


A photograph of two men in a warehouse or industrial setting. The man in the foreground is wearing a white hard hat, a green safety vest over a white shirt and a yellow tie, and is smiling while looking at a laptop. The man in the background is wearing a yellow hard hat and a yellow safety vest over a white shirt, also smiling. They are standing on a forklift. The image is overlaid with a large blue and green geometric shape.

**Less Red Tape,  
Stronger Economy**





With the proposed  
*Less Red Tape, Stronger  
Economy Act, 2023*, we  
continue to look for ways  
to pave the way for better  
services, help Ontario  
businesses grow, and  
save Ontarians time.



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*This document includes highlights from the proposed **Less Red Tape, Stronger Economy Act** and related policy and regulatory changes. For a complete list of items in the Spring 2023 Red Tape Reduction Package, please refer to the backgrounder available on [Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca).*





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Since 2018, Ontario has passed nine red tape reduction bills, helping deliver on our promise to improve government services and make it easier to invest and build in Ontario.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

# Less Red Tape, Stronger Economy

As a former small business owner, I know how difficult it can be to overcome complicated and unnecessary rules and red tape when trying to start or grow a business. And I know many people face challenges when trying to access government programs and services.

That's why, from day one, our government has focused on finding meaningful solutions that make life easier for people and businesses. Since 2018, Ontario has passed nine red tape reduction bills, helping deliver on our promise to improve government services and make it easier to invest and build in Ontario.

Reducing red tape means improving service by accelerating timelines for municipal approvals so we can build broadband faster. It means helping businesses grow by embracing new technologies to improve safety for workers while at the same time reducing burdens for employers. It means saving people time and frustration when they access government programs. Reducing red tape is an important part of building a stronger economy.

Our Spring 2023 Red Tape Reduction Package builds on our strong track record by introducing 42 forward-thinking measures that pave the way for better services, help Ontario businesses grow, and save people time and money.



Our measures to reduce red tape are working. I'm proud that our government's actions to reduce regulatory burdens since 2018 are now saving Ontario businesses, not-for-profits, and the broader public sector **nearly \$700 million each year** in compliance costs. These are real savings that can be used to expand and grow a business or support the important services delivered by not-for-profits, municipalities, hospitals, universities and colleges, and school boards.

Together, we will continue to support Ontario's position as a key player in the North American and global economic landscape – now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Parm Gill". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Parm Gill**  
Minister of Red Tape Reduction

# Guiding Principles

Ontario continues to take action to reduce burdens on people and businesses. We're striving to make life easier through several significant burden reduction and regulatory modernization initiatives.



## Our work to transform Ontario into a modern and efficient regulator is informed by these seven principles:

- 1** Recognized national and international standards should be adopted.
- 2** Less onerous compliance requirements should apply to small businesses than to larger businesses.
- 3** Digital services that are accessible to regulated entities should be provided.
- 4** Regulated entities that demonstrate excellent compliance should be recognized.
- 5** Unnecessary reporting should be reduced, and steps should be taken to avoid requiring regulated entities to provide the same information to government repeatedly.
- 6** An instrument should focus on the user by communicating clearly, providing for reasonable response timelines and creating a single point of contact.
- 7** An instrument should specify the desired result that regulated entities must meet, rather than the means by which the result must be achieved.



# Paving the Way for Better Services

## **Building Broadband Faster Act and Guidelines**

We are proposing to amend the *Building Broadband Faster Act* and updating associated guidelines to help speed up the delivery of high-speed internet projects to every community by the end of 2025. These changes, if passed will provide guidance and predictability to municipalities and stakeholders on the permitting process, dispute resolution and cost allocation for building high-speed internet projects faster.

## **Updating the Creditors Relief Act**

We are proposing an update to modernize the delivery of court services and make communications quicker and easier by allowing the sheriff's office to send enforcement documents by email.

## **Modernizing Agency Governance and Oversight**

As we prepare for the return of Northlander passenger rail, our government will develop a modern and clearly defined mandate for the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission focused on the delivery of reliable and effective transportation services to, from, and across Northern Ontario.



## **Amending the Highway Traffic Act**

We are proposing to improve safety on Ontario's roads by updating the *Highway Traffic Act* to prohibit drivers from overtaking a working snow plow unless a full lane is available to complete the maneuver safely to improve road safety.

## **Launching the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative**

We are implementing the Building Ontario Business Initiative to reduce barriers and provide companies in Ontario with greater access to public procurement opportunities, helping them to sell more goods and services and create jobs in their local communities.

# Helping Ontario Businesses Grow



## Modernizing Mining Health and Safety Requirements

We are strengthening occupational health and safety by updating the Mines and Mining Plants regulation to reduce acceptable exposure levels of diesel exhaust and permit the use of new technologies, including drones, to better protect workers while increasing flexibility and reducing red tape for businesses.

## Permitting Phase 2 of Geologic Carbon Sequestration

We are proposing legislation to enable the next phases of carbon storage innovation in Ontario by piloting technology that has the potential to store 30 years of carbon emissions.

## Enabling Innovation for Ontario's Energy Sector

We are proposing amendments to the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* that would allow the Ontario Energy Board to exempt innovative pilot or demonstration projects from the need to obtain certain licenses or permits on a time-limited basis.

## Protecting Ratepayers from Unnecessary Fines

We are proposing to keep energy rates affordable for Ontarians by amending the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* to prohibit any administrative monetary penalties, fines or fees imposed by energy utilities from being recovered from consumers through energy rates.

## Repealing the Beverage Container Regulations

We are repealing outdated recycling regulations related to soft drink containers, ensuring all producers follow a consistent approach to recycling soft drink containers and diverting these materials from landfills.







