

BACKGROUND

Keeping Criminals Behind Bars Act, 2025



**PROTECT
ONTARIO**

Ministry of the Solicitor General

November 25, 2025

Ontario 

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Overview: *Keeping Criminals Behind Bars Act, 2025*

The *Keeping Criminals Behind Bars Act, 2025* will introduce a suite of initiatives to improve public safety and modernize our justice system. The bill contains both legislative and regulatory efforts, which are complemented by proposed future initiatives for consideration that can be implemented without legislative approval.

Initiative	Description
Safer Roads and Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Implementing tougher roadside enforcement and penalties in response to Andrew's Law PetitionStrengthening commercial vehicle safetyExploring the best way to hold impaired drivers who kill a parent or guardian responsible for financial support of the victim's child
Strengthening Our Bail System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bail reform initiativesUser fee system for GPS monitoring and related community safety enhancementsExploring Driver's License suspension as part of collection efforts for defaulted bail debts
Holding Offenders Accountable and Supporting Victims of Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Determining the best way to make information in the Ontario Sex Offender and Trafficker Registry (OSOTR) publicly availableInvestigative Genetic GenealogyGiving transit constables the authority to enforce the prohibition of illegal drugs on transitCracking down on illicit drug productions, including pill pressesExploring powers under the <i>Tobacco Tax Act</i> to further address contraband tobaccoAmending the <i>Coroners Act</i>

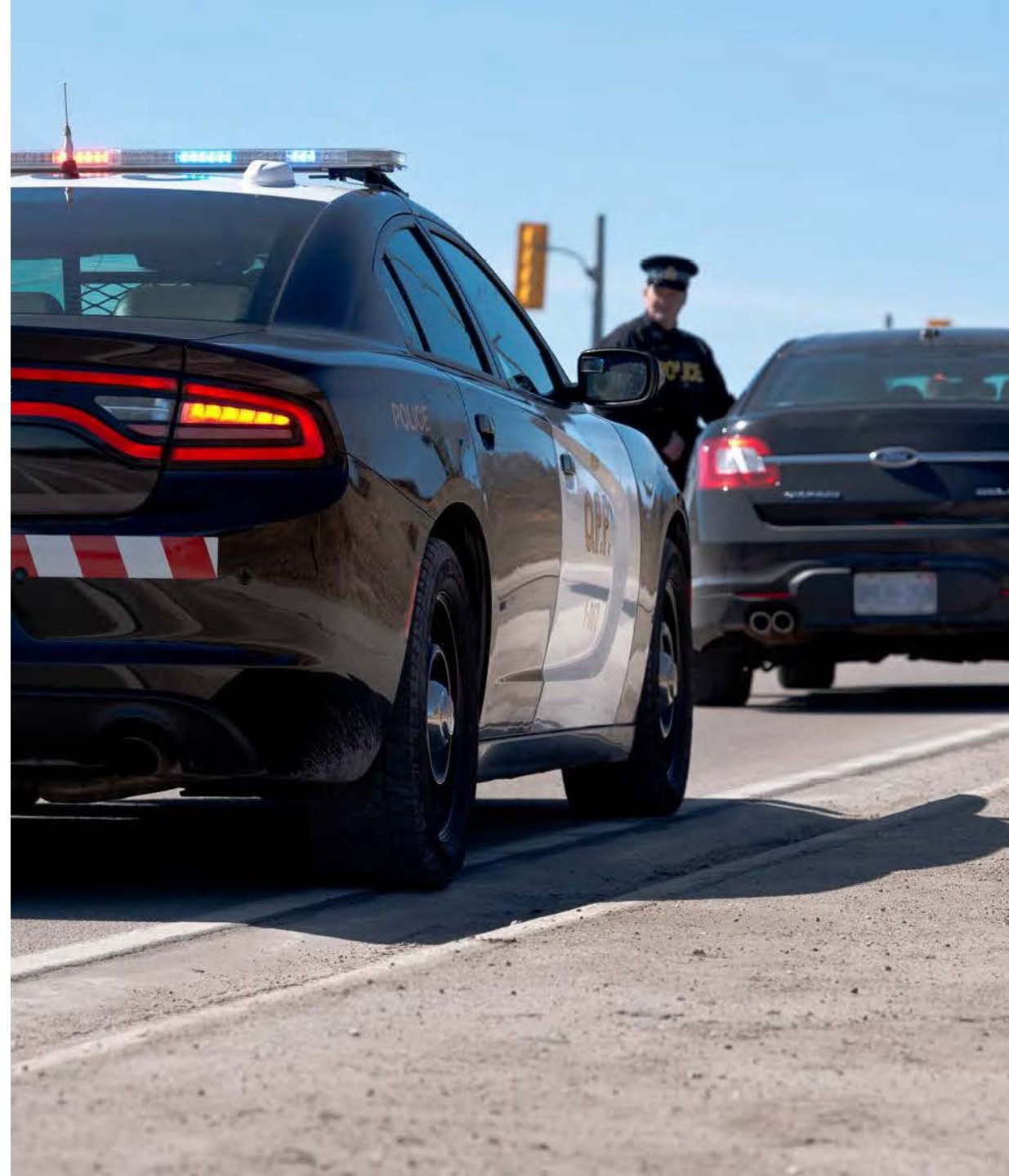
Overview: *Keeping Criminals Behind Bars Act, 2025*

