

Helping People and Businesses Recover and Grow

October 6, 2020

Ontario has introduced the *Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2020*, as part of a made-in-Ontario plan to strengthen the province's economic recovery, support businesses on the ground and help government deliver clear and effective rules that promote public health and safeguard the environment without sacrificing innovation, growth and opportunity.

The Better for People, Smarter for Business Recovery Package includes:

Ministry of the Attorney General

Strengthening consumer protection

Ontario is proposing to strengthen consumer protection by increasing transparency and consistency in contingency fee agreements for clients.

Contingency fee agreements allow clients to hire a lawyer or paralegal and pay for legal services after any damages are recovered, meaning they do not have to pay legal fees up front. Standardizing these agreements would ensure clients' rights and responsibilities are clear at the outset. This is part of Ontario's commitment to protect consumers and simplify a complex and outdated legal system.

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Increase efficiency for Family Responsibility Office by offering more payment options

The Ontario government is proposing an amendment to the *Family Responsibility and Support Arrears Enforcement Act, 1996* to allow the Family Responsibility Office (FRO) to determine the most appropriate method of payment. This amendment would assist each payor to deliver on amounts owing under a support order. The proposed changes would also reduce the administrative burden on employers who would otherwise be required by law to deduct the amount owing from a payor's paycheque.

Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Reduce barriers to postsecondary development and expansion

Development charges are discretionary fees levied by municipalities on new developments to help pay for infrastructure required to service new growth. The Development Charges Act, 1997 provides the authority and the rules for municipalities to levy a development charge. Development charge exemptions are not consistent across all publicly assisted universities. The proposed changes would provide development charge exemptions for all publicly assisted universities to provide for the same treatment in regard to new developments.

Improve engagement within private career colleges

The Training Completion Assurance Fund Advisory Board provides advice to the Superintendent of Private Career Colleges on the administration of the Training Completion Assurance Fund. The fund supports private career college students by providing training completions or refunds of

prepaid tuition should their private career college suddenly close. This proposal seeks to move forward with the recommendation of the Agency Review Task Force to dissolve the agency and replace it with a ministry-led consultation group which would be nimbler and better able to provide advice to the government and help ensure greater transparency and continued protection for students.

Update virtual learning policy for private career colleges

Private career colleges in Ontario have moved much of their training online to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. As a result, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities is launching a review of the current virtual learning policy for private career college programs which will occur in the Fall and Winter of 2020-21 and which is intended to streamline approvals for online learning offerings by private career colleges.

Reduce barriers to international students and postsecondary educational institutions

International students are vital to Ontario's economy and to building a skilled workforce. These changes will streamline the process for private career colleges to be designated by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities as a learning institution under the International Student Program. This designation permits these schools to enrol international students into programs of study longer than 6-months. These changes will help Ontario and these institutions compete on the international stage.

Consolidation of transfer payment agreements

Currently, the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities manages hundreds of transfer payment agreements with Ontario colleges and universities. In an effort to streamline and reduce administrative burden, the ministry is launching a review of certain special purpose grants and transfer payment agreements to end duplication and streamline the existing processes.

Streamline reporting requirements

As part of Ontario's focus on how to operate better for people and smarter for business, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities will begin reviewing all current reporting requirements related to college and university grants to identify opportunities for streamlining. These changes should reduce the administrative burdens on our institutional partners while ensuring that relevant information continues to be collected.

Legislative amendments for private institutions

The government is proposing to amend the constitutive Acts of Redeemer University, Tyndale University and Canada Christian College and School of Graduate Theological Studies, in order to recognize all three as Ontario universities and expand their degree-granting authority. All institutions in Ontario are reviewed and processed by the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB) before changes are made.

Review the Tuition Set Aside and Student Access Guarantee

Ontario's Tuition Set Aside (TSA) policy has been in place since 1996-97 and the Student Access Guarantee (SAG) since 2006. These programs have not been reviewed in a number of years. SAG is a complex program which is not administered consistently across public institutions and students are often unaware that the program exists. The ministry is committed to a thorough consultation to identify opportunities to redesign SAG and modernize TSA to ensure the affordability of postsecondary education.

Review Ontario Student Assistance Program reporting

The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) supports access to postsecondary education for Ontarians by providing financial assistance to help qualified students and families with the cost of postsecondary studies. This program is largely administered by postsecondary institutions who are responsible for managing their institution's OSAP data and associated reporting. In an attempt to streamline OSAP reporting, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities will begin consulting with publicly assisted postsecondary institutions to identify opportunities to improve OSAP reporting requirements while maintaining the integrity of the program.

