access and interact with.

Reducing red tape on individuals and businesses is a key element of post-pandemic recovery and economic growth.

As a former small business owner, I know people and businesses who face red tape and regulatory barriers are in the best position to help us find lasting solutions to breaking down those barriers holding back Ontario's economy. That's why we are asking them to share their best ideas for reducing red tape by relaunching the province's Red Tape Reduction portal, available online at ontario.ca/redtape.

Together we can come up with meaningful solutions to eliminate overly complicated, duplicative, and unnecessary rules while maintaining important regulations that protect people's health, safety, and the environment.

Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario

In our Fall 2022 Red Tape Reduction Package, our government is reducing even more red tape to strengthen Ontario's supply chain, support farmers and agri-businesses, grow our labour force and ensure Ontario remains competitive in the global market. Here's what we're doing to reduce red tape and build a stronger Ontario:

Supporting Ontario's Supply Chains and Increasing Competitiveness



Strengthening Ontario's Food Supply Chains

We're launching the Grow Ontario strategy to strengthen Ontario's food supply chain from farm to fork, building a stronger, more resilient agri-food sector that has a strong foundation to respond to future challenges. This strategy will outline actions to build consumer confidence and support farmers, promote Ontario-grown food, attract an innovative talent pool, and stabilize the food supply chain while increasing commercialization and adoption of innovative new technologies and practices that enhance competitiveness, increase productivity, and create economic growth.

Allowing Custom Feeding Between Feeder Cattle Co-Op Members

We're proposing to amend the *Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Act* to exempt feeder cattle enrolled under the Feed Cattle Loan Guarantee Program from Section 3 of the *Innkeepers Act*. The proposed changes would help members of feeder cattle co-operatives expand their businesses and create more jobs by allowing custom feeding, which will support the sector's capacity to deliver safe, healthy food products to all Ontarians.

Optimizing Reduced Load Periods

Each year during the spring thaw, roads become weaker and susceptible to permanent damage caused by vehicles carrying heavy loads. To help protect road infrastructure during this time of year, the *Highway Traffic Act* provides local authorities the power to temporarily reduce vehicle axle weight limits. We're giving municipalities a new option to optimize the timing of these Reduced Load Periods, including shortening the period when conditions permit.

Updating the Ontario Energy Board Act

We've made it easier to build electricity transmission lines that do not have a financial impact on ratepayers by exempting customer funded projects from the Ontario Energy Board's Leave to Construct process. With the proposed amendments to the Act, proponents of these projects will continue to have the right to apply to the Ontario Energy Board to cross a highway, railway, or utility line in circumstances where an agreement cannot be obtained.

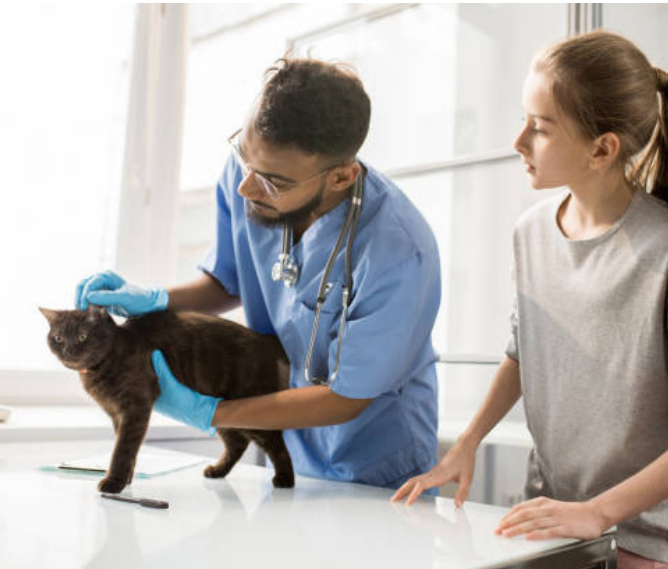


Enabling Carbon Storage Technology

We are addressing barriers to the underground geological storage of carbon by proposing to amend the *Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act*. If passed, this will support industry and reduce red tape as a first step in creating a framework to regulate and enable permanent storage of carbon as a new tool to help reduce Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions. As future phases are advanced, innovation of carbon capture, use and storage technologies will be encouraged, playing an important role in managing emissions and producing low-carbon hydrogen.

Enhancing Animal Health Preparedness

We're proposing to amend the *Animal Health Act* to provide authority to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to protect the health and well-being of the public and animals when faced with a potential animal health crisis. The proposed changes would enhance animal disease emergency preparedness, mitigate risks to animal health and human health, and boost the resiliency of Ontario's livestock and poultry sector, ensuring Ontarians have a reliable, safe and stable food supply.



