

Government Relations Matters

Committee of Council
November 13, 2024



The next Regional Council meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday, November 21, 2024 @ 9:30 AM

(2025 Budget Meeting)



Region of Peel Budget 2025 Process

Day 1: November 21, 2024

- Police Services budget presentations

Day 2: November 28, 2024

- Regional Budget corporate overview presentation

Day 2: November 28, 2024

- Regional services budget presentations

Day 3: December 5, 2024

- Conservation authorities budget presentations

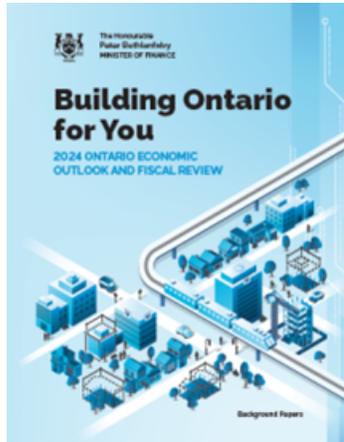
(As required) December 12, 2024

- Additional Budget deliberation

Staff will provide briefing materials and ongoing support through budget presses monitoring and required analysis.

October 30, 2024

Building Ontario for You



- Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy released the *2024 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Building Ontario for You*.
- The government intends to balance the budget by 2026–27.
- Highlights of how the government is keeping costs down in the *2024 Fall Economic Statement* include:
 - **Providing a \$200 taxpayer rebate early next year**, which would give immediate relief for Ontario families in the face of high interest rates and the federal carbon tax. This proposed \$200 taxpayer rebate would be sent to all eligible adults in Ontario who have filed their 2023 Income Tax and Benefit Return by December 31, 2024. Eligible families would receive an additional \$200 for each child under 18.

The government is projecting a deficit of \$6.6 billion in 2024–25 — an improvement of \$3.2 billion from the outlook published in the 2024 Budget. Over the medium term, the government projects a deficit of \$1.5 billion in 2025–26, followed by a surplus of \$0.9 billion in 2026–27.

October 30, 2024

Building Ontario for You

- Highlights of how the government is keeping costs down in the *2024 Fall Economic Statement* include (continued):
 - **Proposing to further extend the temporary gas tax and fuel tax rate cuts** so that the rate of tax on gasoline and fuel (diesel) would remain at 9 cents per litre until June 30, 2025. This would save Ontario households \$380, on average, over the three years.
 - **Starting in 2026, the government is investing an estimated \$88M over three years to expand Learn and Stay grants for 1,360 eligible undergraduate students** that commit to practice family medicine with a full roster of patients once they graduate. This includes \$17.7M for the 2026–27 academic year. It is estimated the total investment will enable the connection of an additional 1.36 million people to primary care based on average attachment rates for family doctors. The funding will cover all tuition and other direct educational costs like books, supplies and equipment in exchange for a term of service as a physician in any community across Ontario.



Building Ontario for You

- Highlights of how the government is keeping costs down in the *2024 Fall Economic Statement* include (continued):
 - **Expanding access for families who are seeking fertility treatment.** Beginning in 2025–26, the government will invest an additional \$150M over two years to expand the Ontario Fertility Program (OFP). This funding will nearly triple the number of individuals who are able to receive a government-funded in vitro fertilization (IVF) cycle, increasing the capacity of fertility clinics and reducing waitlists in hospitals and community settings. In 2025, the government will introduce additional support to families who are seeking fertility treatment through a new tax credit, which would provide support of up to 25 per cent of eligible fertility treatment expenses for Ontario residents, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year, which could include IVF cycles, fertility drugs, travel for treatment and diagnostic testing. The government is setting aside \$115M for this initiative over three years.
 - **Increasing the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF)** — the province’s main general assistance grant to municipalities — by \$100M over the next two years, bringing total funding provided through this program to \$600M by 2026. In 2025, municipalities will benefit from an immediate \$50M increase to the OMPF.



The OMPF program primarily supports northern and rural municipalities across the province.

