

BACKGROUND

Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026



**PROTECT
ONTARIO**

Ministry of the Solicitor General

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Ontario 

Table of Contents

3 Overview of Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026

4 Safer Communities

9 Stronger Enforcement

16 Protecting Victims and Vulnerable People

22 Strengthening Private and Intercountry Adoption Changes

24 Looking Ahead

Overview: Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026

Building on previous community safety and justice initiatives, Ontario is taking action to address gaps and opportunities that have been identified in Ontario's public safety and justice landscape.

The Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026 contains a suite of legislative changes, as well as additional initiatives outside of the bill designed to keep streets and communities safe, strengthen enforcement of existing community safety measures and better protect victims and the vulnerable. This work builds on previous efforts to strengthen public safety, support frontline partners and ensure offenders are held accountable.

The proposals are grouped into three pillars: **Safer Communities**, **Stronger Enforcement** and **Protecting Victims and the Vulnerable**. In addition, Ontario is **Strengthening Private and Intercountry Adoptions**.

Overview: Safer Communities

Protecting Ontario means having communities where everyone feels safe and secure in their homes and on their streets.

The proposals under this pillar are intended to protect Ontarians and keep communities safe by modernizing public safety legislation.



Safer Communities – 2

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Amend the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)</p> <p>[SOLGEN/MAG]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CSPA establishes a modernized framework for policing and community safety to promote the provision of adequate and effective policing and police governance to all communities in Ontario. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is proposing to amend the CSPA to strengthen oversight, standards, and governance rules for police service boards, as well as make operational and technical updates to effectively deliver policing in Ontario. The government is also proposing enhancements to the CSPA that will strengthen the Office of the Inspector General of Policing and the oversight it provides.
<p>Amend the Special Investigations Unit Act (SIU Act) to strengthen oversight</p> <p>[MAG]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SIU Act is the legislative framework for the Special Investigations Unit, a civilian law enforcement agency in Ontario that has jurisdiction over municipal, regional and provincial police officers. As a result of recent amendments to the CSPA that were part of the Protect Ontario Through Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Act, the government has authority to make regulations authorizing classes of special constables or other groups to carry firearms. If the government exercises this authority in the future, these groups would not be subject to independent SIU oversight. This creates a gap in independent oversight. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is proposing amendments to the SIU Act to allow the Lieutenant Governor to extend oversight for special constables or other groups authorized to carry firearms through regulation. This would ensure that the government can expand SIU oversight to enforcement groups that are given authorization to carry and use firearms, such as special constables, and serious incidents involving these groups would be subject to independent investigations.

Safer Communities – 3

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Streamline early resolution for Part 1 matters under the Provincial Offences Act</p> <p>[MAG]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provincial offences act (POA) courts are experiencing increasing operational strain with growing case backlogs, process inefficiencies, and limited judicial capacity. Municipalities responsible for administering POA courts, along with the Ontario Court of Justice, have raised concerns that existing workflows and resource models are no longer sufficient to support timely, consistent and effective resolution of charges. Currently when prosecutors and defendants reach a plea agreement for minor tickets, (for charges such as speeding etc.), they still have to appear before a justice of the peace to enter the guilty plea and be sentenced, putting pressures on judicial resources. These challenges contribute to delays, increase administrative burden and risk undermining confidence in the administration of justice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is proposing changes to the Provincial Offences Act that would streamline processes and resolve less serious charges faster by allowing prosecutors and defendants to enter plea agreements without appearing before a justice of the peace. These changes would apply to minor, offences charged by a ticket. Defendants would still need to understand the charge(s) and agree voluntarily to the plea agreement. The proposed changes would also give the government the ability to make regulations defining when a plea agreement is defective and setting deadlines for filing plea agreements. These changes would reduce pressure on judicial resources, improve timeliness to resolve matters faster and help reduce backlogs in POA courts.

*The Part I process is for more minor offences. The early resolution process is available for certain Part I proceedings where the defendant was issued a ticket with a set fine amount.

