

# Queen's Park notes

Update - February 21 - March 24, 2023

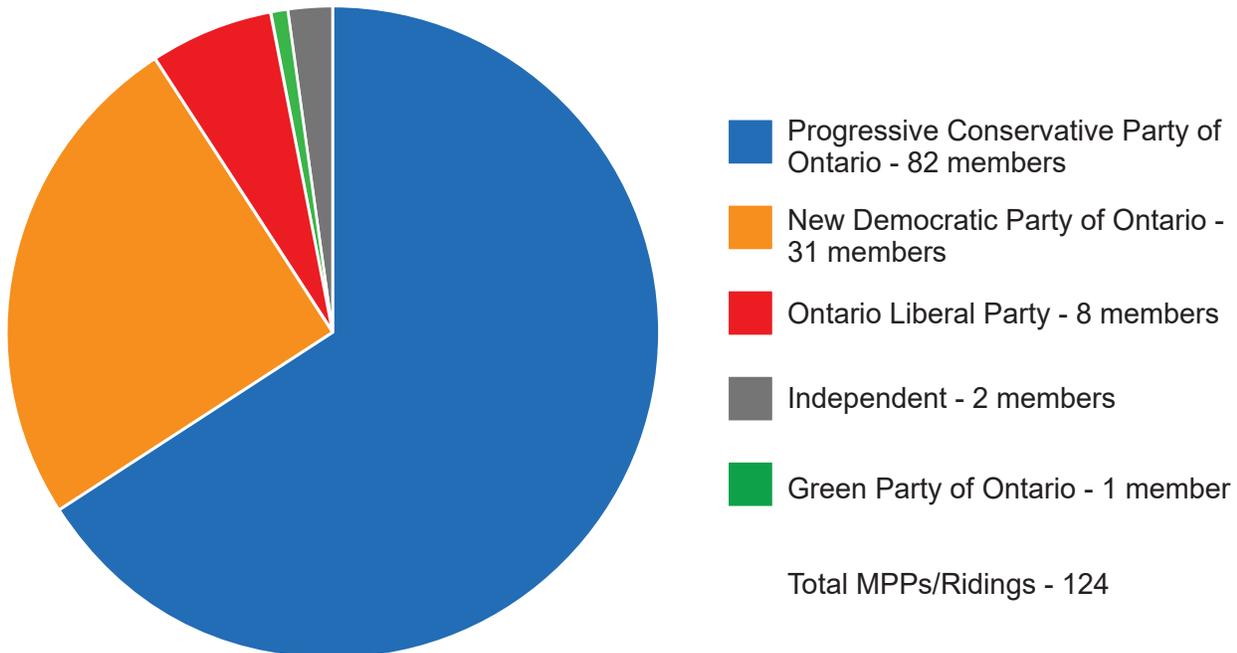
## 43RD PARLIAMENT – SPRING SESSION

The 43rd Parliament began on August 8, 2022. February 21, 2023, marked the beginning of the Spring Session and, although spring seems to be a long way off, the Ford government wasted no time introducing a substantial amount of new legislation, including tabling their budget on Thursday, March 23, 2023. Every person living and working in Ontario will be impacted, directly or indirectly, by these proposed bills.

## MOVERS AND SHAKERS - RESIGNATIONS, BYELECTIONS, CAUCUS EXITS

Date	Type	Name	Riding	Party
Mar. 24	Resignation	Merrilee Fullerton	Kanata-Carleton	PCs
Mar. 16	By-election	Sarah Jama	Hamilton-Centre	ONDP
Mar. 10	Left PC Caucus	Vincent Ke	Don-Valley North	PC to Independent

## PARTY DISTRIBUTION - 43RD ONTARIO PARLIAMENT



## EXTENDED HOUSE HOURS – GOVERNMENT’S AGENDA PUSH CONTINUES

On March 23, 2023, the Government passed a motion to extend the hours of the House to midnight on the following dates: April 26-27; May 8-11; May 15-18; May 29-Jun1; June 5-8. A similar motion was passed for the Fall Session.

