

Fall 2026 Legislative Session Summary of Passed Legislation

Contained within this document is a summary of legislation passed at both the federal and provincial levels of government during the Fall 2026 Legislative Session.

This document contains summaries of legislation of municipal interest that have received Royal Assent, as well as some outstanding bills that remain on the legislative docket that may be reintroduced at the next legislative session.

FEDERAL

The House of Commons rose for the Winter Break on Friday, December 12, 2025, and the government passed a total of four bills to advance its agenda.

The Prime Minister's Office issued a statement providing a high-level overview of key accomplishments during the most recent session. For a more detailed summary of passed legislation, please see below.

The federal government returned to Parliament Hill on Monday, January 26, 2026, and is scheduled to sit until Friday, June 19, 2026.

Passed Bills of Interest that have Received Royal Assent

Bill C-3: An Act to amend the Citizenship Act

- Bill C-3 amends the Citizenship Act, primarily to remove the unconstitutional "first-generation limit," restoring Canadian citizenship to thousands of people born abroad to Canadian parents who were previously excluded, and establishing a fairer, clearer system for passing citizenship down, requiring a "substantial connection" to Canada for future generations. This law grants citizenship to those affected by outdated rules and creates a modern pathway for Canadian parents to pass citizenship to their children born outside Canada.
- Key Changes include:
- Restores Citizenship for "Lost Canadians":
 - It provides citizenship to individuals born outside Canada to Canadian parents (or grandparents) who were denied it due to past limitations, particularly the rule preventing citizenship from being passed beyond the first generation born abroad.
 - Fairer Future Standard: For children born or adopted abroad after the bill comes into force, a Canadian parent can pass on citizenship if they demonstrate a "substantial connection" to Canada, a clearer standard than before.

- Retroactive Effect: People born before the law's effective date who would have been citizens under the new rules are granted citizenship automatically.

Bill C-4: An Act respecting certain affordability measures for Canadians and another measure. Status: Awaiting Royal Assent

- Bill C-4 focuses on economic relief by cutting the lowest federal income tax rate to 14% (from 15%) for 22 million Canadians, providing a temporary GST rebate for first-time homebuyers on new homes, and permanently repealing the federal consumer carbon price, while maintaining industrial carbon pricing to boost affordability and address housing/cost-of-living challenges.
 - Tax Cut: Reduces the lowest federal income tax bracket from 15% to 14.5% (for 2025) and then 14% (for 2026 onwards), saving families money.
 - First-Time Homebuyer GST Rebate: Eliminates the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on new homes for first-time buyers (up to \$1M value), plus partial relief for homes up to \$1.5M, making homeownership more accessible.
 - Carbon Pricing Repeal: Removes the federal carbon price for consumers, impacting fuel and heating costs, but keeps industrial carbon pricing to combat climate change.
 - Other Measures: Includes provisions related to political party data privacy and aligns with other affordability initiatives like school food programs and support for personal support workers.

Bill C-5: An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act

- Bill C-5 has two main parts: it removes internal trade barriers for goods and labour, and it creates a faster approval process for "National Interest Projects" (like energy or infrastructure) by establishing a Federal Major Projects Office and allowing the government to streamline environmental reviews, aiming to boost economic growth
- Key components include:
 - Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act:
 - Removes federal barriers to interprovincial movement of goods, services, and workers.
 - Ensures federal recognition of provincial/territorial qualifications for professionals.
 - Building Canada Act:
 - National Interest Projects (NIPs): Allows the government to designate major projects as NIPs (e.g., critical for energy security, economic growth).

- Streamlined Approvals: Creates a one-window office for faster, two-year federal review of NIPs, shifting focus from "whether" to "how" to build.
- Overrides: Gives the government power to override federal/provincial environmental laws for NIPs, though with conflict-of-interest rules.

Bill C-12: An Act respecting certain measures relating to the integrity of the Canada immigration system and respecting other related security measures.

