



Making Ontario
Better for People and
Smarter for Business



A Message from the Minister

Supporting Recovery, Innovation, Growth and Opportunity

As Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and as the proud son of small business owners, I understand what businesses mean to the people who run them, the communities they serve and the economy they support.

This is why reducing regulatory burdens on hard-working job creators has been an important priority for our government from the moment we took office. Building on the successes of the past two years, the *Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2020* is the latest in a series of red tape reduction and regulatory modernization efforts delivering meaningful results for Ontario.

At a time of unprecedented challenges, our focus remains on unburdening businesses, creating new opportunities and setting Ontario up for recovery and success in the years to come. These efforts strive to relieve people and businesses of the burden of unnecessary, outdated, and duplicative regulations or red tape. By modernizing and streamlining rules and moving more processes and services online, we can help people and businesses recover from the economic effects of COVID-19 and prepare them for the better days that lay ahead.

Before the pandemic began, our government launched the province's Small Business Success Strategy consultations. While discussions on our long-term strategy have been forced to take a backseat to the more immediate concerns of the pandemic, we have had the opportunity to host over 100 virtual roundtables with small businesses from Kenora to Cornwall, Windsor to

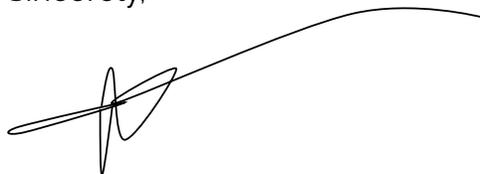
North Bay. I've heard stories of small business owners who have invested everything into their operations to provide for their families and employees' families, only to have COVID-19 deal a devastating blow to their plans.

The pandemic has reinforced the urgency of our work to modernize regulations, digitize processes, and tackle persistent obstacles to growth and success — to ensure that government is a bridge and not a barrier on the road to Ontario's economic recovery.

Outdated rules that disconnect people and business from their ingenuity and entrepreneurship are simply holding us back. Ontario needs strong rules and enforceable penalties to protect our environment and keep us healthy and safe, not old fashioned, duplicative and paper-based systems that slow innovation, opportunity, recovery and business growth.

Making sure that people are healthy and safe, and businesses are unburdened to focus their time on the needs of today and the growth of tomorrow — that is key to how our government measures success.

Sincerely,



Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria,
Associate Minister for Small Business
and Red Tape Reduction

“
People and businesses need government to ensure rules are not unnecessary barriers to economic recovery, innovation, growth and opportunity.”
”

Making Ontario Better for People and Smarter for Business

From the very beginning
of the pandemic, our
government took action.

We made \$10 billion in urgent financial relief available for people and businesses and made key regulatory updates to improve cash flow and help people and businesses adapt to the demands of physical distancing.



We acted quickly to make temporary regulatory and rule changes submitted through the *COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers* website to help the people of Ontario weather the pandemic and help businesses keep their doors open, including:



Switching to a fixed, flat **"COVID-19 Recovery Rate"** for Time-of-Use electricity customers to provide a predictable and stable electricity rate while Ontario families are home and many businesses have closed their doors.



Allowing trucks to deliver to **grocery stores and pharmacies overnight** to ensure shelves are stocked with supplies.



Working with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to **allow for the temporary certification of qualifying physicians**, allowing them to play an important role in supporting Ontario's response to the COVID-19 outbreak.



Extending the **expiry dates of many licences and permits**, eliminating the need for businesses and individuals to renew them during the pandemic.



Allowing **alcohol to be sold** with food delivery and takeout orders.