# NEW BILLS INTRODUCED

## **BILL 84, PETER KORMOS MEMORIAL ACT (SAVING ORGANS TO SAVE LIVES)**

Private Members' Public Bills – New Democratic Party of Ontario (NDP)  
France Gélinas (Nickel Belt) - Critic Health

## **BILL 83, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT (MICROFIBRE FILTERS FOR WASHING MACHINES)**

Sandy Shaw (Hamilton West—Ancaster—Dundas), Critic, Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Jessica Bell (University—Rosedale) - Critic, Housing

## **BILL 82, ENHANCING PUBLIC TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY ACT**

Private Members' Bill – NDP  
Doly Begum (Scarborough Southwest)  
Critic, Immigration Services and International Credentials  
Deputy Leader, Official Opposition

## **BILL 81, CROATIAN HERITAGE DAY ACT**

Private Members' Bill – Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario  
Donna Skelly (Flamborough – Glanbrook)

## **BILL 80, VIEWER DISCRETION ACT (IMAGES OF FETUSES)**

Private Members' Bill – NDP  
Teresa J. Armstrong (London—Fanshawe) - Critic, Affordability, Critic, Pensions  
Peggy Sattler (London West) - Critic, Legislative Affairs, Critic, Democratic Reform  
Jennie Stevens (St. Catherines) - Critic, Veterans, Legions and Military Affairs, Critic, Sport, Critic, Tourism

## **BILL 79, WORKING FOR WORKERS ACT**

Government Bill  
Hon. Monte McNaughton (Lambton—Kent—Middlesex) – Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

This Act would amend various statutes with respect to employment and labour and other matters, including but not limited to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Employment Standards Act, and the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities Act.

## **BILL 78, GROUP OF SEVEN DAY ACT**

Private Members' Bill - Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario  
Todd J. McCarthy (Durham)

## **BILL 76, RESPECTING WORKERS IN HEALTH CARE AND IN RELATED FIELDS ACT**

Private Members' Bill – NDP  
France Gélinas (Nickel Belt) - Critic, Health  
Wayne Gates (Niagara Falls) - Critic, Long-Term Care, Retirement Homes and Home Care  
Jamie West (Sudbury) – Critic, Labour

If enacted this Bill would increase the minimum wage for, sick leave, and access to health benefits and pensions for personal support workers, homemakers and workers in certain health care settings.

## **NEW BILLS INTRODUCED (CONTINUED)**

### **BILL 74, MISSING PERSONS AMENDMENT ACT**

Private Members' Bill – NDP  
Monique Taylor (Hamilton Mountain) – Critic, Children, Community and Social Services

### **BILL 73, SUPPORTING ONTARIO'S COMMUNITY, RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPERS ACT**

Private Members' Bill – OPCs  
Goldie Ghamari (Carleton)  
Stéphane Sarrazin (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell)

This bill would change the definition of a newspaper in various acts to require that notices be published in a newspaper having general circulation in a municipality. The amendments allow the publication to be done in a newspaper that is published at regular intervals of a month or less, rather than published at regular intervals of a week or less, as is currently the case.

### **BILL 72, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' WEEK ACT**

Private Members' Bill – Ontario Liberal Party  
Adil Shamji (Don Valley East)

### **BILL 68, UPLOADING HIGHWAYS 174 AND 17 ACT**

Private Members' Bill – OLP  
Stephen Blais (Orléans)

### **BILL 67, TEMPORARY NURSING AGENCY LICENSING AND REGULATION ACT**

Private Members' Bill – Ontario Liberal Party  
Adil Shamji (Don Valley East)

This bill seeks to create new licensing requirement for operators of temporary nursing agencies. Applications for these licences must be submitted to the Registrar appointed under the Act. The applications must contain a credentialling and monitoring plan as well as a compliance plan. Contravention of the Act or the regulations is an offence and is punishable on conviction by a fine.

### **BILL 66, HEART VALVE DISEASE AWARENESS ACT**

Private Members' Bill – PC  
Rudy Cuzzetto (Mississauga—Lakeshore)

### **BILL 65, HONOURING OUR VETERANS ACT**

Private Members' Bill – PC  
Lorne Coe (Whitby)

### **BILL 64, CHOSEN FAMILY DAY ACT, 2023**

Private Members' Bill – ONDP and OLP  
Kristyn Wong-Tam (Toronto Centre) - Critic, 2SLGBTQ+ Issues, Critic, Attorney General  
Jill Andrew (Toronto—St. Paul's) - Critic, Women's Social and Economic Opportunity  
Critic, Heritage, Critic, Culture  
Mitzie Hunter (Scarborough-Guildwood)

This bill would declare February 22 in each year as Chosen Family Day.

## NEW BILLS INTRODUCED (CONTINUED)

### **BILL 61, MAKING PSYCHOTHERAPY SERVICES TAX-FREE ACT**

Private Members' Bill – ONDP

France Gélinas (Nickel Belt)

Jill Andrew (Toronto - St. Paul's) (Toronto—St. Paul's) - Critic, Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, Critic, Heritage, Critic, Culture

If enacted, the bill would require the Minister of Health to take all necessary steps, including introducing legislation, if necessary, to ensure that the tax treatment of psychotherapy services provided in Ontario by psychotherapists, registered psychotherapists and registered mental health therapists within the meaning of the Psychotherapy Act, 2007 is the same as the tax treatment of those services provided by other practitioners.