Status: Awaiting Royal Assent

- Bill C-12 aims to overhaul Canada's immigration, border security, and anti-money laundering (AML) systems, giving the government broader powers to manage asylum claims (including faster abandonment rules), boost border enforcement with more CBSA/RCMP resources, combat fentanyl/crime, and enhance financial intelligence (FINTRAC) oversight.
- Key provisions include:
 - Immigration & Asylum Modernization:
 - Eliminates "designated countries of origin" and authorizes ministers to set information requirements for refugee claims.
 - Allows the Refugee Protection Division (RPD) to declare claims abandoned or withdrawn earlier, especially if claimants aren't in Canada or miss deadlines, raising due process concerns.
 - Improves information sharing between Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and other agencies.
 - Border Security & Enforcement:
 - Gives the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) access to exported goods.
 - Allows the Canadian Coast Guard to conduct security patrols.
 - Increases RCMP capacity to share info on sex offenders.
 - Anti-Crime & Financial Measures:
 - Combats transnational organized crime, fentanyl, and money laundering.
 - Mandates enrollment with FINTRAC for all reporting entities and strengthens compliance tools.

Other Notable Bills

Bill C-2: An Act respecting certain measures relating to the security of the border between Canada and the United States. Status: Second Reading

- Bill C-2, is a proposal focused on strengthening border security, fighting organized crime (especially fentanyl trafficking and money laundering), and enhancing law enforcement's digital access, introducing new powers for information sharing, tightening cash transaction rules, and changing refugee

eligibility, sparking debate over privacy and rights. It aims to modernize tools for police and border agents.

- Key measures proposed include:
 - Law Enforcement Access: Enables police/CSIS to demand basic/subscriber info from service providers without a court order in some cases and requires tech companies to build capabilities for lawful access.
 - Combating Fentanyl & Crime: Allows searches of mail for contraband, targets precursor chemicals, and cracks down on illicit cash.
 - Money Laundering: Restricts third-party cash deposits and large cash payments in certain sectors.
 - Border Security: Gives the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) access to export goods and expands the Coast Guard's security mandate.
 - Immigration & Asylum: Introduces new barriers to refugee claims, potentially affecting those crossing from the U.S.

Bill C-9: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (hate propaganda, hate crime and access to religious of cultural places). Status: At consideration in committee

- Bill C-9 aims to fight hate by creating new Criminal Code offenses for intimidating or obstructing access to religious/cultural places, publicly displaying hate symbols, and codifying "hatred," while also removing the Attorney General's consent requirement for hate propaganda charges.
- Key provisions include:
 - New Criminal Offences: Creates new crimes for:
 - Intimidation: Intentionally provoking fear to stop access to places like places of worship, schools, or community centers.
 - Obstruction: Intentionally blocking lawful access to these protected spaces.
 - Hate Symbol Display: Willfully promoting hatred by displaying specific terrorist or hate symbols in public.
 - Hate Crime Offense: Making hate-motivated crimes a distinct offense, applying penalties of the underlying crime.
 - Definition of Hatred: Adds a legal definition of "hatred" to the Criminal Code for clarity.
 - Streamlined Prosecution: Removes the need for the Attorney General's consent for hate propaganda charges, allowing faster action.

Bill C-15: An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on November 4, 2025

- Bill C-15 focuses on a "Canada Strong" vision through major investments in housing (Build Canada Homes), high-speed rail, clean energy tax credits (like for Critical Minerals, CCUS), enhanced SR&ED tax incentives, and tax changes (like capital gains exemption, transfer pricing rules) while also boosting financial

sector oversight and addressing citizenship fairness, impacting businesses, families, and Indigenous rights discussions.