Safer Communities – 4

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Explore options to restrict future purchases of Chinese-made drones for government use</p> <p>[MPBSDP + partners]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province currently uses drones for purposes such as law enforcement, emergency management, wildfire monitoring, road and bridge inspections, and environmental monitoring. Drones are aircraft operated by a remote pilot. Privacy and security concerns have emerged regarding the use of Chinese-made drones, particularly related to data transmission and access. Chinese law may require companies incorporated in that country to disclose data even if it is stored outside its borders, making it possible that they could access, store or share a vast array of sensitive information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government will explore changes to improve the security of government technology and strengthen procurement rules by restricting the use of Chinese-made drones, without compromising public services. Announced May 20: Ontario Restricting Government Use of Chinese-Made Drones Ontario Newsroom
<p>Modernize the Private Security and Investigative Services Act (PSISA)</p> <p>[SOLGEN/MAG]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The private security industry has expanded and become more complex, but the oversight and regulatory frameworks, set out under PSISA, have not kept pace. This gap creates risks to public safety, accountability and consistent standards, highlighting the need to modernize oversight to reflect the industry today. Ontario currently has a single security guard licence that applies across a wide range of environments, risk levels, and responsibilities, despite differences in the nature and complexity of duties performed. Regulatory amendments made under the Provincial Offences Act will allow tickets to be issued when licensing conditions under the PSISA are not followed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to modernize the PSISA would enhance public safety, ensure appropriate oversight of the industry that has evolved significantly as well as be more responsive to the needs of security guards, private investigators and the broader security sector. Looking ahead, the government will explore creating a new tier(s) of security guards under the PSISA to enhance public safety at retail establishments, places of worship, and other locations. Security guard tiers could raise standards, improve training and better align workforce skills with industry needs.

Safer Communities – 5

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Develop a provincial strategy to combat money laundering</p> <p>[SOLGEN/MPBSDP/MOF/MAG]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detection and prevention of money laundering is challenging due to increasingly sophisticated techniques and the wide range of sectors that are vulnerable to money laundering. Addressing money laundering requires collaboration across multiple sectors, ministries and levels of government. The government is developing a framework for a provincial anti-money laundering (AML) strategy that will streamline and coordinate the government's efforts to protect Ontario's economy and security. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A provincial AML strategy would enhance Ontario's response to money laundering through improved coordination, information sharing and prosecution and enforcement capacity. The government will consult on potential amendments to the <i>Civil Remedies Act, 2001</i> including introducing unexplained wealth orders, which are court orders to require people connected to unlawful activity to reveal how they acquired and maintain valuable assets that are disproportionate to their lawful income. As announced in the 2025 Fall Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, the government is working toward implementing a Beneficial Ownership Registry in 2027. The registry would provide timely access to reliable information about beneficial owners of private corporations, serving as an important tool for law enforcement, regulatory bodies and tax authorities as part of a broader AML strategy.

Overview: Stronger Enforcement

Strengthening enforcement tools and ensuring laws are well designed, effective and practical helps ensure justice stakeholders are better positioned to help protect communities across Ontario.

The proposals under this pillar are intended to deter illegal activity, focusing on the areas of illegal substance use and restraining orders. Some proposals are focused on protecting community safety by strengthening enforcement, including transit special constables and strengthening oversight of the towing industry.



Stronger Enforcement

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Improving enforcement of restraining orders made in other Canadian jurisdictions</p> <p>[MAG]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restraining orders made in other provinces and territories are not automatically enforceable in Ontario. When at-risk people move to Ontario, they must ask the court for a declaration to make these restraining orders enforceable, leading to gaps in their protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario is proposing new legislation that would allow restraining orders from other provinces and territories to be enforced in Ontario without having to obtain a court declaration to make them enforceable. It would also give at-risk individuals the option of registering their orders with the court to support enforcement. These proposed changes would make it easier to enforce restraining orders from other provinces in Ontario and close gaps in protection for vulnerable people.
<p>Measures Respecting Premises with Illegal Drug Activity Act, 2025 (MRPIDAA)</p> <p>[SOLGEN/MMAH/MAG]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Measures Respecting Premises with Illegal Drug Activity Act, 2025</i> (MRPIDAA) makes it an offence for landlords to knowingly allow prescribed illegal drug activities on their premises. Currently, no regulation exists to prescribe illegal drug activities. The definition of landlord, which currently applies to all landlords who lease premises for commercial or residential use, can be clarified by regulation. The government of Ontario will take a phased approach, beginning with a focus on drug production and commercial landlords, to help address landlords' concerns about extra work, safety issues and possible impacts on housing availability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario will bring the MRPIDAA into force with respect to commercial landlords and has established a prescribed offence in regulation, which will hold commercial landlords accountable for knowingly permitting illegal drug production activities on their premises. Ontario is also clarifying the definition of landlord through regulation by providing exemptions to retirement homes, long-term care homes, premises providing homelessness prevention and support services (including emergency shelters and providers of health and social services) under the Act. Once the Act is in force, it will ensure police officers can use the Act as an effective enforcement tool to reduce illegal drug production. Announced May 4: Ontario Protecting Transit Users From Illegal Drug Use