Modernizing the Veterinarians Act

We're starting a broad public consultation on the potential modernization of the *Veterinarians Act*, including identifying opportunities for streamlining requirements or reducing compliance burden for veterinarians and practice owners. The proposed changes to the Act would address scope of practice, complaints and resolutions processes, quality assurance, and governance of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario.

Modernizing Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO) Act

We are looking to modernize the *ARIO Act* to reflect current and future agri-food research and innovation needs. Updating the language of the *ARIO Act* will allow for more research that accurately reflects the evolving nature of agri-food research today and in the future.

Streamlining the Highway Corridor Management System

We're upgrading Ontario's Highway Corridor Management System to provide a seamless and integrated online platform for approvals and permits along provincial highways. Work is ongoing to allow applicants, including home builders and municipalities, to submit, track and receive all Ministry of Transportation approvals online, saving time and money.

Simplifying Requirements for the Petroleum Industry

We're proposing to simplify our Gasoline Volatility regulation to reduce regulatory and administrative burden on the on the petroleum industry by aligning with national standards. Key requirements to comply with, measure and report gasoline volatility limits would remain in place and frequency of testing will remain the same. These changes will ensure consistency for regulated facilities, while maintaining protections to human health and the environment.

Making it Easier to Interact with Government by Cutting Red Tape

Modernizing the Court System

We are increasing court capacity and efficiency to help address the COVID-19 backlog in criminal cases by temporarily increasing the limit on the number of days retired judges can work and allowing court clerks to reopen certain proceedings if they believe the defendant missed a notice or was unable to attend a meeting or hearing through no fault of their own.

We are also proposing to make jury questionnaires available online and test the feasibility of moving away from providing a paper version, except on request. This amendment to the *Juries Act* could, if passed, reduce administrative costs and make it easier for prospective jurors to participate in the court system.

Improving Ontario's Workplace Insurance & Compensation System

We are proposing amendments to the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act* that would improve the operational efficiency of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. This includes ensuring injured or ill apprentices receive loss-of-earnings benefits at the same amounts a journey person would receive, providing flexibility about when WSIB Board of Directors must meet, and ensuring governance documents are consistent with, not duplicative of, other government directives, and streamlining requirements for office lease transactions.

Supporting Hot Tub and Spa Operators

We reduced red tape by exempting certain hot tubs located in individual hotel rooms or suites for the exclusive use of that unit's guests from requirements under the Public Pools Regulation. This reduces regulatory burden for hotel operators while ensuring guests at these hotels continue to enjoy the use of a private spa during their stay.

Extended Corporate Virtual Processes

Rules that allowed virtual corporate meetings were extended to the end of September 2023, while our government continues to analyze consultation results and explore potential permanent changes.



Reviewing the use of Corporate Performance Ratings

We are reviewing the use of the Ministry of Transportation's Corporate Performance Rating system in the evaluation of bids for engineering services to improve the fairness and efficiency of the procurement process. Focusing more on the price and technical proposal when evaluating bids for engineering services will make it simpler to administer and fairer for all participants.

Working with Indigenous Partners

We will work with Indigenous businesses and communities to better understand and address barriers to accessing government business support programs and procurement opportunities.

Rabies Testing and Vaccination

We're providing authority to local Medical Officers of Health to order rabies testing of deceased animals that were under observation after biting a person. If passed, bite victims may no longer have to undergo unnecessary post-exposure vaccination as the deceased animal's rabies status will be known. We are also reducing unnecessary stress for animals and their owners by eliminating the need for revaccination of animals that have been vaccinated in other provinces or territories of Canada or in the United States.



Enhancing Transfer Payment Ontario

We're establishing an efficient, transparent, and coordinated approach to administering government transfer payments to service providers such as municipalities and non-profit organizations through a standard online digital platform, reducing paperwork and administrative burdens for government-funded organizations.

Streamlining the Mandatory Blood Testing Act

We are enacting changes to the *Mandatory Blood Testing Act* that allow victims of crime, first responders and emergency personnel, who are sometimes exposed to the bodily substance of others, to receive faster processing of their applications.

Modernizing the Public Hospitals Act

Evidence shows that examining tissue collected during hip and knee surgeries does not improve patient outcomes and is costly, medically unnecessary, and a drain on resources.

We're proposing a change to Regulation 965 of the *Public Hospitals Act* that, if passed, would remove the requirement to send this tissue for pathology testing.



Clarifying the Continuation of Corporate Status of the OSPCA

We're proposing a new Act and associated regulation-making authorities that, if passed, would confirm the continuation of the corporate status of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA), retroactive to January 1, 2020.

Help us make Ontario work smarter for business and better for people

We want people, businesses, and organizations across Ontario to share their best ideas to cut red tape. Learn more about how we are reducing red tape and submit your ideas at ontario.ca/redtape