### Formally Removing Duplicative Requirements in Towing Sector

We are proposing amendments to the *Municipal Act* and *City of Toronto Act* to remove duplication and red tape by eliminating municipal licencing for the towing sector. These proposed amendments also ensure that operators and drivers in the towing and vehicle storage industry are not required to pay multiple licencing or certificate fees when the provincial certification program is in effect.

### Consolidating Financial Protection Program Acts into One

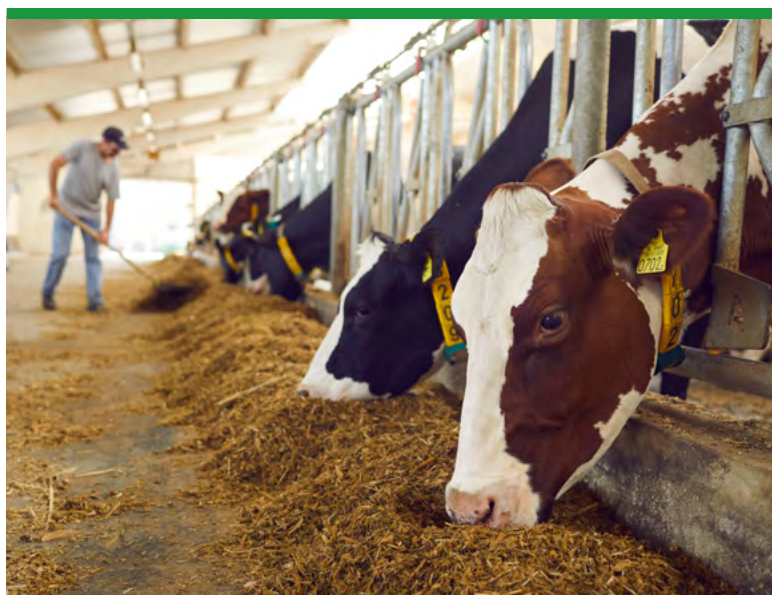
We plan to reduce red tape for 28,000 grain producers and 19,000 beef farmers in Ontario by repealing the three current acts governing financial protection programs and replacing them with one consolidated, updated and streamlined act which would, if passed, support the current and future needs of the sector.

### Amending the *Milk Act*

We are proposing to update regulations under the *Milk Act* to reflect modern standards and practices surrounding cleaning and sanitation, to better support the dairy industry while maintaining the highest food safety and quality requirements.

### OINP NOC codes

We will harmonize National Occupational Classification (NOC) codes under the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) to be in line with federal NOC codes, reducing confusion and reflecting the evolving nature of work and jobs.



# Saving Ontarians Time



## Modernizing the Child Support Payment System

We are proposing legislation to bring the 2007 Hague Convention and the *Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act* into force in Ontario, reducing frustration for more than 8,500 families involved in the province's support orders system by enabling enforcement of support orders in more than 55 countries across four continents.



## Making Corporate Virtual Processes Permanent in Ontario

We are proposing to save time and reduce burdens by amending Ontario's business law statutes and regulations to permanently enable businesses, not-for-profits, and condominium corporations to hold virtual or hybrid meetings, facilitate virtual or hybrid voting, and enable certain notices or documents to be sent electronically.

## Updating Survivors Definition

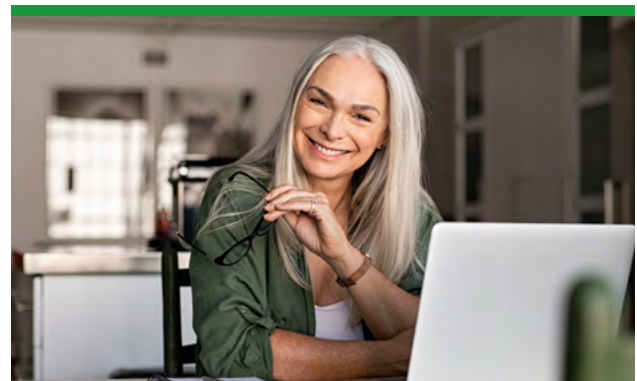
We are proposing to update the definition of "survivor" in the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997* to reflect modern family constructs, provide more clarity and consistency and allow the WSIB to process claims faster.

## Electronic Communications for Retired Members

We are proposing amendments to the *Pension Benefits Act* to remove requirements for plan administrators to provide additional notices to members who have already opted to receive communications in electronic formats when they retire.

## Expanding Written Records to Include Electronic Documentation

We intend to clarify that electronic records count as a written record for purposes under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, reflecting modern practices by employees and employers to conduct business electronically.







The **Spring 2023 Red Tape Reduction Package** is the next step in our efforts to reduce the unnecessary burdens and red tape that hold back Ontario's economic growth and prosperity.

The package features the proposed ***Less Red Tape, Stronger Economy Act, 2023***, along with other regulatory and policy changes that build on the successes of previous burden reduction initiatives with a focus on items that improve service, support economic competitiveness, and create an attractive investment climate.

Whether it's accelerating timelines for municipal approvals to build broadband faster for homes and businesses or enabling the use of new technologies to protect health, safety, and the environment, we will continue working to reduce burdens that have a real impact on people and businesses.

And, in keeping with our Guiding Principles, the proposed items in the package would help government continue to deliver clear and effective rules to keep Ontario workers and families safe and healthy, while enhancing protections for our environment and resources.



## How you can help

We want to hear from you! We've made great progress so far, but there's more to be done. Share your best ideas for reducing red tape and how we can work better for you.

Visit [Ontario.ca/redtape](https://Ontario.ca/redtape)