Initiative	Description
Supporting Public Safety Personnel and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Splash guards in jail cells• K9s in corrections• Anti-Riot Weapon Enfields (ARWENs) and SIU Investigations• Ontario Police College (OPC's) Allocations for Basic Constable Training Program• Law Enforcement Service Awards• Expanding Ontario Immediate Family Wellness Program• Constable Joe MacDonald Public Safety Officers' Survivors Scholarship Fund
Improving Public Service Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Police Record Checks Reform Act</i> amendments• Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPS) under <i>Fire Protection and Prevention Act</i> (FPPA)
Protecting Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restricting animal research testing on cats and dogs• Consulting on banning medically unnecessary procedures on dogs and cats• Increasing penalties for a person who harms animals that work with peace officers

Safer Roads and Highways

We are introducing tougher roadside enforcement and higher penalties to remove dangerous drivers from roads, deter repeat offences and protect lives. This follows the August 2025 collision that killed Andrew Cristillo, involving a driver previously charged with dangerous and stunt driving. Andrew's family launched a petition calling for harsher penalties and we are responding to prevent similar tragedies.

Under Andrew's Law, police will have the authority to immediately suspend licences and impound vehicles when they reasonably believe a driver is operating dangerously.



Safer Roads and Highways

Initiative	Description	Outcome/Implementation
Andrew's Law - Driver's licence suspensions for dangerous driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing police to issue an immediate roadside driver's licence suspension of 90 days and impound a vehicle for seven days if they have reason to believe a person was driving dangerously. A lifetime driver's licence suspension for anyone convicted of dangerous driving causing death under the Criminal Code, reducible to 25 years if prescribed criteria are met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These changes support public safety by enabling the immediate removal of high-risk drivers from the road and imposing severe consequences for dangerous driving convictions resulting in death.
Andrew's Law - Increasing sanctions for driving with a suspended and careless driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle impoundment periods would escalate to 14 days (first offence), 30 days (second offence), and 45 days (third and subsequent offence), compared to the current seven-day period for driving while suspended. Fines would increase to \$2,000–\$10,000 (first conviction), \$5,000–\$15,000 (second conviction), and \$10,000–\$20,000 (third and subsequent conviction), compared with the current \$1,000–\$5,000 (first conviction) and \$2,000–\$5,000 (subsequent conviction) for driving while suspended. Introducing immediate roadside driver's licence suspensions, including a seven-day licence suspension for careless driving and a 30-day suspension for careless driving causing bodily harm or death. Fines would also increase to \$1,000–\$5,000, up from \$400–\$2,000 for careless driving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These changes ensure drivers who commit high-risk offences face stronger, more immediate consequences, helping to remove unsafe drivers from the road and deter repeat offences.
Andrew's Law - Enhancing road safety education for young and novice drivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing novice driver education and training programs to ensure new drivers are ready for the responsibility of driving and know how to avoid risky behaviours that lead to collisions. Ministry of Education will work with school boards, police and school resource officers to deliver road safety presentations in secondary schools. This could include presentations on prevention, including education on high-risk behaviours (e.g., distracted driving, speeding, stunt driving, driving under the influence) and the consequences and impacts of dangerous driving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review will strengthen outcomes for novice drivers by making sure they are equipped for the responsibilities of driving while enhancing the Ministry of Transportation's ability to detect and mitigate potential high-risk drivers. Road safety presentations in secondary schools will help raise awareness about the risks and consequences of unsafe driving, encouraging safer decision-making among young drivers.