Support an improved, province-wide credit transfer system

Students at Ontario's publicly assisted colleges and universities benefit when their education works for them. Learners need more options to transfer credits between programs and institutions, and greater flexibility and accessibility for students to continue their education. Expanding transfer options would help students build the skills they need to respond to Ontario's changing labour market and allow them to earn credentials by recognizing their prior learning.

Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

Expand the *Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act*

The Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act is the government's new burden reduction legislation that creates obligations for all of Ontario's ministries to follow when creating new legislation, regulations, policies and forms. The goal of the new legislation introduced in July 2020 is to ensure that new rules and requirements on for-profit and not-for profit enterprises and the broader public sector consider the seven modern regulatory principles and that the government is aware of potential costs that new rules and requirements will have on them before adopting changes. These principles include adopting national or international standards rather than creating new standards, streamlining compliance requirements on small businesses, ensuring processes are electronic where possible and taking a risk-based approach to compliance.

Streamline permitting and industrial and manufacturing development projects

Ontario's approvals and permitting processes at the provincial level to ensure compliance with legislation and regulations can be duplicative and time consuming for investors and builders, from housing to industrial sectors. Ontario is launching a review of these approvals processes to make sure that they are better coordinated, and that duplication is reduced where possible.

Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines

Streamline and improve consistency in the *Mining Act*

Ontario is working to create business certainty and improve timelines for proponents in the mining industry. The government is proposing to amend the *Mining Act* to clarify administrative processes related to lease issuance and lands administration to permit the Minister to address gaps in existing rules. Ontario has committed to cutting red tape in the mining sector to attract global investment, expand the industry and create new jobs.

Repeal spent regulations under the *Northern Services Boards Act*

Three Local Services Boards (LSBs) were dissolved under the *Northern Services Boards Act*. As a result, the three regulations have been spent and are no longer required.

Update delivery options for local boards in the *Northern Services Board Act*

Ontario is proposing to amend the *Northern Services Boards Act* to remove the requirement that the Boards use prescribed methods, such as registered mail, when submitting documents to the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and the Minister of Finance. This change would reduce the burden for northern communities and territories by allowing them to choose their preferred method for delivery, including submitting documents digitally.

Help Ontarians understand their energy use to reduce costs

This proposal will require gas and electric distribution companies to provide people and businesses with their energy consumption data through the Green Button Connect My Data and Download My Data standard. This would allow the people of Ontario to access their usage through their smartphones and connect with apps that can advise them on how to lower their energy bills. When consumers have access to real-time energy consumption data, they can immediately take steps to reduce their energy usage, such as reducing their temperature settings when they aren't at home. Research shows household energy efficiency savings from real-time data can be as high as 12 per cent. A modern Ontario that works better for people, smarter for business includes ensuring that Ontarians, rather than just their utility, have access to their own energy use data.

Remove consequential amendments from the *Ontario Energy Board Act*

The Ontario Clean Energy Benefit ended on December 31, 2015 and was replaced by the new Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP). The OESP is an Ontario Energy Board program that lowers electricity bills for low-income households. The OESP provides a monthly credit to eligible customers based on household income and household size. On July 1, 2020, Ontario repealed the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit Act, revoked the regulations made under the Act, and removed references to O. Reg. 161/99 under the *Ontario Energy Board Act* (OEBA). Consequential amendments need to be made to OEBA to complete the change.

Provide relief for claimholders

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for mining claimholders in Ontario. The Ontario government is proposing changes to the *Mining Act* to ensure that the Minister can respond to a global or provincial crisis and provide stability to claim holders who were unable to complete necessary assessment work due to COVID-19. Ontario continues to create business certainty and improve timelines for proponents in the mining industry.

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Extend grandfathering for infrastructure projects

Ontario is proposing to provide more certainty to businesses by extending grandfathering for infrastructure projects with completed geotechnical studies or with procurement delays due to COVID-19. The government is also proposing additional amendments to further reduce burden and add flexibility when managing excess soil, such as modifying excess soil storage requirements and creating standard rules for processing excess soil for resale as a garden product. These changes will help increase local reuse of excess soil and support Ontario's efforts to ensure excess soil is managed according to its quality and potential reuse opportunities.