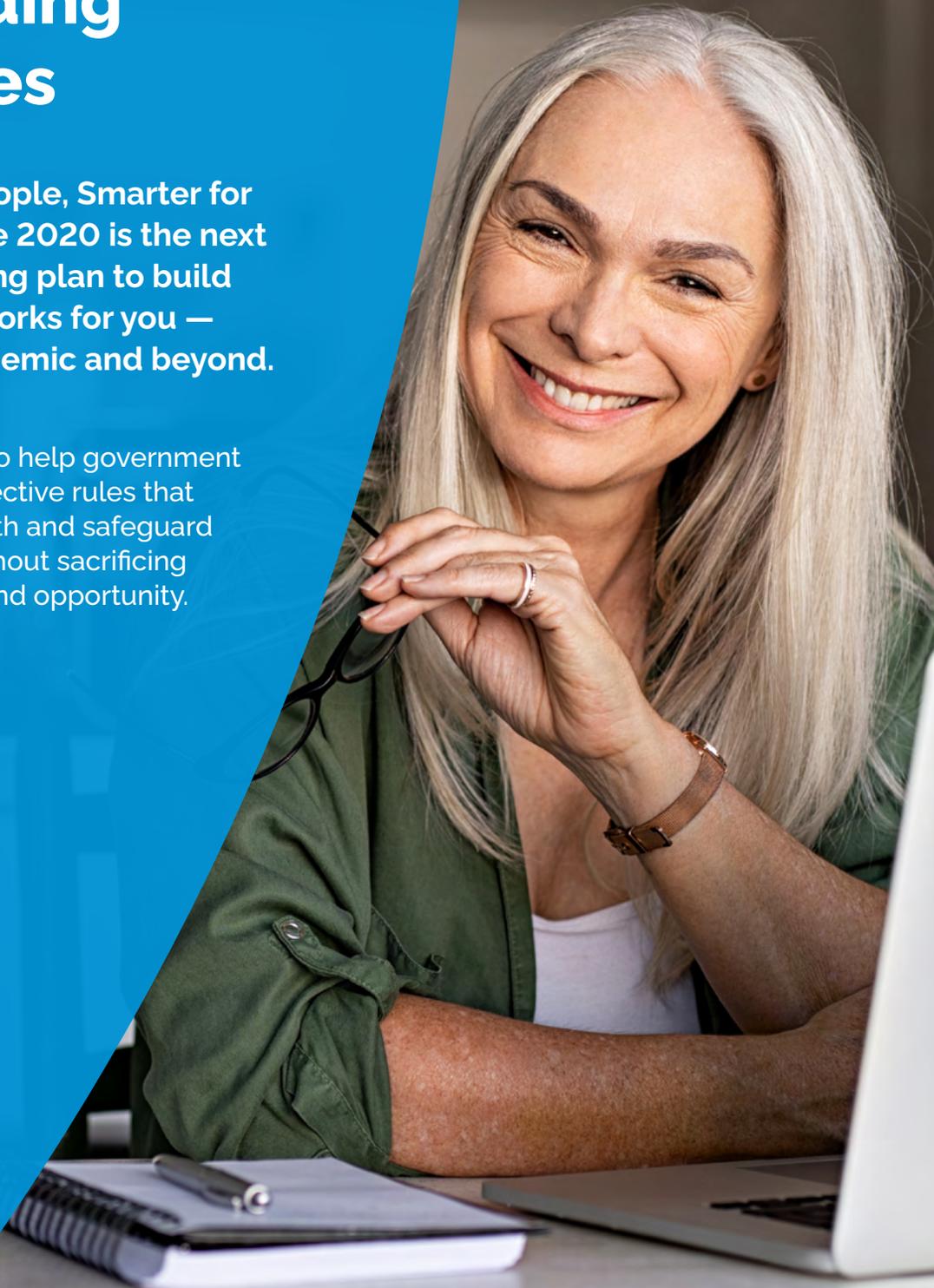
Allowing **restaurants and bars to extend their licensed areas** to serve additional customers on expanded patio spaces to ensure social distancing requirements are met.

These changes have helped families navigate the pandemic and businesses adapt to a new environment by cutting costs, increasing cash flow, opening new revenue streams, and providing new opportunities.

Our Guiding Principles

The Better for People, Smarter for Business Package 2020 is the next step in our ongoing plan to build an Ontario that works for you — through the pandemic and beyond.

The package will also help government deliver clear and effective rules that promote public health and safeguard the environment without sacrificing innovation, growth and opportunity.



Our efforts follow five guiding principles:

1

Protecting health, safety and the environment

We are working to ease regulatory burdens in a smart, careful way to ensure that health, safety and environmental protections are maintained and enhanced.

2

Prioritizing the important issues

We are assessing which regulations cost the most time and money, while looking for innovative ways to ensure these rules are effective and efficient.

3

Harmonizing rules with the federal government and other provinces where we can

We're targeting duplicative red tape and aligning where we can to eliminate steps that cost job creators time and money.

4

Listening to you

We want to hear from you about what we can do to remove red tape and create the right conditions for businesses and communities to prosper.