Safer Roads and Highways

Initiative	Description	Outcome / Implementation
Strengthening commercial vehicle safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doubling sanctions for commercial drivers convicted of distracted driving. • Suspension periods would double to a seven-day suspension (first conviction), 14-day suspension (second conviction) and a 60-day suspension (third and subsequent conviction). • Fines would double to \$1,000-\$2,000 (first conviction), \$1,000-\$4,000 (second conviction) and \$1,000-\$6,000 (third and subsequent conviction). • Raising the minimum fine for speed limiter offences from \$250 to \$1,000, including offences such as tampering with or operating without a functioning speed limiter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These changes increase accountability for commercial vehicle drivers, deter risky behaviour and enhance safety on Ontario roads.
Exploring the best way to hold impaired drivers who kill a parent or guardian responsible for financial support of the victim's child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impaired driving causing death has devastating impacts on surviving family members, and places emotional, psychological and financial burdens upon those family members to care for the minor children of the deceased. • Building on the example of similar jurisdictions such as Texas, the government is exploring the best way to ensure impaired drivers who kill a parent or guardian are held financially responsible for supporting the children of their victims. This would build on existing liabilities, including the ability of the victims' families to sue impaired drivers in civil court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By improving access to financial support for minor dependents in cases of impaired driving causing death, the government intends to hold offenders accountable for their actions and ensure that no minor in Ontario has the burden of losing family members without the necessary support.

Strengthening Our Bail System

We are proposing changes to the bail system that would strengthen compliance and keep violent, repeat offenders off the streets.

This comprehensive bail reform strategy is intended to strengthen bail accountability, support efficient justice delivery and deliver on Ontario's commitment to protect public safety.



Strengthening Our Bail System

Initiative	Description	Outcome / Implementation
Bail Reform – Requiring cash security deposits for bail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is introducing legislation that would require an accused person and/or their surety* provide a cash security deposit, in the full amount ordered by the court on a promise to pay. Currently, if the court orders release on a promise to pay, no cash deposit is required and the surety and/or accused person does not have to pay the amount pledged unless the accused person does not follow the terms of their release and the court orders payment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This change will strengthen bail compliance, making bail more real and consequential for the accused and their surety, aiming to prevent repeat offences while promoting public safety. The change will also make it easier for the province to recover bail debts. If the accused person follows the terms of their release, the deposit will be returned when the case concludes or the surety's obligations otherwise come to an end.
Bail Reform - Develop a comprehensive bail reform strategy to enhance public safety, improve decision making, and modernize justice data systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is developing a comprehensive bail reform strategy that will include measures to enhance public safety, improve decision-making, and modernize justice data systems. This strategy includes enhancing digital tools to track repeat offenders and those not in compliance with bail conditions. The government will also work with justice partners to create a surety* database to help streamline and enhance surety checks. The strategy will also include the creation and expansion of bail prosecution teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comprehensive bail reform strategy will strengthen bail accountability, support cost effective justice delivery, promote public safety, and increase efficiency through data analytics and improved tracking of violent offenders.