Stronger Enforcement – 2

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Expand powers under the Restricting <i>Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2025</i> (RPCISA) to special constables employed by CSPA authorized transit special constable employers</p> <p>[SOLGEN, MTO]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The open use of illegal drugs on public transit or in transit areas makes Ontarians feel unsafe. They need to feel safe when travelling to and from work, home, school and other activities. The <i>Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2025</i> (RPCISA) currently provides police and prescribed provincial offences officers with enhanced powers to combat use of illegal drugs in public spaces, with limited exceptions. Only police officers can exercise authority under this Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario is introducing a new regulation under RPCISA that extends officer powers under the Act to special constables employed by <i>Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019</i> authorized transit special constable employers (currently TTC, Metrolinx, and OC Transpo). These powers include allowing them to request individuals to stop consuming the illegal drug, direct them to leave, confiscate the drugs, arrest if they fail to comply as well as powers to lay a provincial offence charge. This proposed regulation would provide additional authority to manage public drug use by allowing select authorized transit special constables to combat public drug use in transit settings. Announced May 4: Ontario Protecting Transit Users From Illegal Drug Use Ontario Newsroom
<p>Increase controls over illicit drug production</p> <p>[SOLGEN]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmaceutical equipment and precursors can be used to produce illegal drugs. Illegal drug activity is prohibited through federal legislation and is addressed as part of federal jurisdiction. There is no Ontario legislation targeting illegal drug production equipment and substances (e.g., pill presses/precursors). There are gaps in police training specific to designated equipment and precursors used in illegal drug production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To combat illegal drug production, Ontario is introducing legislation that would create new provincial offences targeting the possession, use and sale of equipment and materials used contrary to the <i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i> and Precursor Control Regulations. In addition to the proposed legislation, Ontario is also exploring enhanced police training and other measures to aid drug investigations such as new equipment and enhancing existing drug taskforces. Announced May 4: Ontario Protecting Transit Users From Illegal Drug Use Ontario Newsroom

Stronger Enforcement – 3

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Amend the <i>Towing and Storage Safety and Enforcement Act, 2021</i>, to strengthen enforcement and oversight in the towing industry and setting tow and vehicle storage rates</p> <p>[MTO]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Towing and Storage Safety and Enforcement Act, 2021</i> (TSSEA) regulates towing and vehicle storage services across Ontario. TSSEA supports public safety, promotes fairness and builds confidence in the sector. • Based on feedback from police partners and Ministry of Transportation (MTO) enforcement teams, there are growing concerns in the towing industry, including concerns that tow operators position themselves near collision scenes to solicit tows. Current enforcement tools are limited, as officers are unable to issue roadside tickets for tow operator-related violations, resulting in enforcement gaps and inefficiencies. • There are opportunities to further strengthen oversight in the tow industry, including clarifying rules related to solicitation at collision scenes, improving enforcement mechanisms and strengthening qualification requirements for tow operators, tow truck drivers and vehicle storage providers. • Under TSSEA, tow and vehicle storage operators are required to submit maximum rate schedules that set out the amounts they can charge customers for specific services. Despite this, stakeholders such as police and insurance partners continue to raise concerns about high rates, including concerns that high rates are contributing to an environment of unsafe behaviour and have called on the province to set rates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed legislative changes would strengthen oversight and enforcement in the towing industry by setting clearer rules for conduct at collision scenes, improving how offence notices and summons are served and ensuring appeals to the Divisional Court do not automatically delay penalties unless ordered by the court. • Regulatory changes under TSSEA would also strengthen qualification standards for tow operators, tow truck drivers and vehicle storage operators. • Together, these measures would improve regulatory effectiveness, enhance oversight and better protect consumers and public safety. • MTO will consult on and prescribe maximum rates that can be charged for towing and vehicle services across Ontario in a future proposed regulation. • Setting tow and vehicle storage rates ensures fairness for customers and reduces incentive for unsafe driving behaviours among tow operators.

