BACKGROUNDER

Protect Ontario Families and Communities Act, 2026

PROTECT ONTARIO

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

November 16, 2026

Ontario

Overview

The government is protecting Ontario by strengthening child and family services, enhancing the province's response to intimate partner violence and improving access to health care, and connecting people with the services and supports they need by introducing the *Protect Ontario Families and Communities Act, 2026* and other proposed measures.

Improvements to Child and Family Services

Ontario is taking action to strengthen supports for children, families and communities across the province.

These measures include enhancing the governance, accountability and long-term sustainability of children's aid societies to ensure vulnerable children and families continue to receive the services and supports they need.

Strengthening the Health System

Ontario is investing $101 billion annually to protect and strengthen Ontario's health-care system, helping more people connect to care where and when they need it.

Ontario is protecting the health-care system by better connecting more people to the health-care services they need by strengthening oversight and accountability in the health care and long-term care sectors, enhancing data systems and by improving access to quality care.

Strengthening Oversight and Accountability in the OSAP System

As previously announced, Ontario is proposing changes that would strengthen oversight and accountability in the private postsecondary sector and ensure every OSAP dollar is used as intended – to support student access to postsecondary education and prepare them for in-demand careers. Where indicated, regulatory initiatives will be addressed and posted for public input in the new year.

Review of Children's Aid Societies

In winter 2024, the province commissioned a comprehensive review of Ontario's non-Indigenous children's aid societies to identify opportunities to improve long-term sustainability and deliver better outcomes for children and youth in care.

The review highlighted a number of pressures, including the need for stronger oversight and accountability of children's aid societies, it also found that some societies faced financial difficulties despite a consistent increase in provincial funding and decrease in the number of children in care. In the last decade, the number of children in care declined by more than 20 per cent.

The government is proposing legislative and regulatory changes that are responsive to the findings of the review and will strengthen accountability, improve child safety and help ensure children and families receive the care and support they need.

Protecting Children and Supporting Families

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Increase awareness of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) among families	Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is often used as an early intervention approach to encourage alternatives to court or to streamline court processes for child protection disputes. It focuses on a strengths-based and collaborative approach to resolving child protection disputes and encourages the involvement of the family in planning and decision-making for children. Currently, legislation, regulations and directives do not require societies to inform families of the availability of ADR. Societies must consider ADR, but there is currently a wide discrepancy in the number of ADR referrals across similar size societies.	The proposed legislation will require societies to consistently provide information about ADR to families at specific intervals creating greater accountability for societies to pursue less intrusive measures while also increasing transparency to families on services available to them to resolve child protection disputes. This proposed change is also responsive to the findings of the review of the Child Welfare system that support the use of early intervention and prevention measures. Children in need of protection will benefit from strengthened support systems identified through ADR's collaborative decision-making processes.
Strengthen decision-making for children in the care and custody of children's aid societies through requirements for supervisor consultation and approvals at key decision points	Currently, there are limited requirements for society supervisor involvement in key decisions for children in society care and no minimum expectations for routine supervisor involvement in case planning and decision-making. In contrast, other child welfare mandated services delivered by societies (e.g., child protection services and kinship services) have requirements for supervisors at key decision points.	The government intends to develop regulatory amendments that would help ensure timely, informed and consistent decision-making for children in care that is supported through clear requirements for supervisor involvement, supporting increased compliance. This initiative is responsive to the findings of the review of the Child Welfare system to enhance oversight and safety by supporting better consistency and case-level oversight. The quality of safety, service and permanency planning is enhanced through supervisor involvement, supporting better outcomes for children in care.

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Protecting Children and Supporting Families Cont'd

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Strengthen the oversight and accountability in kinship service	Kinship Service refers to situations where a society has determined that a child is in need of protection and cannot be adequately protected with the person having charge of them (e.g., parent), and the child is placed with a relative, extended family member or community. Kinship service visit frequency is currently required to occur every 90 days. This visit frequency and the service plans requirements are inconsistent with the 30-day visits for other placement types resulting in practice discrepancies and less oversight to support the safety of children.	The government intends to develop regulatory amendments that would require societies to complete visits with children and their kinship service caregivers every 30 days after the first 7- and 30-day visits. This initiative is responsive to the findings of the review of the Child Welfare system that support the use of early intervention and prevention measures and strengthen family-based care. The new regulation will triple ongoing kinship service visits to every 30 days and establish plan requirements that are clear and support youth voice, kinship caregivers, and promote safe, consistent, high-quality placements.
Streamline Serious Occurrence Reporting requirements for out of home care licensees	Serious Occurrence Reporting requirements are currently set out across regulations, standard licence conditions and ministry Serious Occurrence Reporting (SOR) guidelines, with requirements differing by type of licensed setting. This creates a fragmented framework and unnecessary complexity for licensees in understanding and meeting their reporting obligations.	The government intends to develop regulatory amendments that would streamline and clarify reporting requirements for all children out of home care licensees (children's residences, foster care agencies, staff model homes). This initiative is responsive to the findings of the review of the Child Welfare system that support enhancing oversight and safety and enable more consistent reporting. Alignment between regulation and ministry policy (SOR Guidelines) and existing business processes.