Protect the environment and the people of Ontario by improving hazardous waste reporting

This proposed change follows through on the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan's commitment to make sure hazardous waste is properly stored, transported, processed and managed by making it easier for businesses to submit reports. Under Ontario's current system, which requires businesses

to submit over 450,000 paper manifests to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, is outdated and lacks the transparency expected of Ontario today. A better digital reporting service will allow more efficient and timely compliance and monitoring of enforcement actions, which would provide assurance to the people of Ontario that polluters are held accountable, and waste is being appropriately and safely managed.

Require water bottling companies to have the support of the host municipality for new or increased bottled water takings

This proposal would require water bottling companies to obtain support of the host community before applying for a permit to take water for a new or increased groundwater taking from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. The proposal would also require the host municipality to consider and indicate its position on a proposed bottled water taking within a set time period.

Modernize information requests for land transactions

Ontario is proposing to make it easier for purchasers of land to get the environmental information they need prior to a purchase by setting up a dedicated digital service platform for this type of request. Moving away from the current manual paper-based process further supports the government's Digital First Strategy to enable real estate transactions. This amendment does not impact the fees or access to information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) as this is a separate alternative service delivery platform.

Modernize environmental permissions for water taking activities

Ontario is proposing changes that would move low-risk, short-term water taking activities, such as one-time pumping tests and road construction activities, to a more flexible approval process. These changes would allow businesses to begin operations faster and ensure that Ontario's water resources continue to be safeguarded in accordance with the province's strict environmental standards.

Clarify rules to redevelop and revitalize vacant lands faster

As committed to in the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, the Ontario government has taken steps to remove unnecessary barriers to put vacant lands back to good use. To support this work, Ontario is reviewing processes and providing new and updated guidance to better clarify rules for property owners and municipalities that want to redevelop and revitalize historically contaminated lands.

Address low-risk nuisance incidents

Ontario is proposing to update its land use compatibility planning guidelines to help municipalities prevent new residences or other incompatible land uses from being approved near sites and industries that may create noise or odour impacts.

Support innovation and recover the value of waste

The Ontario government is committed to supporting a strong circular economy and reducing the amount of waste going to landfills, as outlined in its Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan. Ontario will be releasing a policy paper for consultation to help identify opportunities to better support the use of innovative technologies and processes. Advanced recycling and energy recovery technologies can help ensure valuable resources — such as hard-to-recycle plastics — don't end up in landfill and can instead have a beneficial use, such as feedstocks for new plastics and synthetic fuels.

Digitize and update municipal utility monitoring reporting

Ontario is proposing to make it faster and easier for municipalities to submit their wastewater data electronically to the government, while improving transparency and accountability. Moving away from the current paper-based process allows the ministry to use the information more strategically for strong environmental protections, while supporting the government's Digital First Strategy to deliver more efficient services, improve user experience and provide more timely responses to the public.

End outdated NOx and SO2 emissions trading

Ontario's emissions trading program for nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulphur dioxide (SO2) that began in 2002 to fight smog and acid rain, is no longer effective at driving emissions reductions from the regulated sectors. Ontario is proposing to end this outdated program as it is no longer an effective tool to address these emissions. Since this trading program began, Ontario and the federal government have put in place other programs targeting these emissions, such as the federal government's requirements for NOx and SO2 emissions from the cement sector, iron and steel sector, and base metal smelting sector. Ontario is also redesigning its emissions testing program for heavy-duty vehicles to target and address a significant source of NOx emissions in the province not captured by the trading program.

Exempt dams from requiring a permit to take water

Ontario is proposing to streamline provincial approvals and processes for dam owners by removing the need for some dams to obtain a permit to take water. Our government will continue to regulate the construction and alteration of dams under the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*, and in some cases the Class Environmental Assessment process, so that we can continue to protect lakes, rivers and waterways in Ontario.

Holding polluters accountable

Ontario is strengthening enforcement tools to hold polluters accountable for non compliance by expanding the use of administrative monetary penalties to the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act*. This change would allow the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority to apply penalties under the act for non-compliance, such as failing to meet collection and management requirements. These changes will ensure that businesses comply with Ontario's recycling targets and programs.

Ensure transparency and oversight to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority

As part of the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, Ontario is proposing changes to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority to ensure a transparent, cost-effective and efficient oversight regime for producer responsibility in Ontario. The Ontario government will continue to identify concrete actions, such as increased data privacy, salary disclosure of its employees, and increased oversight of costs, to build transparency and trust in the organization.