Stronger Enforcement – 4

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Expand the number of canine teams used to do searches in corrections</p> <p>[SOLGEN]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As announced as part of the fall justice bundle and <i>Keeping Criminals Behind Bars Act 2025</i>, the government is implementing an expanded, efficient canine program. Using canine teams is an effective tool to detect drugs and helps keep correctional institutions and workers safe. These trained detection dogs help by searching correctional institutions and their grounds for drugs that could harm staff, visitors and people in custody. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help keep Ontario's adult correctional institutions safe, the government now plans to add four more canine teams made up of a correctional officer and a trained detection dog. Adding more canine teams will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow for more searches across Ontario's adult correctional institutions Make sure the corrections system is ready for the future, where there may be more people in custody, new buildings, and other growth needs. The ministry is also looking into whether these dogs could help with searching people in custody.
<p>Empower municipalities to use administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) for zoning by-law violations.</p> <p>[MMAH]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipalities have experienced difficulties addressing illegal land uses such as truck depots operating on lands zoned for agricultural uses. These misuses of land create safety hazards, damage local roads, and generate noise, odour, lighting and drainage issues for nearby residents. Currently, prosecuting zoning by-law offences consume significant staff time; some municipalities have indicated it can take two to five years to resolve through the court system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario is proposing to amend the Planning Act to allow municipalities to use AMPs (fines) to address zoning by-law contraventions regarding land uses that are not permitted. This change would align the authority to use AMPs to enforce certain zoning by-laws with the authority municipalities have in the Municipal Act to establish AMPs to enforce certain other types of by-laws. Municipalities will have more tools to enforce zoning rules about what land can be used for. This would help resolve violations faster and reduce the need to go to court – saving municipalities time and money. Announced May 20: Ontario Cracking Down on Illegal Truck Yards Ontario Newsroom

Stronger Enforcement – 5

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Explore options to address retail theft</p> <p>[SOLGEN/MAG/MPBSDP]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoplifting is on the rise across Canada, with more of these incidents being driven by organized criminal networks. The Retail Council of Canada estimates Canadian retailers lost \$9.1 billion to retail theft in 2024 compared to \$5 billion in 2018. These coordinated operations put people at risk, hurt local businesses and drive costs up for families. The government is looking at new ways to stop retail theft, target organized crime, strengthen enforcement and improve safety in and around stores and shopping centres. • In Ontario, there is no provincewide dedicated prosecution team focused on organized retail crime. • Under the Criminal Code, assaults against security guards are treated similarly to assaults against others. The law does not require a court to treat assaults against security guards as an aggravating factor at a sentencing hearing. • Retailers have told government that criminals use fire alarm manual pull stations in retail outlets to help facilitate their escape during a theft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on the success of dedicated prosecution teams created and made permanent by the government, including the Intensive Serious Violent Crime Bail Teams and the Major Theft Prosecution Response Team, the Ministry of the Attorney General will create a dedicated prosecution team for organized retail theft. The prosecution team will prioritize the most serious cases and provide early investigative advice to police • The government will also advocate for federal Criminal Code amendments to recognize assaults against security guards as an aggravating factor at sentencing. • The government will explore the feasibility of adding Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology/cameras on major provincial highways to address retail theft. • The government will explore options to address the costly misuse of fire alarm manual pull stations in alignment with existing Building Code and Fire Code regulatory requirements.