- Key measures include:
 - Economic Growth & Infrastructure:
 - Funds for the Canada Infrastructure Bank and Build Canada Homes.
 - Legislation for a Quebec-Ontario High-Speed Rail Network, including impact assessment and land use rules.
 - Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance (CCA) for new rental housing and other properties.
 - Tax & Finance:
 - Strengthens the SR&ED (Scientific Research and Experimental Development) tax incentive program.
 - Increases the lifetime capital gains exemption to \$1.25 million.
 - Introduces new rules for transfer pricing and strengthens financial sector oversight.
 - Repeals the Digital Services Tax, with refunds for past payments.
 - Clean Economy & Climate:
 - Expands Investment Tax Credits (ITCs) for clean tech, critical minerals (bismuth, tungsten, etc.), and CCUS.
 - Establishes a legislative framework for a clean economy.
 - Affordability & Social Programs:
 - Exempts the Canada Disability Benefit from income tax.
 - Enhances the Disability Supports Deduction.
 - Aims for affordability through tax cuts and enhanced social programs.
 - Citizenship:
 - Modernizes citizenship laws to help Canadians pass citizenship to children born abroad.

PROVINCIAL

Queen's Park rose for the Winter Break on Thursday, December 11, 2025, and the government passed a total of twelve bills to advance its agenda.

The [Premier's Office issued a statement](#) providing a high level overview of key accomplishments during the current session. For a more detailed summary of passed legislation, please see below.

The provincial government is slated to return on Monday, March 23, 2026, and is scheduled to sit until Thursday, June 4, 2025.

Passed Bills of Interest that have Received Royal Assent

Bill 25, Emergency Management Modernization Act

- This legislation makes amendments to the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to:
 - Establishing the purposes of the Act, including to support coordination with municipalities, Indigenous communities, public and private sector organizations, and other governments.
 - Introducing a clear definition of “emergency management” encompassing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
 - Clarifying the role of the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response as the provincial lead and one window for coordinating provincial emergency management activities under the oversight of the Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response and the direction of the Commissioner of Emergency Management.
 - Strengthening executive oversight of provincial emergency management.
 - Authorizing the Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response to oversee municipal, ministry, and provincially regulated critical infrastructure entities’ emergency management programs, and enter into agreements and arrangements with public and private partners and individuals in emergency management.
 - Recognizing Ontario Corps as a key provincial resource and capability that can be engaged to support communities across the province, who request assistance.
- Remaining amendments to the EMCPA are expected to come into force at a later date. Subject to future regulations, key changes affecting municipalities will include:
 - Enabling flexibility regarding requirements for municipal emergency management programs and plans based on needs and capacity.
 - Allowing two or more municipalities to voluntarily develop and implement joint emergency management programs and plans.
 - Clarifying the process for and ensuring accountability of municipal emergency declarations under the EMCPA.

Bill 27, Resource Management and Safety Act

- This bill makes amendments to the Forest Fires Prevention Act, Geologic Carbon Storage Act and the Surveyors Act.
- Specific aspects include:
 - Wildland Fire Management: The Forest Fires Prevention Act title changed to the Wildland Fire Management Act. It updates terminology, establishes different categories of officers (e.g., wildland fire officer, investigator), and allows the Minister to issue permits for outdoor fires outside restricted fire zones during fire season.
 - Geologic Carbon Storage: Enables the storage of carbon dioxide in underground geological formations within Ontario, with measures to protect public safety and the environment.

- Surveyors Act Amendments: Amends the Surveyors Act to allow the Registrar to issue limited and temporary licenses, update requirements for qualifications, and allow electronic service of documents.

Bill 30, Working for Workers Seven Act

- Ontario's Working for Workers Seven Act, 2025 (Bill 30) amends several laws (Employment Standards Act, Occupational Health and Safety Act, Workplace Safety and Insurance Act) to fight job posting fraud, allow longer temporary layoffs with agreement, introduce a job-seeking leave for mass terminations, mandate AEDs on large construction sites, and strengthen WSIB penalties, aiming to boost worker protection and efficiency. Key changes include new rules for online job platforms (effective Jan 1, 2026) to report fraud, a 3-day job-seeking leave for workers in mass layoffs, extended layoffs (35+ weeks in 52) with approval, and new penalties for WSIA offenses.
- This bill also makes changes to the Skills Development fund that would streamline approvals for training centres and boosts opportunities for mobile trades training.

