




**Less Red Tape,  
More Common Sense**



With the proposed *Less Red Tape, More Common Sense Act, 2023*, the Ontario government is continuing to improve services for people and reduce costs for businesses, while making it easier to interact with government.

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

# LESS RED TAPE, MORE COMMON SENSE

People and businesses should never have to overcome complicated, outdated, and unnecessary rules and red tape when trying to access government programs or services.

That's why our government has established a stand-alone Ministry of Red Tape Reduction and made a firm commitment to modernize Ontario's regulatory environment by adopting common sense solutions that remove burden and make government easier to interact with.

Over the past five years, we have been working hard to create a smarter, modern, and more efficient regulatory culture to help people and businesses thrive.

Since 2018, our red tape and burden reduction measures have saved businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and the broader public sector over **\$939 million** in gross annual regulatory compliance costs. Combined year over year, that adds up to nearly **\$3 billion** in costs removed since we came into office.

But as we all know, this work is never complete. That's why we continue take action to modernize Ontario's regulations and remove those barriers.

Our **Fall 2023 Red Tape Reduction Package** builds on our progress by introducing 32 forward-thinking measures that, when fully implemented, could save people and businesses up to 100,000 hours each year.

They will improve services for people, reduce costs for businesses, and make it easier to work with government while ensuring our province remains a leader in regulatory modernization.

Sincerely,



**Parm Gill**

Minister of Red Tape Reduction



**Since 2018, Ontario has passed 10 high-impact red tape reduction bills. Our Fall 2023 Red Tape Reduction package is the next step in our plan and builds on more than \$939 million in gross annual compliance cost savings achieved so far."**



# Guiding Principles

Ontario will never stop working to improve government services and reduce unnecessary 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 seven principles:



Use recognized **national or international standards**.



Apply a **small business lens**.



Create a **"tell-us-once"** culture to avoid businesses providing the same information to us repeatedly.



**Go digital** by delivering simple and straightforward digital services and products.



**Reward good actors** by using risk-based inspections where possible.



**Focus on the user** by writing in plain language and providing a single point of contact.



Use **outcomes-based regulations** and state the outcome you want achieved instead of how to achieve the outcome.

# Reducing Costs for Businesses



## Modernizing the critical minerals sector

We are consulting on ways to modernize and streamline the exploration permitting process. This will make it easier to obtain mining exploration permits to help more companies search for potential mineral deposits and attract further investment in the growing critical minerals sector.

## Empowering the mineral exploration sector

We are proposing to help make it easier for companies to work with government on assessment work submissions. This will increase the efficiency of Ontario's regulatory approval process, reduce administrative burden for the mineral exploration sector, and ensure mining lands are actively being used for mineral exploration.

## Enabling easier operations for agricultural and horticultural societies

We are proposing to amend the *Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act (AHOA)* to make it easier for agricultural and horticultural societies to operate, reduce confusion between the *AHOA* and the *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, and provide less onerous financial reporting options.

## Amending the *Nutrient Management Act*

We are reviewing regulations under the *Nutrient Management Act, 2002* to ensure livestock producers can obtain verification services to ensure on-farm incinerators meet performance standards.

## Updating the *Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act*

We are proposing to revoke the un-proclaimed, obsolete sections in the *Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act* to make the legislation easier to understand.

## Optimizing excess soil management

We are proposing changes to Ontario's excess soil regulation to reduce unnecessary burdens for certain activities, such as storage and processing of topsoil for reuse, increase flexibility in excess soil reuse, and ensure rules remain protective of human health and the environment.





### **Making it easier to use renewable generation systems**

We are proposing regulatory amendments to remove unnecessary administrative burden and clarify regulatory requirements for Community Net Metering demonstration projects and third-party ownership net metering arrangements. This will make it easier for consumers to use renewable generation systems, like rooftop solar, to help lower the cost of their electricity bills.

### **Reducing burden in the energy sector**

We are proposing to amend a regulation under the *Electricity Act, 1998* to reduce administrative burden and save hours of effort for regulated Energy and Water Reporting and Benchmarking reporters. This will align Ontario's regulatory environment with comparable programs across North America.

### **Modernizing Professional Engineers Ontario's operations**

We are proposing changes that would allow Professional Engineers Ontario to send out some notices and documents electronically to improve communications, and to make certain regulatory processes more streamlined and consistent.

### **Reducing burden for credit unions**

We are proposing to modernize and streamline the regulation and processes for credit unions and *caisses populaires* to help them stay competitive and ensure they can continue to offer first-rate services to their communities.

### **Streamlining Joint Health and Safety Committee Training Standards**

We have launched a five-year review to ensure the Joint Health and Safety Certification Committee Training Standards remains relevant and practical. Specific actions include eliminating learning outcomes duplicated in existing training requirements and exploring opportunities to reduce barriers experienced by businesses and learners.