Strengthening Our Bail System

Initiative	Description	Outcome / Implementation
Bail Reform - Improve collection tools and administration of bail debts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding amendments to the <i>Bail Act</i> made in Bill 10, <i>Protect Ontario Through Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Act</i>, to improve the collection and administration of bail debts by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding on existing collection tools that would give Ontario the power to use enhanced collection tools like garnishing wages, seizure and sale of property, and property liens for accused and surety bail debts. Improving the bail liens** process through legislative changes that, if passed, would modernize the administration of liens. The government is also developing a regulation to require sureties to provide up-to-date information so Ontario can collect forfeited bail money more easily. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These proposed changes would help make bail real and consequential by improving the collection of bail debts from accused persons and sureties and holding them accountable in cases where the accused person has breached the conditions of their bail. These changes would also improve on the existing process to collect information from sureties and help Ontario to collect debts and administer bail liens more efficiently.
User fee system for GPS monitoring and related community safety enhancements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government intends to establish a new user fee system for those subject to Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring as determined by the courts as a condition of bail or release, with the funds potentially used to offset program costs or support victim services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These changes are intended to increase public confidence in Ontario's justice system by ensuring that those subject to GPS monitoring contribute to the cost of the device they require while under supervision.
Exploring Driver's License suspension as part of collection efforts for defaulted bail debts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government will explore permitting driver's licences to be suspended for accused persons and sureties who default on their bail debts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursuing potential driver's licence suspensions are part of the government's efforts to improve collection and provide stricter enforcement measures for accused persons and/or sureties who have not paid their bail debts.

Holding Offenders Accountable and Supporting Victims of Crime

We are implementing measures to strengthen public safety by holding offenders accountable and supporting victims of crime. Initiatives include moving forward to make information in the Ontario Sex Offender and Trafficker Registry publicly available, enhancing investigative tools, cracking down on illicit drug use and modernizing death investigations.



Holding Offenders Accountable and Supporting Victims of Crime

Initiative	Description	Outcome / Implementation
Determining the best way to make information in the Ontario Sex Offender and Trafficker Registry (OSOTR) publicly available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is exploring options to make certain pieces of information contained in the Ontario Sex Offender and Trafficker Registry (OSOTR) publicly available. Currently, only police services in Ontario have access to the 24-hour database for monitoring and investigations of sex crimes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The goal is to hold offenders accountable and give the public the information it needs to support safe communities. The Government of Ontario will be consulting with key stakeholders, including legal and law enforcement, with a view to ensuring the registry remains an effective investigative tool.
Investigative Genetic Genealogy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) is a revolutionary scientific technique combining specialized DNA testing and investigative genealogy to solve some of the most serious crimes both historical and current, including murders, attempted murders, sexual assaults, and to help identify found human remains. More than 50 of Ontario's most challenging historical and current cases, dating back as far as 1971, have been assisted by this technique. Since the technique has been available, Ontario investigators have been required to obtain IGG testing services from US private vendors on a fee for service basis. This initiative is a critical first step towards Ontario's Centre of Forensic Sciences being able to provide IGG testing free of charge to police services and coroner's investigators throughout the province, as it does its existing core forensic services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing IGG laboratory testing at Ontario's Centre of Forensic Sciences will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate this work seamlessly with existing forensic work, improving IGG laboratory testing efficiency. Provide a made-in-Ontario, Canadian solution, which ensures equitable access to IGG laboratory testing to police services and coroner's investigators from across Ontario. Increase the number of solved cases that would have otherwise been stalled historical investigations and help prevent cases from going cold in the first place. Fulfill a recommendation of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Office in its 2025 publication entitled <i>Guardrails for Police Use of Investigative Genetic Genealogy in Ontario</i>.