Bill 33, Supporting Children and Students Act

- This bill is an omnibus proposal that contains changes to the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, the Education Act, and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act.
- Key components include:
 - School Board Oversight: Allows the Minister to appoint supervisors, investigate boards, issue directives, and take over powers if not followed, increasing provincial control over finances and operations.
 - School Resource Officers (SROs): Requires boards to work with police, granting them access to schools and mandating SRO programs, a move opposed by groups concerned about student safety and racial profiling.
 - Post-Secondary Education (PSE): Fee Control: Gives the government authority over university student union fees, potentially impacting services like health/dental plans; Admissions: Mandates merit-based admissions policies, which critics fear could undermine equity-focused access for marginalized students; Research Security: Requires unfunded security plans for universities.
 - School Naming: Gives the Minister power to approve school name changes, blocking local efforts.

Bill 40, Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act

- Ontario's Bill 40 focuses on aligning the province's energy system with economic growth, making it a statutory goal for the Independent Electricity System Operator and Ontario Energy Board, promoting hydrogen development, and

allowing government funding for some grid costs, while also introducing stricter rules for large energy users like data centers.

- Key provisions include:
 - Economic Growth Focus: Amends the Electricity Act to make "economic growth" a formal objective for the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).
 - Hydrogen Market: Broadens the IESO's mandate to facilitate the development of a low-carbon hydrogen market and economy.
 - Cost Shifting: Allows the government to use general revenue (taxpayer money) to pay for certain costs (like grid expansion) instead of solely relying on electricity bills.
 - Large Energy Users: Introduces new rules (Section 28.1) to potentially restrict or set conditions for connecting large loads, like data centers, to the grid.
 - Expedited Approvals: Aims to speed up regulatory processes for new energy projects to support growth.
 - Foreign Investment: Includes measures to restrict foreign participation in parts of the energy sector.

Bill 45, Peel Transition Implementation Act

- The Peel Transition Implementation Act, 2025 (Bill 45) is Ontario legislation that facilitates the transfer of specific services and responsibilities from The Regional Municipality of Peel to its lower-tier municipalities: the cities of Mississauga and Brampton and the Town of Caledon. The goal is to strengthen local governance and give these growing municipalities more independence
- Key provisions include:
 - Waste Collection: Responsibility for waste collection transfers from Peel Region to the three local municipalities effective January 1, 2026, or earlier if prescribed by the Minister.
 - Regional Roads and Stormwater Infrastructure: Responsibility for regional roads and associated stormwater infrastructure transfers to the local municipality where they are located, effective July 1, 2026, or earlier if prescribed by the Minister.
- This Act follows previous legislation like the Hazel McCallion Act (Peel Dissolution), 2023, which began the process of dissolution, and a prior transfer of land-use planning responsibilities.

Bill 46, Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape Act

- Ontario's Bill 46, is an omnibus bill introducing wide-ranging changes to cut regulatory burdens, boost competitiveness, and modernize laws, affecting areas like consumer loyalty programs (Consumer Protection Act), municipal reporting (Municipal Act), forestry, transportation, and court processes, aiming to save time and money for businesses and individuals while streamlining development. Key aspects include new reward point rules, easier online financial statements for

cities, streamlined forestry permits, and changes to development charges to speed up housing.

- Key changes include:
 - Consumer Protection: Amends the Consumer Protection Act, 2002 to create new rules for loyalty rewards points, requiring clear disclosure and potentially preventing point expiration.
 - Municipalities: Allows online posting of audited financial statements, simplifies red-light camera programs, and supports easier access to provincial loan programs for infrastructure.
 - Housing & Development: Delays development charges until occupancy, eliminates them for long-term care, and limits municipal requirements for extra studies to speed up building.
 - Forestry: Streamlines removal of forest resources for non-forestry uses (roads, mining) under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act.
 - Transportation: Makes trail grooming more affordable and sustainable under the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act.
 - Legal & Courts: Amends the Substitute Decisions Act to clarify rules around Power of Attorney and beneficiary designations, and modifies the Courts of Justice Act for case management.