Children's Aid Society Governance Reform

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Mandatory Society Board Composition Requirements	There is a significant number of societies that are operating in deficit or projecting deficits, and there are no requirements for financial or other skills-based expertise on society boards. While some societies have stronger financial management and oversight practices, there is inconsistency in how societies manage their finances, leading to serious financial challenges at others. Some societies also need stronger oversight measures and more developed board oversight of higher-cost services.	The government intends to develop regulatory amendments that would strengthen financial oversight and accountability and support consistency in governance capacity across Ontario's child welfare system by requiring that society boards include at least one member with financial expertise acquired or demonstrated through relevant training, qualifications and/or experience. This initiative is also responsive to the findings of the review of the Child Welfare system that supports stronger financial management practices and oversight. Specific qualification requirements would be informed by feedback through the Ontario regulatory registry.
Consistent and Continuous Improvement of Society By-Laws	There is currently inconsistency in children aids societies' transparency and governance practices such as reviewing and publicly posting their bylaws. This can lead to, for example, societies bylaws being no longer consistent with applicable legislation and regulation.	The government intends to develop regulatory amendments that would require societies to review their by-laws, consider whether they continue to reflect applicable legislation, regulations, policies and directives, and update them as necessary based on this review. The changes would also respond to the findings of the review of the Child Welfare system to improve consistency and strengthen oversight and transparency. This proposed work would also require societies to make their bylaws publicly available within one year of the regulation coming into force and at least once every three years thereafter strengthening accountability, transparency, and consistent governance practices.

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Children's Aid Society Governance Reform Cont'd

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Require societies to publicly post their board meeting minutes	The ministry has received feedback expressing concerns about society board governance and the need for greater accountability and transparency.	The proposed regulation will result in societies posting their board meeting minutes online within 7 days of board approval excluding any sensitive and confidential information, enhancing public trust and encouraging good governance practices. This initiative is responsive to the findings of the review of the Child Welfare system to strengthen accountability and transparency.
Require societies to obtain ministry approval to enter into certain financial transactions or arrangements	Currently, the ministry does not require that societies seek ministry approval beforehand for certain transactions (e.g., mortgages without ministry interest on property and lease agreements) that can impact a society's ability to operate within their budget allocation.	The government intends to develop regulatory amendments that would proactively require societies to obtain its approval of specific financial arrangements that impact a society's ability to operate within their approved budget through a dedicated approvals process. The following financial arrangements are currently in scope for regulations: acquisition and disposal of capital property, and entering new or making changes to lease agreements. This initiative is responsive to the findings of the review of the Child Welfare system to strengthen financial management practices and oversight.

Protecting Children and Supporting Families

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Enable consistent information sharing	As children transition from receiving services from societies to child welfare authorities in Ontario, societies are not consistently sharing information, which impacts the planning and delivery of child and family services. Information sharing is necessary so that each child's personal information can follow them so they can receive timely child and family services.	The proposed legislative amendments would provide societies with clear authority to share personal information when children transition from receiving services from societies to child welfare authorities in Ontario or where necessary to assess, reduce or eliminate a risk of harm to a child. The proposed legislative amendments build on the government's recent changes to strengthen child welfare services and promote enhanced privacy protections and dignity for children, youth, and families across Ontario. Authority is provided for case file information to follow each child as they transition to receiving child and family services from child welfare authorities that are not societies. Authority is also provided for the sharing of personal information where necessary, while maintaining existing safeguards that protect personal and private information.