Ministry of Finance

Remove outdated requirements for businesses under *the Insurance Act*

The Ministry of Finance is proposing to amend the *Insurance Act* to reduce burden on businesses by removing outdated, confusing, and unnecessary regulatory requirements and frameworks. The ministry's red tape reduction proposal includes amendments to several insurance provisions under the act, including the revocation of court proceedings sections pre-November 1996. It also includes

provisions related to income loss and loss of earnings pre-September 1, 2010 and removing references to a schedule that no longer exists.

Streamline pension plan asset transfer notice requirements

The proposed amendments to the *Pension Benefits Act* would provide the CEO of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario (FSRA) with discretion to vary or waive requirements in the regulations or in FSRA rules relating to the giving of notice about the transfer of assets between pension plans. The proposed amendments would also provide FSRA with rule-making authority to prescribe new notice requirements relating to the transfer of assets between pension plans and relating to the conversion of a single employer pension plan to a jointly sponsored pension plan.

Increase flexibility for Individual Pension Plans and Designated Plans

Connected-member Individual Pension Plans (IPPs) and Designated Plans (DPs) are generally established for executives, owners of small businesses, and the family members of these owners. These stakeholders have noted that the compliance requirements associated with *Pension Benefits Act* regulation outweigh the statutory protections provided under the act to these individuals. Further, some of these plans have had their registration revoked under the federal government's *Income Tax Act* and do not warrant regulation under the *Pension Benefits Act*. The proposed amendments to the act would allow IPPs with only connected members and DPs to elect to be exempt from the act. IPPs and DPs that have had their registration revoked under the federal *Income Tax Act* would automatically be exempt from Ontario's *Pension Benefits Act*.

Ministry of Government and Consumer Services

Get forfeited corporate properties back into productive use for a community

The Ontario government is proposing changes to the *Forfeited Corporate Property Act, 2015*, Reg. 420/16 "Fees" and *Co-operative Corporations Act* that would help get forfeited corporate properties back into productive use for the community more quickly and efficiently. If passed, the amendments would clarify application requirements and reduce burdens for applicants and make it easier to manage and dispose of forfeited corporate properties.

Alternate rules for the Operating Engineers regulation

Ontario is taking steps to implement alternate rules for businesses that use boilers or pressure vessels to produce their goods and services, as well as for operating engineers who run the facilities. Our goal is to maintain public safety while reducing the regulatory burden on businesses and individuals. These businesses would have the flexibility to apply to the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) to use alternate ways to achieve safety compliance through tools such as site-specific risk and safety management plans. Businesses have asked us for flexibility, and we are delivering. TSSA plans to implement these rules this fall. These changes will, for example, enable grocery stores and large refrigeration facilities to reduce their costs and potentially invest in greener refrigeration technologies. The changes will also enable businesses to adopt lower-carbon fuels like natural gas, renewable natural gas, or in future hydrogen, which will help in the fight against climate change. Operating engineers will have new opportunities to gain qualifications.

A digital first Ontario Gazette

If passed, the objective of this initiative is to eliminate the print edition of The Ontario Gazette and declare the electronic PDF version as the official version; give discretion to the Queen's Printer for Ontario to determine the timing and manner of publication of the Ontario Gazette (e.g., change the

publication date from Saturday to Friday); and rename the *Official Notices Publication Act* to the *Ontario Gazette Act*.

Eliminate duplicative spousal election service in the *Change of Name Act*

The Ontario government is proposing to eliminate the duplicative change of name service (spousal election) to streamline the change of name process by providing an equal treatment for all Ontarians interested in changing their name, regardless of the reason.

Strengthen the Marriage Officiant Code of Practice

If passed, the *Marriage Act* would be amended to give the Minister of Government and Consumer Services authority to create a Code of Practice to help ensure that marriage officiants act in accordance with their legal responsibilities. The proposed change would help to ensure consumer protection by strengthening program integrity. The change would also help to reduce the number of compliance issues and complaints as well as costs that may directly affect couples who have been married if the marriage officiant has contravened the *Marriage Act*.

Update the *Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act*

Ontario's government is overhauling the Ontario new home warranty and protection program by strengthening consumer protections. The proposed changes would make clarifications to allow for a smooth transition between the current and new process created by the *Rebuilding Consumer Confidence Act, 2020* for screening proposed new homes for the risks of defects.

Eliminate director residency requirements

The Ontario government proposes to amend the *Business Corporations Act* to eliminate the requirement that at least 25 per cent of a business corporations' directors be a resident Canadian. Canadian director residency requirements discourage businesses from incorporating in Ontario in favour of other provinces. This change will allow Ontario to better compete both nationally and internationally as a home for business headquarters.