Holding Offenders Accountable and Supporting Victims of Crime

Initiative	Description	Outcome / Implementation
Giving transit constables the authority to enforce the prohibition of illegal drugs on transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the <i>Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2025</i>, police officers are granted authorities to direct individuals to stop using illegal drugs or to leave the public space. If an individual does not comply, officers are able to issue a ticket and/or arrest individuals. This work will inform government decision-making and consultation on expansion of the powers under the Act to transit special constables (in addition to police officers who currently can enforce the Act). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By expanding public use of illegal drug enforcement authorities to transit constables, the government intends to provide Ontarians with access to drug-free, public transit, supporting municipalities and local transit agencies that keep people moving in a safe environment.
Cracking down on illicit drug productions, including pill presses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This work will result in options, including potential additional enforcement tools, to tackle illicit drug production in light of border security concerns and the ongoing drug-related public health crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This exploratory work will aim to keep Ontario's borders safe and free of illicit drugs, ultimately contributing to safer communities across the province.
Exploring powers under the Tobacco Tax Act to further address contraband tobacco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of this, we are exploring opportunities to work with law enforcement agencies, stakeholders and First Nations partners on options for further addressing contraband tobacco. This includes reviewing existing authorities and potential amendments to the <i>Tobacco Tax Act</i> to support police officers with the proper training and education to conduct timely and legally sound roadside searches for suspected contraband tobacco, without requiring real-time Ministry of Finance authorization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is considering ways to further address contraband tobacco, ensuring any operational or legislative amendments effectively balance First Nations Reconciliation and Tobacco Enforcement.

Holding Offenders Accountable and Supporting Victims of Crime

Initiative	Description	Outcome / Implementation
Amending the <i>Coroners Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The <i>Coroners Act</i> sets out the death investigation system including the role of the coroner and forensic pathologist, death investigations, including inquests and death investigation oversight.• The government is reviewing the Act to identify opportunities to propose updates in response to challenges within the system.• Initial proposed changes include the prohibition of unauthorized recording and broadcasting of coroner's inquests to bring in line with practices in courts under the <i>Courts of Justice Act</i> and clarifying the Chief Forensic Pathologist's role in facilitating postgraduate training and conducting continuing education programs for pathologists, while maintaining transparency for families and the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes to the <i>Coroners Act</i> would help strengthen the death investigation system to support public safety and families during their time of grief. Specifically, these initial changes would:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Support the safety and privacy of individuals participating in an inquest and the integrity of inquest proceedings by preventing unauthorized recording and dissemination.◦ Formally recognize the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service's leadership in postgraduate training and continuing education for forensic pathology, which is critical given the global shortage of forensic pathologists.

Supporting Public Safety Personnel and Families

We are taking action to help our greatest resource in public safety – the people – by introducing initiatives to support public safety personnel, enhance training capacity, improve facilities and ensure staff and their families feel safe.



Supporting Public Safety Personnel and Families

Initiative	Description	Outcome / Implementation
Splash guards in jail cells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario is improving the safety of adult correctional institutions and mitigating against incidents of thrown fluids by adding more protective hatch barriers or "splash guards" for cells in specialized care areas, while also improving our processes and procedures throughout Ontario institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This change will enhance both staff and inmate safety by reducing the risk of assault, including projectiles and liquids, providing a protective barrier between the cell hatch and the employee that will strengthen safety protocols and ensure a safe and secure institutional environment.
Kgs in corrections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help keep Ontario's adult correctional institutions safe, the government is expanding its canine program that will include increasing the number of searches conducted in the existing canine detection program and potentially expanding the program to include the search of inmates. The ministry is in the initial stages of exploring the option of using canines for the searching of inmates. This includes consultation with the appropriate stakeholders, to ensure that any future expansion is properly and efficiently developed and implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The expansion of the existing canine program aims to keep inmates and staff safe by enhancing detection and deterrence of contraband, preventing substances from entering and being distributed within adult correctional institutions.
Anti-Riot Weapon Enfields (ARWENs) and SIU Investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is amending a regulation under the <i>Special Investigations Unit Act, 2019</i> to exclude Anti-Riot Weapon Enfields (ARWENs) and similar non-lethal devices from the definition of 'firearm'. This means that the use of non-lethal weapons will not automatically trigger an external SIU investigation. Police services will still be required to submit an incident report as part of the regular internal police process, and any case involving serious injury or death will still require reporting to the SIU and a full investigation. Typically used for crowd control, ARWENs are a category of non-lethal devices that are used by police officers as an enforcement tool to protect public safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This change would free up resources by allowing the SIU to focus its capacity on critical incidents. The SIU would still be required to provide a full investigation for incidents where non-lethal devices result in serious injury or death, but an automatic investigation would not be triggered in incidents where non-lethal devices did not result in serious injury or death.