October 23, 2024

Proposed Amendments to the Electricity Act, 1998, Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 and the Energy Consumer Protection Act, 2010 to enable an affordable energy future

- The Ministry of Energy and Electrification is seeking feedback on legislative amendments that would enable integrated energy resource planning and kick start early actions to ensure Ontario's energy system remains affordable, reliable and clean while supporting intensifying electrification and economic growth.
- These proposed changes align with Ontario's policy vision, "Ontario's Affordable Energy Future: The Pressing Case for More Power".

1. Integrated Energy Resource Planning Amendments

- The ministry is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to the Electricity Act, 1998, which would enable an integrated energy resource planning process.



October 23, 2024

Proposed Amendments to the Electricity Act, 1998, Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 and the Energy Consumer Protection Act, 2010 to enable an affordable energy future

2. Electricity Connections to Support Growth

- The ministry is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 to enable **more timely and cost-effective electricity grid expansions to support high growth areas**. The proposed amendments would give Government regulation-making authority to change how costs are allocated and recovered for transmission and distribution connection infrastructure where the prospect of load materializing in the future is very likely.
- If this legislation is passed, the ministry would **propose regulations that could allow for allocating costs for certain electricity system connection infrastructure, particularly in high-growth areas**. Regulation(s) could include provisions that reduce the cost and financial burden on 'first mover' customers and enable more timely development of connection infrastructure to enhance system readiness for industrial and housing development and electrification.



October 23, 2024

Proposed Amendments to the Electricity Act, 1998, Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 and the Energy Consumer Protection Act, 2010 to enable an affordable energy future

3. Exemptions for Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Companies and Flexible Billing

- The ministry is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, the Electricity Act, 1998, and the Energy Consumer Protection Act, 2010 (the Acts) to support the growth of EV adoption in Ontario - the proposed amendments would state that the Acts do not apply with respect to the distribution or retail of electricity for electric vehicle charging.
- The ministry is also proposing to establish regulation-making authority to enable government to apply certain electricity retailing and distribution requirements in the Acts to EV charging.

4. Programs to increase Energy Affordability

- The ministry is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to the Electricity Act, 1998 that would enable the IESO to administer enhanced energy efficiency programs that support beneficial electrification (BE) - the use of electricity instead of other fuels to reduce overall energy use and subsequently reduce costs for high consumption activities such as home heating and cooling, regardless of fuel-type (i.e., propane, oil, wood).

Last month, the Minister of Energy announced he would introduce legislation to make it easier for new homes and businesses to connect to the electricity grid. Staff are reviewing the consultation posting to assess potential for a formal submission or comments.

Comments are due by November 22, 2024



Federal Government Investing in Opportunities for Women

- The federal government announced up to **\$100M** for 163 projects under the *Women's Economic and Leadership Opportunities Fund*.
- This funding will address systemic barriers to women's economic participation and success, including harassment, discrimination, limited access to mentors and networks, and lack of flexible work arrangements. The projects will advance gender equality through one or more of the following ways:
 - **Changing gender norms and attitudes** by working to change beliefs, assumptions, and stereotypes based on gender and other identity factors.
 - **Supporting changes to authority, voices at the table, and decision-making power** by working to address power imbalances to ensure women are part of the dialogue and solution.
 - **Increasing networks and collaboration** by building and strengthening partnerships to work across sectors and break down silos.
 - **Encouraging more effective and equitable sharing of resources** by sharing, mobilizing, and redistributing resources to support equality.
 - **Changing policies and practices** by creating, changing, or removing policies and practices to address sexism and other barriers to gender equality.



163
organizations



Up to
\$100 million
in funding

Two Brampton based organizations received funding. This includes the International Centre for Family Welfare (\$541,078) and Lotus STEMM (\$575,000).

November 7, 2024

New Measures to Help Build More Homes Across Canada

- The federal government announced the launch of the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund's (CHIF) **\$1B direct delivery stream** which will provide communities with funding to build or improve the critical infrastructure – such as drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste.
 - Applicants will need to demonstrate how their proposed projects will support more homes by expanding or improving critical infrastructure. Municipalities with a population larger than 30,000 will be required to allow four units to be built in their communities.
 - More information about the CHIF, including details on eligibility and how to apply, can be found on the Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's website.
 - **Deadline to apply: March 31, 2025.**



Staff are analyzing the announced funding opportunity to assess feasibility of an application.

THANK YOU!