Create shareholder approval flexibility

This proposal would amend the *Business Corporations Act* to lower the approval threshold for a written shareholder resolution in lieu of a meeting for privately held corporations. The amendment would lower written shareholder approval to a majority of the voting shares. Related amendments are proposed, such as clarifying the types of shareholder decisions that require ordinary resolutions and addressing notice requirements for written ordinary resolutions.

Discharge vexatious registrations

The Ontario government is proposing to amend the *Personal Property Security Act* (PPSA). The amendment would establish a framework to enable the Registrar of the PPSA within the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services to discharge vexatious registrations without the need for the affected party to apply for a court-ordered discharge.

Single Window improves access to online information

Ontario businesses encounter challenges when accessing information and services from government to start, grow and manage their businesses. Single Window would improve how businesses access and navigate government information online.

Franchise Disclosure

The Arthur Wishart Act (Franchise Disclosure), 2000 (AWA) establishes certain rights and obligations of franchisors and franchisees including: franchisor disclosure prior to entering into a franchise agreement with a franchisee; and, a “duty of fair dealing” on parties to a franchise agreement. In 2017, several amendments were made to the AWA to update the act and, in many cases, codify existing business practices, but some of these amendments were not immediately proclaimed into force. On September 1, 2020, these remaining legislative amendments to the AWA, as well as regulatory amendments (including those needed to support certain legislative changes), came into effect. These changes will reduce regulatory burden and provide franchisors with more certainty in their business transactions with franchisees.

Ministry of Health

Improve OHIP personal claims history requests

Under the *Personal Health Information and Protection Act*, an individual has the right to access their own personal health information. In an effort to improve the process for submitting requests by individuals and third-party clients, Ontario has developed new, secure, electronic submission forms, as well as, an online payment process for third-party clients. Modernizing government services will see long-term cost savings for Ontarians and improve the efficiency and timeliness of this service.

Formally establish the Provincial Borders Drug Policy

A new regulation is required to formally establish the Ontario Drug Benefit Program’s Provincial Borders Drug Policy, which has been operating as a pilot since 2015. This initiative allows health-care professionals at Ontario’s border provinces (Manitoba and Quebec) to submit drug-approval requests under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program and expands access for people in border towns to get the medications they need.

Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

Remove LGIC approval requirement for appointment of external auditor

The government proposes to remove the requirement for the Niagara Parks Commission and the St. Lawrence Parks Commission to seek an Order in Council when they wish to procure an external auditor to complete their annual financial audits. This change would remove an administrative burden from these agencies and result in more timely release of annual financial audits, which will help ensure good governance, transparency and accountability.

Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Consultations to improve Temporary Help Agency compliance under the *Employment Standards Act*

Ontario is proposing to consult with stakeholders on the potential of a Temporary Help Agency registry to improve compliance with respect to Temporary Help Agencies and their client employers, and to address specific issues that have arisen with Temporary Help Agencies that do not operate within the rules, including those that operate underground.

Consultations on proposed amendments for Pre-Start Health and Safety Reviews

In early 2020, the government held a public consultation to obtain stakeholder feedback on the current Pre-Start Health and Safety Reviews (PSR) requirements for certain equipment and processes in factories to ensure they continue to reflect the realities of today’s workplaces. Later in

fall 2020, based on feedback received, the government will launch a second consultation on proposed amendments to streamline and clarify current PSR regulatory requirements.

Consultations on Working at Heights training

The Ontario government will consult on potential amendments to recognize training on working at heights (WAH) received through Newfoundland and Labrador's program as meeting Ontario's requirements. Ontario is also proposing an amendment to the existing exemption from Chief Prevention Officer-approved WAH training for auto manufacturers and assemblers to ensure these employers are not required to maintain two separate training programs for their employees.

Consultations on First Aid requirements and standards

The Ontario government will consult on modernizing workplace first aid requirements and examine transferring responsibility for first aid from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board to the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Clarify the subdivision control process

The proposed changes to the *Planning Act* would make subdivision control – the rules that govern things like dividing a piece of land into two or more parcels and offering it for sale – clearer and easier to understand.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Improve business certainty for aquaculture facilities

The Ontario government plans to modernize the way we manage and regulate the aquaculture industry because the current legislative and regulatory framework for aquaculture does not provide government the flexibility to address the range and varied risk in their operations in Ontario. The proposed changes to the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* would reduce burden, create efficiencies and provide business certainty for aquaculture operators in the province.