Supporting Public Safety Personnel and Families

Initiative	Description	Outcome / Implementation
Ontario Police College's (OPC) Allocations for Basic Constable Training Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ontario Police College (OPC) delivers four Basic Constable Training (BCT) program intakes per year, with a maximum of 520 recruits per intake. The OPC allocates 500 seats on the BCT program based on a proportional model which accounts for police service size and authorized sworn complement. 20 seats are reserved for First Nation, small, and medium-sized police services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with policing stakeholders to gather feedback and identify factors that could inform and improve the initial allocations for seats at the OPC's BCT program. Consultations may result in changes to the BCT seat allocation process to better meet the recruitment needs of police services.
Law Enforcement Service Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calls for service and reliance on police continue to rise, outpacing recruitment and staffing levels. To support a sustainable policing sector, Ontario is exploring strategies to strengthen recruitment and retention, in part by formally acknowledging the contributions of law enforcement. Currently, Ontario does not have a formal mechanism or program in place to recognize the long service or good conduct of law enforcement personnel and the exceptional service and bravery of law enforcement service animals. This gap limits opportunities to acknowledge excellence, reinforce morale, and highlight the vital role of public safety personnel across the province. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ministry is proposing to establish two new Law Enforcement Service Awards: (1) the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal Program and (2) the Distinguished Service Medal for Law Enforcement Service Animals. <i>The Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019</i> (CSPA) authorizes the minister to issue policing-related awards, and these new programs are consistent with that authority. The awards will honour exceptional service for eligible police officers, civilians and service animals. They will promote professionalism within the law enforcement community and support the government's commitments under the CSPA to strengthen relationships with first responders. The programs will also aid in recruitment and retention efforts by recognizing dedication and long-term commitment to public safety.

Supporting Public Safety Personnel and Families

Initiative	Description	Outcome / Implementation
Expanding Ontario Immediate Family Wellness Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The government is expanding access to the Ontario Immediate Family Wellness Program, originally launched in April 2024, to provide crisis support to families of public safety personnel who have died in the line of duty or by suicide in Ontario.• The expanded eligibility criteria (from two to 10 years) will enable families to access services if their public safety personnel family member's death occurred on or after January 1, 2000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By expanding the Family Wellness Program eligibility criteria, this will ensure more families of fallen public safety personnel receive the mental health and crisis supports they need, when they need it. The ministry continues to monitor sectoral needs and assess future considerations and program eligibility.
Constable Joe MacDonald Public Safety Officers' Survivors Scholarship Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 1997, the Constable Joe MacDonald Public Safety Officers' Survivors Scholarship Fund (the Fund) was established to provide financial support to the spouses and children of public safety officers who have died in the line of duty, to assist them in pursuing post-secondary education in Canada.• The province is proposing to transition the Fund into statute to safeguard the fund and broaden access to more families of fallen public safety officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed changes align with the government's commitment to working with public safety officers and providing them with the training, tools, and resources they need to keep Ontario's communities safe and resilient. The proposal is further aligned with the focus of strengthening justice and public safety infrastructure.• The proposed updates aim to: Transition the Fund into statute and Expand eligibility criteria to broaden access to the Fund for families of fallen public safety officers.

Improving Public Service Delivery

We are amending legislation to improve processes for police record checks and help municipalities handle contraventions of the Ontario Fire Code more efficiently and effectively as part of our commitments to cut red tape.