Stronger Enforcement – 6

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Addressing Contraband Tobacco</p> <p>[MOF/SOLGEN]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of the Solicitor General are engaging with law enforcement, industry stakeholders, public health organizations and First Nations partners on exploring additional opportunities to address the issue of contraband tobacco and its ties to organized crime, including potential enhancements to the authorities under the Tobacco Tax Act (TTA), To address the issues of contraband tobacco and its ties to organized crime (including roadside searches)• Enforcement initiative – A focused enforcement initiative is currently underway with the OPP to extend TTA searches and seizure powers to small group of officers working with CTET to test effectiveness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ministries will report back in fall 2026 on an approach to strengthen enforcement to address contraband tobacco and its links to organized crime.

Overview: Protecting Victims and Vulnerable People

This package of initiatives is intended to support at-risk populations by modernizing legislation and building better protections for victims of crime and vulnerable populations in Ontario.

The proposals would strengthen oversight of private and intercountry adoptions, reduce wait times for police record checks and support safety in youth justice facilities.

The government is also renewing the Pathways to Safety Strategy to continue addressing the root causes of violence against Indigenous women, children and gender-diverse people and support their safety and wellbeing.



Protecting Victims and Vulnerable People

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Reducing wait times for vulnerable sector checks</p> <p>[SOLGEN]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable sector checks (VSCs) are a type of police record check restricted to roles in a position of trust or authority over children or other vulnerable persons. They involve more detailed screening and typically take longer to complete. VSCs are currently processed by the police service in the area where an applicant lives, which can cause delays when local police services are over capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is proposing changes to the <i>Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015</i> to allow the Solicitor General to designate authorized bodies (e.g., non-local police services) to process vulnerable sector checks for applicants from other jurisdictions to improve flexibility, reduce delays for applicants and allow police services with available capacity to generate revenue. These changes would require coordination with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Public Safety Canada to give designated police services access to federal databases. Announced May 7: Ontario Reducing Wait Times for Police Record Checks Ontario Newsroom
<p>Making it easier for victims of harassment to seek compensation</p> <p>[MAG]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Ontario, legislation allows victims of human trafficking to sue for damages without a criminal conviction. However, there is currently no statute that applies to victims of harassment. Some other provinces have laws that specifically address stalking or certain types of harassment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed amendments to the Victims' Bill of Rights, 1995 would allow people to take action for harassment, whether there has been a criminal conviction or not. Individuals would not need to prove they suffered harm to bring a case, and the lower civil standard of proof would apply. This change would make it easier for victims of criminal harassment to get compensation, even if the offender is not convicted in criminal court. It would also ensure that victims of harassment have the same access to justice in civil courts as victims of human trafficking.

Protecting Victims and Vulnerable People – 2

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Debt relief for survivors of human trafficking</p> <p>[MAG]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivors of human trafficking often face ongoing financial harm as a result of debts they were coerced or forced to incur by traffickers for the traffickers' financial gain. These debts, which survivors did not freely or knowingly assume, can persist long after exploitation has ended, creating barriers to financial stability and recovery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative amendments to implement the policy of Private Member's Bill 41 include establishing a trauma-informed dispute resolution process for debts up to \$50,000, creating a court-based process for high value debts, adding offences and penalties to the existing prohibitions and updating the statutory definition of Human Trafficking. The changes would allow human trafficking survivors to have access to a designated survivor support organization. The organizations would negotiate the voluntary removal of coerced debt and assist survivors through the trauma-informed dispute resolution process.
<p>Prohibiting medically unnecessary procedures on dogs and cats</p> <p>[SOLGEN]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced as part of the fall justice bundle and <i>Keeping Criminals Behind Bars Act, 2025</i>, the government consulted with key stakeholders on regulations for dogs and cats to address public concerns about unnecessary and harmful practices and better align Ontario with other provinces that restrict cosmetic surgeries on animals. Medically unnecessary procedures 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. Under the PAWS Act, record keeping requirements that could be prescribed in regulation for these types of procedures only applies to dogs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario is moving forward with a regulation under the <i>Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019</i> (PAWS Act) to prohibit certain medically unnecessary procedures such as declawing for cats, ear cropping and devocalization for dogs, with an exemption where a veterinarian determines it necessary to treat injury or disease. A new regulation strengthens animal welfare protections, while supporting improved outcomes and reducing inappropriate practices. Proposed legislative amendments would enable record keeping requirements to be prescribed in regulation for both species, while also allowing for future expansion to other prescribed animals. If passed, SOLGEN would seek to bring the provision into force alongside the proposed regulation on prohibited procedures.