5

Whole-of-government approach

We're taking a coordinated approach to make sure everyone is on the same red tape reduction page — a whole-of-government perspective to deliver smarter government for Ontario, with the economic growth to match.

What We're Doing

Key changes we've already made:

- **Making it easier for community feeding organizations, religious charities and food banks to focus on their good work** by providing them with a set of clear rules that distinguishes them from full-service chain restaurants.
- **Allowing Ontario drivers to carry proof of insurance on their smartphones**, and no longer requiring them to have a clean-air test performed on their car.
- **Safeguarding our environment and protecting public health** by creating strong, clear penalties for environmental violations.
- **Protecting seniors and families from drug shortages** and reducing burdens on drug manufacturers to help expand access to lower-cost generic-like drugs.
- **Creating a one-stop shop** for annual transport truck safety and emissions inspections by training safety inspectors to complete both tests at the same time.
- **Streamlining and modernizing outdated rules** and processes for hairdressers, barbers, pharmacists, grocery stores and dry cleaners.

Proposed actions in our 2020 Better for People, Smarter for Business Package include:

Streamlining permitting and approvals and modernizing information requests for land transactions

Reviewing Ontario's permitting and approvals processes to make sure they are correctly ordered, coordinated and that duplication is reduced where possible. We are also proposing to make it easier for purchasers of land to get the environmental information they need by moving from a manual paper-based process to a much faster alternative digital delivery platform.



Helping Ontarians understand their energy use to reduce costs

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 will allow the people of Ontario to access their usage through smartphones and connect with apps that can help them lower their energy bills.

When consumers have access to real-time energy consumption data, they can identify and take immediate simple steps to reduce their energy usage, such as lowering their temperature settings when they aren't at home. This data can also help consumers find and opt for long-term energy efficiency solutions, such as upgrading windows and heating equipment. Household energy efficiency savings from real-time data can be as high as 12 per cent, research shows.

Supporting renewable and alternative fuels and emission reduction technology

Change the operating engineer requirements to allow businesses to adopt new innovative technology without compromising public safety. These changes will allow grocery stores and other large refrigeration facilities to invest in new technologies and adopt lower carbon fuels like natural gas and renewable natural gas.



Streamlining pre-start health and safety reviews

Consult on proposed changes to clarify when pre-start health and safety reviews are required. These reviews are required before certain new and often innovative equipment and processes are introduced into factories. Clarifying requirements will help reduce confusion for businesses.



Cutting red tape for intercommunity bus carriers to improve transportation options in rural and Northern Ontario

Intercommunity bus carriers play an important role in connecting communities across the province. With this proposal, our government would make it easier for intercommunity buses to participate in the transportation market and find innovative solutions to fill service gaps, providing workers and families access to more transportation options.

Allow for single traffic studies to streamline development and reduce duplication

Rather than requiring developers to complete a traffic study each time a new development is planned in a business park or development area along a provincial highway corridor, municipalities can complete a single traffic study, where appropriate.



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

Ontario is committed to ensuring a fair and even playing field for all hard-working families, including Ontario's professional truck drivers. The government is committed to closing the existing loophole which allows those who do not have a right to work in Canada from acquiring an Ontario commercial driver's licence while they visit the country on a visitor's visa. This will provide fairness to Ontario's professional truck drivers.

Supporting Ontario's aquaculture industry

The aquaculture industry, or the farming of fish and other aquatic life, has grown in recent years in Ontario, becoming far more diverse. As the industry continues to develop, the current legislative framework from 1997 does not provide the flexibility required to address the range of aquaculture operations across the province. These proposed changes would modernize and streamline the regulatory framework for some of Ontario's aquaculture facilities and create opportunities for the industry, while making sure that aquaculture is conducted in an ecologically sustainable manner.



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

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

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 the people of Ontario expect today. A better digital reporting service will allow more efficient and timely compliance and monitoring of enforcement actions. Our government is providing assurance for the people of Ontario that polluters are held accountable, and waste is being appropriately and safely managed.

Requiring 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 the support of the host community before applying for a permit from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to take ground water, either by accessing a new source of water or significantly increasing their existing water taking. The proposal would also require the host municipality to consider and respond in a timely manner.

Giving municipalities input over access to local ground water for use in bottled water will help further protect water resources in Ontario.





How you can help

We're in this together, Ontario—and we want to hear from you. Share your red tape challenges or offer ideas on how we can work better for you.

Visit Ontario.ca/redtape