Improving Public Service Delivery

Initiative	Description	Outcome / Implementation
<i>Police Record Checks Reform Act amendments</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario will update the <i>Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015</i> and its Exemptions Regulation. The changes would include new authority for the Solicitor General to set service standards, such as processing timeframes for record checks, as well as measures to improve clarity and consistency of the Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These changes would enable service standards to be developed to help reduce delays in processing police record checks that can impact employment and access to services. In addition, they would help police record check providers process record checks more effectively and consistently.
<i>Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPS) under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An administrative monetary penalty (AMP) imposes a monetary penalty for failure to abide by a regulatory obligation; they are a civil mechanism outside of the court system. AMPs are non-punitive and aim to encourage compliance. Ontario is establishing a regulatory framework that will allow municipalities to implement administrative monetary penalties as an additional enforcement tool for certain contraventions of the Ontario Fire Code. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the <i>Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997</i> (FPPA), contraventions are currently enforced through tickets, inspection orders and court proceedings. This change would help municipalities deal with administrative contraventions more efficiently and promote compliance without the need for court action.

Protecting Animals

We are taking action to further protect animals by proposing amendments to the *Animals for Research Act*, which would restrict invasive medical research on cats and dogs.

Under the *Provincial Animal Services Act*, we will also explore a ban on medically unnecessary procedures on dogs and cats, such as those used for cosmetics or convenience, and increase penalties for individuals that harm animals that work with law enforcement.



Protecting Animals

Initiative	Description	Outcome / Implementation
Restricting animal research testing on cats and dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amending the <i>Animals for Research Act (ARA), 1990</i> to prohibit invasive medical research on dogs and cats unless it is for specified purposes, such as veterinary research or supporting the overall health and safety of dogs and cats. The breeding of dogs and cats for research purposes at Ontario supply facilities would also be banned. The offence and penalty framework in the ARA would be replaced with a new one, setting out minor and major offences as well as new maximum penalties for each category that aligns broadly with the framework that currently exists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed legislative changes would strengthen the requirements and the oversight framework for research facilities in Ontario and prohibit invasive medical research on dogs and cats. Veterinary research would be exempted from the prohibition on invasive medical research, supporting the continuation of veterinary educational and research programs (e.g., where part of a program of study at a post-secondary institution in veterinary medicine, veterinary technology or a related discipline, such as spay or neuter surgeries on a dog or a cat or research supporting the overall health and safety of dogs and cats). The proposed changes, if passed and if supporting regulations are made, would increase public confidence in the integrity of the oversight framework for how animals (including dogs and cats) in Ontario are used in research under the Act.
Consulting on banning medically unnecessary procedures on dogs and cats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medically unnecessary procedures (MUPs) are elective surgeries on cats and dogs performed primarily for cosmetic or convenience reasons. They can cause pain, long-term health issues, and behavioural challenges for animals. The ministry plans to engage sector stakeholders in the near future on potential regulations under the <i>Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019</i> (PAWS Act) to prohibit MUPs performed on dogs and cats (e.g., declawing, ear cropping, debarking). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulating medically unnecessary procedures for dogs and cats (e.g. declawing, ear cropping and debarking) would strengthen animal protections, fulfill the government's commitment to consult on regulations for dogs and cats, respond to public concerns about unnecessary and harmful practices, and align Ontario with other provinces that already restrict cosmetic surgeries on animals. Non-invasive and veterinary education, research and procedures would continue to be permitted such as spay/neuter programs and other necessary surgeries.

Protecting Animals

Initiative	Description	Outcome / Implementation
Increasing penalties for a person who harms animals that work with peace officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Currently, harming an animal that works with peace officers is a major offence that can result in a penalty including fines and imprisonment.The proposed amendment would increase the minimum fine that a person must pay if convicted of this offence from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and increase the potential maximum penalty for a first offence for both individuals and corporations. The maximum potential penalty would be \$260,000 for individuals, and \$1 million for corporations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">These legislative changes aim to deter individuals from intentionally harming these animals, increasing protection for the animals as well as their handler while holding offenders accountable for their actions.