Protecting Victims and Vulnerable People – 3

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Reducing procedural barriers to enforcing the Blind Persons Rights Act</p> <p>[MAG]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who rely on guide dogs are being denied access to public places like restaurants and taxi services, making it harder for them to participate fully in their communities. • Charges under the <i>Blind Persons Rights Act</i> (BPRA) are brought under the <i>Provincial Offences Act</i> (POA) and currently require an enforcement officer to swear an information under oath before a provincial judge or justice of the peace. This process can be time-consuming and resource-intensive, creating delays and administrative barriers that limit timely enforcement of the rights the Act is meant to protect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government has made regulatory changes to strengthen how the <i>Blind Persons Rights Act</i> is enforced and better protect vulnerable individuals. The changes will give police officers authority to issue tickets for offences under the POA, including when services are denied to a person accompanied by a guide dog. • Enforcement officers will have the choice of whether to issue a ticket or lay charges for alleged contraventions of the BPRA depending on how serious the incident is. • This change will make it easier to enforce the Act and result in better protection for vulnerable individuals in public spaces.
<p>Public Website for High-Risk Offenders in Ontario, aligning Christopher's Law with federal sex offender regime and Sex Offender Information Sharing</p> <p>[SOLGEN]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019</i> (CSPA) authorizes Chiefs of Police to disclose information about high-risk offenders (e.g., community notifications) for specified purposes, including for the protection of the public. Currently, this information is shared through individual police websites or social media. • <i>Christopher's Law</i> (Sex Offender Registry), 2000 establishes the Ontario Sex Offender and Trafficker Registry (OSOTR) and requires all individuals who are convicted of or found not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder for a designated sex offence to report to the registry. • Amendments to <i>Christopher's Law</i> came into force in April 2026 that allow for the disclosure of information contained in the OSOTR to prescribed entities, including international organizations, border and law enforcement agencies, and immigration agencies, for crime prevention and law enforcement purposes under specific conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government is proposing to amend the CSPA to authorize the OPP Commissioner to publish information on a provincial public website about high-risk offenders (incl. high-risk sex offenders) made subject to community notifications issued by a Chief of Police for the protection of the public. This approach is similar to Alberta's model and if passed, the website would be established by Spring 2027. These changes would ensure information about high-risk offenders can be accessed in one centralized location, supporting public safety. • Proposed amendments to <i>Christopher's Law</i> would align reporting requirements with the National Sex Offender Registry regime. These updates would ensure the OSOTR remains an effective investigative tool for Ontario police. • Reduced barriers to sharing OSOTR information with domestic and international law enforcement partners support broader efforts to enhance border security and strengthen the monitoring of registered sex offenders entering or leaving Ontario.

Protecting Victims and Vulnerable People – 4

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Broadening the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers' ability to make interim orders</p> <p>[MCCSS]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When a serious concern is raised about a College member, the College must wait for an investigation of the member to conclude, before making interim orders (i.e., suspending or imposing conditions or limitations on a member's certificate of registration). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This proposal would broaden the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers' authority to make interim orders earlier, including suspension of membership, if a member exposes or is likely to expose a client to harm or injury and aligns with other regulated professions and jurisdictions. The changes are intended to allow the College to act sooner to protect clients.
<p>Enhancing Safety in Youth Justice Facilities</p> <p>[MCCSS]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff in secure youth justice facilities do not have the authority, in all necessary cases, to place young persons in secured areas to manage high-risk safety incidents. For example, there may be need for staff to temporarily place youth in secured areas (rooms with lockable doors) during a facility-wide weapons search. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ministry is proposing legislative changes to the <i>Child, Youth and Family Services Act</i> to strengthen security processes and improve safety for both youth and staff in secure youth justice facilities. The changes would provide regulation-making authority to prescribe additional circumstances in which young persons may be temporarily placed in secured areas, with appropriate safeguards. The changes would help ensure front-line staff in secure youth justice facilities have the appropriate tools and resources to keep everyone safe.