Increase clarity and certainty for buyers of provincial lands

The Ontario government is proposing amendments to the *Public Lands Act* to ensure that surplus provincial lands sold by ministries and agents to third parties have clear legal titles. These amendments, if passed, would create efficiencies to save taxpayer dollars and create certainty for businesses and individuals purchasing provincial lands.

Improve land surveyors' access to valuable land survey information

The Ontario government is proposing amendments to the *Surveys Act* that would establish controls on how land survey field notes are transferred between companies upon closure, sale of businesses, retirement or bankruptcy of a firm, ensuring that notes remain in circulation for other surveyors to use when conducting research to establish boundaries. The changes would ensure land surveyors can benefit from continued access to crucial information and help avoid duplication of labour.

Enable electronic voting for land surveyors

The Ontario government is proposing changes to the *Surveyors Act* to enable the members of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors to use electronic voting on bylaws and regulations. If passed, this would support timely and responsive business decision-making, reduce costs and

unnecessary travel, and help protect members during times of crisis such as the COVID-19 outbreak when in-person gatherings could pose a health risk.

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Reducing security guard and private investigator agency licence costs

Businesses that sell the services of security guards and/or private investigators for hire are required to obtain an agency licence from the Ministry of the Solicitor General. By extending the term of these agency licences from two to three years, the agency's cost of renewing an agency licence will effectively be reduced from \$350 to \$233 per year. It will also save businesses time and money, as it reduces how often a business is required to submit a licence application.

Reducing in-house security and private investigator registration costs

Businesses that employ in-house security guards or private investigators are required to register with the Ministry of the Solicitor General. By extending the term of these registrations from one to three years, the registered employer's annual cost of registration will effectively be reduced from \$80 to \$27 annually. It will also save businesses time and money, as it will reduce how often a business is required to submit a registration form.

Ministry of Transportation

Expand opportunity for the intercommunity bus sector

Intercommunity bus carriers play a critical role in Ontario's transportation system. Ontario is proposing to end barriers for the intercommunity bus sector to support economic recovery, reduce burden for businesses and improve transportation options for the people of Ontario. If passed, this will make it easier for new carriers to step in and offer service, spur innovation in the sector and cut red tape for intercommunity bus carriers.

Allow officers to issue tickets for *Dangerous Goods Transportation Act* offences instead of requiring court appearances

The Ministry of Transportation is proposing to add new short-form wordings under Regulation 950 of the *Provincial Offences Act* related to offences under the *Dangerous Goods Transportation Act*. Short-form wordings are required under the act to allow officers to issue a charge using an offence notice (ticket), instead of a court summons for an offence. Tickets would be more efficient, save court time and are an effective use of enforcement resources. This change could also save time and provide better options for defendants when deciding how to deal with their charges.

Strengthen driver licensing system by ensuring people are legally entitled to live and work in Canada before issuing a driver's licence

The Ontario government is promoting the integrity of the driver's licence by exploring an option to address stakeholder concerns with individuals getting licences when they are not allowed to legally live in Canada or are not allowed to work as a commercial driver in Canada.

Streamline municipal traffic studies

Ontario proposes to help save local governments time and money by allowing municipalities to complete a single traffic study for a proposed development area or business park along a highway, where appropriate, instead of individual studies for each new development project. This would reduce the administrative burden on municipalities by cutting red tape and streamlining the permit process for approved developments within the area of the traffic study.

Allow vehicles equipped with Dealer plates and a New Vehicle Information Statement to drive on Ontario roads

The Ontario government is proposing to reduce the burdens on business by clarifying that New Vehicle Information Statements (NVIS) can be used in place of valid registration when a motor vehicle with Dealer plates is driven on the road in Ontario. This would reduce the administrative burden and costs for businesses and the courts by eliminating tickets that are incorrectly issued to motor vehicle dealers driving vehicles with dealer plates prior to sale.

Reduce costs and increases opportunities for businesses by making it easier to buy and sell vehicles at auction

Ontario proposes to permit people to drive motor vehicles with dealer plates without a registration permit when purchased at auction. Making it easier for people to buy and sell vehicles at auction would create new opportunities for small businesses and reduce the administrative burdens on business and customers.

Streamline application processes to save government and business time and money

The Highway Corridor Management System 2.0 would provide a public portal for information about the ministry's land development review process and assign a ministry contact and tracking number for proposals. It would facilitate pre-consultation meetings between the proponent and a single ministry contact, saving business and government time and money by ensuring that the review process and submission requirements are well understood before applications are submitted to government.

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