## BILLS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

### **BILL 75, QUEEN'S PARK RESTORATION ACT**

Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs

Government Bill

Hon. Paul Calandra (Markham—Stouffville) Minister of Legislative Affairs

This bill would establish a new ministry, to be known as the Queen's Park Restoration Secretariat. The ministry would oversee the renovation/restoration of the 130 year old Ontario Legislature. The project is expected to cost well over \$1 billion and take years to complete. A temporary location has yet to be determined.

### **BILL 71, BUILDING MORE MINES ACT**

Standing Committee on the Interior

Government Bill

Hon. George Pirie (Timmins) - Minister of Mines

This bill would, amongst other things, make it easier for companies to get permits to open mines faster, mine metals from tailings and waste, and transfer more authority to the Minister.

### **BILL 70, SENIORS MONTH**

Standing Committee on Social Policy

Private Members' Bill - PC

Dawn Gallagher Murphy (Newmarket-Aurora)

### **BILL 69, REDUCING INEFFICIENCIES ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE STATUTE LAW AMENDMENTS)**

Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy

Government Bill

Hon. Kinga Surma (Etobicoke Centre)

If enacted, Bill 69 would impact eleven (11) other acts in two ways – real estate management and maintenance, and environmental assessment requirements.

This act would alter the way the government maintains and manages Ontario's real estate portfolio for fourteen (14) government councils/corporations including (EQAO), Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO), and Skilled Trades Ontario.

In addition, if passed, this act would alter the Environmental Assessment Act by granting the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks the ability to waive or alter the 30-day review period between when a class environmental assessment is completed and when a when a proponent may begin a project.

## **BILLS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)**

### **BILL 60, YOUR HEALTH ACT**

Standing Committee on Social Policy

Government Bill

Hon. Sylvia Jones (Dufferin—Caledon)

If passed this bill would amend and enact various Acts with respect to the health system and have ramifications on the entire Ontario health care system, including the increase in private, for-profit, surgeries and procedures.

## **BILLS PASSED**

### **BILL 77, SUPPLY ACT**

Government Bill

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria (Brampton South) - President of the Treasury Board

### **BILL 63, ST. THOMAS - CENTRAL ELGIN BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT**

Government Bill

Hon. Steve Clark (Leeds—Grenville—Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes) -

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The bill allows for the annexation of a portion of the Municipality of Central Elgin to the City of St. Thomas. Various matters are dealt with, including the application of by-laws, resolutions and official plans, the continuation of procedures in process and arrangements with respect to real property taxes.

## **BILLS DEFEATED**

### **BILL 62, FARMLAND AND ARABLE LAND STRATEGY ACT**

Private Members' Bill – Independent

Bobbi-Ann Brady (Haldimand-Norfolk)

Defeated - Second Reading - Ayes 29; Nays 68

### **BILL 50, BUILDING BETTER BUSINESS OUTCOMES ACT**

Private Members' Bill - OLP

Stephanie Bowman (Don Valley West)

This bill would have required publicly traded companies to disclose how they recruit board candidates belonging to one or more of the following groups: women, persons who are Black, Indigenous or racialized, persons with disabilities and persons who are LGBTQ+.

Defeated - Second Reading - Ayes 35; Nays 75

### **BILL 47, PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN AN EMERGENCY ACT (EMERGENCY POWER GENERATORS)**

Private Members' Bill - ONDP

Chandra Pasma (Ottawa West-Nepean) – Critic, Education

Jessica Bell (University-Rosedale) - Critic, Housing

Kristyn Wong-Tam (Toronto Centre) - Critic, 2SLGBTQ+ Issues, Critic, Attorney General

Bhutila Karpoche (Parkdale-High Park) - Critic, Early Childhood Development,

Critic, GTA Issues

## BILLS DEFEATED (CONTINUED)

Critic, Child Care

The bill sought to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 and the Condominium Act, 1998 to require landlords and corporations, respectively, to ensure buildings have emergency power generators.

Defeated. Second Reading (Ayes 30; Nays 66)

## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS – 43RD PARLIAMENT, SPRING SESSION

April 11-14, 2023	Constituency week
May 23-26, 2023	Constituency week
June 8, 2023	Last Day of Spring Session

## INTERESTED IN ONTARIO POLITICS?



43rd Parliament – Current Bills



How an Ontario Bill Becomes Law, Legislative Research, 2022

## PREPARE FOR JUNE 4, 2026 - VOLUNTEER. DONATE.



GPO



OLP



ONDP



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