### **Optimizing Ontario's Highway Corridor Management System**

We are streamlining the process for land development applications by continuing to improve the online portal for highway permits and approvals. This will allow municipalities and developers to submit land development applications, track the status of submissions and access comments—all from a convenient online public portal that will save businesses and government time and money.

# Improving Services for People



## Enhancing consumer protection in the auto industry

We are enhancing consumer protection by proposing changes to the *Motor Vehicle Dealers Act, 2002* that would reduce burden for motor vehicle dealers and salespersons. These changes would also enhance consumer protection by ensuring consumers have the information they need to make informed motor vehicle purchase decisions.

## Streamlining alterations to places of worship

We are proposing changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that would make it easier and faster for faith groups to alter their places of worship to meet their unique needs. The amendments would significantly reduce the compliance requirements and compress the time required for the approval process.

## Making it easier to access treatment options

We are making it easier for patients to access a greater number of publicly funded drugs and lower cost generic drugs for their treatment needs by proposing legislation that would make it faster and easier for manufacturers to have certain drug products funded and be designated as interchangeable.

## Reducing burden for Share Capital Social Clubs

We consulted on possible amendments to the *Corporations Act* to remove the risk of a social club being dissolved while attempting to transition to another act, as these clubs provide social and recreational opportunities for their members, as well as employment opportunities and benefits for the local economy.

## Improving the Certification Management System

We are improving our database of almost 3 million records for workers who have taken mandatory safety training. The new system will be used by over 700,000 workers, employers, and ministry personnel to verify that workers have taken training for working at heights or Joint Health and Safety Committee Certification, part of our strategy to make Ontario one of the safest places to work while continuously striving for improvement.

## Streamlining corridor development permits

We are proposing the designation of transit corridor lands for the Hamilton Light Rail Transit to streamline corridor development permits to get shovels in the ground sooner. The project will play a key role in the revitalization of Hamilton's urban environment by transforming the way that residents travel across the heart of the city. The 14-kilometre Hamilton LRT would offer frequent and reliable connections and provide a vital transit network to institutions and transit hubs, including McMaster University, City Hall, Tim Hortons Field, Eastgate Square and Downtown Hamilton.



# Making It Easier to Work with Government



## Preparing Ontario's workforce for rewarding life-long careers

We are creating more pathways into the skilled trades and attracting more apprentices to in-demand trades, preparing Ontario's workforce for the future. The proposed regulation would enable Skilled Trades Ontario to collect and share the data needed to assist the ministry in administering the act.

## Modernizing the Niagara Escarpment Program

The permitting process of the Niagara Modernizing the Niagara Escarpment Program The permitting process of the Niagara Escarpment Program, in place since the 1970s, has become over-burdened and outdated. That's why we are proposing changes that respond to recommendations made by the Auditor General. These changes, such as replacing outdated requirements to publish notices in newspapers with a modern requirement to post on a Government of Ontario website, would better serve client and community needs. These changes would also enable the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) to streamline the processing of simple permit and approval processes, like building an

accessibility ramp on an existing property, so more resources can be dedicated to complex applications while maintaining and enhancing all protection policies of the Escarpment.

## Streamlining approvals of St. Lawrence Parks' easements

We are amending the *St. Lawrence Parks Commission Act* to save time and costs related to routine easements over St. Lawrence Parks Commission (SLPC) land to Ontario residents, businesses and municipal partners. The changes would make it easier and faster to grant routine easements for critical infrastructure, reducing administrative burden and delays for local businesses, municipalities, and residents conducting authorized activities on SLPC lands.





### **Reducing paperwork demands on physicians**

Across government and in collaboration with the Ontario Medical Association, we are reviewing 12 key forms to streamline and simplify them, minimize any duplication, and identify opportunities for digital solutions. Improving government forms will free up as much as 95,000 hours per year for physicians to put back into their practices.

### **Optimizing research funding programs processes**

We are streamlining processes for the Ontario Research Fund-Research Excellence Program, the Ontario Research Funding-Research Infrastructure Program and the Early Researcher Awards Program to make it easier for colleges, universities, hospitals and research institutes to apply for and manage research funding projects that will provide social and economic benefits for Ontarians.

### **Reviewing the Independent Electricity System Operator's board of directors' regulatory framework**

We are proposing changes to the regulatory requirements that govern the eligibility of individuals to be appointed to the Independent Electricity System Operator's board of directors. The objective of these proposed changes is streamlining the regulations into one cohesive framework, finding additional efficiencies, and incorporating good governance practices.



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

The package features the proposed ***Less Red Tape, More Common Sense 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 services for people and reduce costs for businesses while making it easier for people to interact with government.

Whether it's improving government forms to reduce the paperwork demands on physicians and give them more time to deliver the best care for patients or creating more pathways into the skilled trades and attracting more apprentices to in-demand jobs, we will continue 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 will help us continue to deliver clear and effective rules to keep Ontario workers and families safe and healthy, while supporting 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 make it easier to interact with government.

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