Protecting Victims and Vulnerable People – 5

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Allow tissue samples and extracted DNA collected during coroner’s investigations to be used for future genetic testing to inform health decisions of family members.</p> <p>[SOLGEN]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario's current regulatory framework permits the collection and retention of tissue samples for the purposes of a death investigation but does not contemplate their future use for genetic testing to support the health of living relatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amended regulation establishes a clear framework to collect and retain tissue samples for DNA extraction, enabling direct relatives to request genetic testing, where testing results could support early diagnosis, prevention or treatment of heritable conditions. Retained tissue samples and extracted DNA will be stored in a secure laboratory with strict security controls, including restricted access through iris-scan and card-scan-controlled doors. Tissue samples and extracted DNA would only be shared with laboratories recognized by the Chief Coroner or Chief Forensic Pathologist and only at the request of a direct relative. Tissue samples and extracted DNA collected for future genetic testing will be stored for at least 50 years, unless disposal is required by the personal representative, ensuring families can benefit from advances in genetic sciences and evolving clinical best practices.
<p>Renewing the Pathways to Safety Strategy</p> <p>[MCCSS]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released in May 2021, in response to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), Ontario’s five-year Pathways to Safety Strategy expires in May 2026. The strategy is aligned with the Calls for Justice, informed by Indigenous partners and guided by the Indigenous Women’s Advisory Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government is renewing the strategy for another five years to continue working with Indigenous partners to address the root causes of violence. Renewing the strategy for a five-year period (2026-2031) supports ongoing work under the strategy and reinforces Ontario's continued commitment to addressing MMIWG.

Overview: Strengthening Private and Intercountry Adoptions

Strengthening the protection of children in private and intercountry adoptions by proposing changes to the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA)* and the *Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA)* helps better protect the best interests, safety and well-being of children.

The proposed legislative changes would better protect children and families by upholding high practice standards and strengthening safeguards that help prevent illicit adoption practices and support the safety and well-being of children.



Adoption Changes

Initiative	Current State	Future State
<p>Strengthening Private and Intercountry Adoptions</p> <p>[MCCSS]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private domestic adoption is when birth parents in Ontario make a voluntary decision to place their child for adoption with a family in Ontario. Private intercountry adoption allows Ontario residents to adopt children from another country, such as those who have been orphaned or abandoned. Ontario regulates private domestic and intercountry adoptions under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA) and the Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA). There is growing international concern around protecting a child's best interests in private intercountry adoptions given heightened risks and the changing landscape. Countries such as Norway and Denmark have suspended or closed intercountry adoptions. Other countries, like China, have also launched investigations into past fraudulent adoption practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ministry is proposing legislative changes to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen oversight of adoption practitioners to provide safe, high-quality adoption services. For example, the ministry would be able to issue directions where concerns are identified with the adoption practitioner's practice, including requiring additional training to address those concerns. Introduce new compliance tools for adoption licensees under the IAA to address issues should they arise. For example, the ministry could issue compliance orders to licensees who do not comply with the Act, a regulation, a directive or a condition on their licence. Expand licensing refusal and revocation grounds with respect to adoption licences. For example, the ministry would be able to refuse to issue a licence where there isn't a need for additional licensees in Ontario due to a low number of children available to adopt. Ensure intercountry adoptions can only be facilitated by adoption licensees as they have the knowledge and expertise to meet legal requirements, apply appropriate safeguards, and support placements that are in the best interests of children. Other proposed future changes to the CYFSA include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing supervision visit requirements for children who have been placed for adoption by licensees. Visits would require an adoption professional to visit the child in-person to assess their safety and well-being. Requiring referrals to birth parent counsellors approved by the ministry for birth parents who are considering pursuing adoption. These changes are intended to better protect children and families by upholding high practice standards and strengthening safeguards that help prevent illicit adoption practices and support the safety and well-being of children. Announced May 15: Ontario Strengthening Protections for Adopted Children Ontario Newsroom

Looking Ahead

Ontario will move forward with the Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026 to advance timely, practical legislative changes that respond to emerging public safety challenges and reflect lessons learned from recent community safety and justice reforms.

Together, all these initiatives would reinforce Ontario's commitment to safer communities, stronger enforcement and better protections for victims and vulnerable people — while ensuring the justice system remains effective, responsive and fair.