Bill 56, Building a More Competitive Economy Act

- Ontario's Bill 56, the Building a More Competitive Economy Act, 2025, is a major omnibus bill focused on reducing red tape, boosting labour mobility (especially for healthcare), and increasing economic competitiveness by changing 31 laws, notably banning municipal speed cameras (ASE) and streamlining permits for major projects, though concerns exist about removing environmental/safety safeguards like those for drinking water. It aims to fast-track skilled workers, streamline regulations, and simplify approvals for growth.
- Key changes include:
 - Labour Mobility: Creates faster pathways (e.g., 2-day decisions) for out-of-province healthcare professionals to work in Ontario, reducing barriers and filling workforce gaps.
 - Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE): Bans municipal speed cameras (ASE) effective November 14, 2025, replacing them with potential signage, a move opposed by some municipalities.
 - Regulatory Streamlining: Introduces a "one-window" approach for major project approvals (housing, mining, etc.), shifting from multiple ministry sign-offs to centralized channels, but raising concerns about removing environmental/Indigenous consultation.
 - Health Professions: Amends acts to ease registration for out-of-province members and allows the Minister to grant temporary title exemptions for service continuity.
 - Drinking Water: Transfers source water protection decision-making from committees to the Minister, causing concern over removing science-based checks.

- Other Amendments: Affects various acts, including the Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act, Highway Traffic Act, Building Code, and Forest Management.

Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act

- Ontario's Bill 60, the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025, is an omnibus law passed to streamline housing development and cut red tape by changing municipal powers, transit rules, and landlord-tenant laws, aiming to boost housing supply.
- Key provisions include:
 - Housing Supply: Overrides local rules (like green roof mandates) to speed up construction, especially near transit, and standardizes processes.
 - Landlord-Tenant Board (LTB): Cuts delays for rent arrears cases, shortens appeal times, and restricts tenant arguments at hearings.
 - Eviction Process: Reduces the time tenants have (from 14 to 7 days for some) to pay rent arrears to stop eviction proceedings.
 - Provincial Oversight: Gives the province more power to enforce policy, reducing municipal political delays.
 - Developer Certainty: Simplifies cash flow and contract clarity for construction projects.
 - Ministerial Zoning Orders (MZOs): MZOs will become non-regulatory orders, intended to expedite the process for priority projects like housing and transit, though they must still be published on a government website.
 - Municipal Planning: The bill introduces measures to standardize and potentially limit the length and content of municipal official plans, shifting more authority from municipalities to the province.
 - Green Standards and Lane Use: The bill prohibits municipalities from reducing motor vehicle lanes for new bike lanes and removes the ability for cities to require "green roofs" on new constructions, with the aim of reducing building costs

Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures)

- Ontario's Bill 68 is legislation that makes significant changes, primarily focused on streamlining governance and boosting the economy through tax credits and pension reforms, but also impacting climate commitments by removing GHG target mandates, and restructuring Conservation Authorities (CAs) for regional efficiency, while also altering election rules, property tax rules, and alcohol taxes. Key areas include pension plan modernization (JSPPs), OMERS liability, manufacturing tax credits, and conservation authority consolidation.
- Key measures include:
 - Environment and Conservation
 - New Provincial Conservation Agency: Establishes the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to oversee and set consistent

- standards, policies, and fees for local conservation authorities across the province.
- Regional Consolidation: Directs the transition from 36 local conservation authorities to a regional, watershed-based framework of seven larger entities.
- Climate Change Targets: Repeals previous requirements for the government to set greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets and publish a climate change plan and related reports.
- Wasaga Beach Redevelopment: Removes certain lands from the provincial park system to facilitate a new tourist development while designating other areas as a historical park and aiming to maintain public beach access.
- Government and Elections
 - Election Dates: Ends the fixed provincial election dates (formerly the first Thursday in June every four years), allowing elections to be called any time within a five-year period.
 - Political Financing: Increases political donation limits to parties (indexed to inflation) and continues quarterly public allowances for parties. It also adds new checks on third-party advertisers.
 - Government Advertising: Eases previous limits on government advertising before an election period.
- Finance and Business
 - Tax Credits: Expands the "Ontario made" manufacturing investment tax credit and introduces a new shortline railway investment tax credit.
 - Tax Benefits: Widens eligibility and indexes to inflation the Ontario Trillium Benefit and Ontario child benefit for individuals living in mobile or land-lease homes, retroactive to 2020.
 - Business Transparency: Requires corporations to file information returns regarding individuals with significant control to help combat financial crime.
 - Health Financing: Allows Ontario Health and Ontario Health atHome to use more flexible financial tools, such as borrowing and investing, with the approval of the Minister of Health and Minister of Finance.
- Pensions
 - Pension Plan Conversion: Establishes a framework for converting single-employer defined contribution (DC) pension plans into jointly sponsored pension plans (JSPPs), with specific rules for member consent (including deemed consent if no response is given) and asset transfers.
 - OMERS Governance: Reforms the governance structure of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) by replacing the Sponsors Corporation with a Sponsors Council and modifying the duties and liabilities of board members

Bill 72, Buy Ontario Act

- Bill 72 creates a framework for the Ontario government to prioritize Ontario and Canadian goods/services in public spending, requiring public bodies (ministries, agencies, municipalities) and their suppliers to give preference to local suppliers, support Ontario businesses, and potentially restrict foreign firms, all aimed at boosting the local economy and safeguarding supply chains, with directives issued by the Management Board of Cabinet (MBC).
- Key aspects include:
 - Prioritization: Mandates giving preference first to Ontario-made goods/services, then Canadian, in public sector contracts.
 - Framework, Not Rules: The Act itself provides the power for the MBC to issue specific directives, rather than containing all the rules directly.
 - Broad Scope: Applies to all government entities, Crown agencies, municipalities, and even third-party supply chain managers.
 - Support for Local: Directives can require support for Ontario businesses and limit foreign competition.
 - Enforcement: Includes penalties like holding back funds, fines, and barring non-compliant vendors.
 - Objective: To leverage \$220 billion in public spending to create jobs, support key sectors (construction, manufacturing), and build a resilient economy.

Other Notable Bills

Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act

- This proposal amends sections of the City of Toronto Act, 2006, and the Municipal Act, 2001, that would enable municipal councils to vote on any recommendations to declare any member's seat vacant following a breach of municipally-defined codes of conduct and upon the recommendation from the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario that the breach was significant enough to warrant declaring a seat vacant.
- This has been a long-standing advocacy request of Ontario municipalities and there was shared optimism when the bill was introduced in May 2025. The bill has yet to pass into law and remains at Third Reading.

Bill 75, Keeping Criminals Behind Bars Act

- This bill aims to toughen the bail system by requiring cash deposits for release, making bail more consequential for repeat/violent offenders, enhancing tracking of non-compliant individuals, and investing in correctional capacity, all to keep serious criminals incarcerated and enhance public safety. It introduces stricter rules for bail, including potential reverse-onus for major crimes and tougher penalties, while also funding more police and focusing on mental health/addiction for youth to prevent crime.

- Key provisions include:
 - Cash Security Deposits: Requires accused persons or their sureties to pay a cash deposit (full bail amount) to ensure compliance, which is forfeited if conditions are breached.
 - Tougher Bail Rules: Implements stronger rules for violent and repeat offenders, potentially including reverse-onus (accused must prove why they should be released) for serious violent crimes.
 - Enhanced Tracking: Develops digital tools to better track repeat offenders and those violating bail conditions.
 - Increased Correctional Capacity: Invests in adding permanent beds and reopening facilities to ensure space for violent offenders.
 - Sentencing Reforms: Allows for longer consecutive sentences and tougher penalties for organized retail theft.
 - Support for Public Safety: Includes measures for police, such as funding for recruitment and support for officers' families, and expands the Constable Joe MacDonald Scholarship Fund.