Protecting Children and Supporting Families Cont'd

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Conversion of Intercountry Simple Adoptions into Full Adoptions	The *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*, 2017 (CYFSA) does not currently provide a mechanism to convert a simple adoption completed in a foreign country, which impacts a very small subset of adoptions, into a full adoption in Ontario, as permitted by The Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention) where certain requirements have been met. Simple Adoption: Creates new legal parent-child relationship, but does not terminate pre-existing legal parent-child relationship (e.g., adoptions from Thailand). Full Adoption: Creates new legal parent-child relationship and terminates pre-existing legal parent-child relationship. Ontario laws only grant full adoptions.	The proposed legislative amendment would enable the conversion of intercountry simple adoptions into full adoptions. These proposed changes would support the adoption of children from countries that complete simple adoptions, as well as children's ability to enter and reside permanently in Canada.
Strengthening Transition Planning for Youth in Ready, Set, Go (RSG) through Information on Wills and Powers of Attorney	As part of the Ready, Set, Go (RSG) program, youth receive support in areas including financial literacy, education, employment, housing, health and life skills development. Estate planning is currently referenced within the RSG Guide; however, there is no specific requirement in the Minister's Directive for societies to provide information on estate or incapacity planning including Wills or Powers of Attorney (POA).	The government intends to update a Minister's Directive and corresponding regulatory amendment to require societies to provide information regarding Wills and POA to youth participating in the RSG Program as part of transition planning and life skills development. The amendments will result in youth being informed about Wills and POA to support their basic understanding of these documents and their role in future estate or incapacity planning.

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Protecting Children and Supporting Families Cont'd

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Enhance supervision visit requirements for private adoptions	Children in private adoption placements (often newborns) are visited less frequently by private adoption practitioners than children placed for adoption by societies.	The government intends to develop regulatory amendments that would require in-person and ongoing supervision by private adoption practitioners until an adoption is finalized to help promote better outcomes for families and children. A visit in person, in the home of prospective adoptive parents within the first 7 days of placement and then 30 days after a child is placed for adoption. After that, visits every 30 days thereafter, until the adoption is finalized.
Require private adoption licensees to make referrals to qualified birth parent counsellors	Birth parent counsellors support persons who may be in vulnerable circumstances and are considering voluntarily placing their child for adoption. There is no standardized training or requirements for a birth parent counsellor. As a result, birth parents may receive service from someone who is not qualified.	The government intends to develop regulatory amendments that would support birth parents in receiving consistent access to high-quality counselling as they consider whether to consent to the adoption of their child. Private adoption licensees would be required to make referrals to birth parent counsellors who are members in good standing as either a Registered Social Workers (RSW) or of a regulated health profession whose scope of practice includes counselling and who possess adoption-related expertise. Licensees could only refer birth parents to birth parent counsellors who meet regulatory requirements.

Protecting Children and Supporting Families Cont'd

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Set out manner under which summaries of compliance orders issued to private adoption licensees are to be made available to the public	*Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026,* introduced on May 25, 2026, if passed, would amend the *Intercountry Adoption Act, 1998* (IAA) to introduce the power for the ministry Director to issue compliance orders. The amendments include a requirement to have summaries of compliance orders publicly available. The legislative amendments provide that the summary of the compliance order will be made public in accordance with the regulations, if any.	The government intends to develop regulatory amendments that would align the *Intercountry Adoption Act* (IAA) with the requirements for compliance orders for service providers under the CYFSA and require summaries of compliance orders issued to licensees under the IAA to be published on the ministry website for a specified period of time.
Housekeeping amendments related to adoption and country term application forms	If passed, *Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026* legislative amendments will move certain application form requirements from regulation to legislation. As a result, the regulations would need to be updated to reflect this change. Bill 119 would also introduce a new application process for country terms. There are currently no prescribed requirements in regulation relating to the new country term application process.	The government intends to develop regulatory amendments subject to the passage of Bill 119, that would amend O. Reg. 156/18 and O. Reg. 200/99 to remove references to adoption licence application forms and require applicants to complete an application form when applying for a country term.

Protecting Children and Supporting Families Cont'd

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Mandating the use of Sexual Exploitation Youth Risk Assessment Tool and anti-human trafficking training specific to the child welfare sector	Children and youth involved with the child welfare system are at a higher risk of or are experiencing sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Identification of risk factors and indicators of sexual exploitation and human trafficking can support timely assessment, intervention and referrals to appropriate supports and services. The Sexual Exploitation Youth Risk Assessment Tool, which supports the assessment of whether a child or youth may be at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation and human trafficking, is broadly available to societies but only the three provincial Children at Risk of Exploitation (CARE) units are required to use it.	The government is proposing a Minister's Directive to require societies to be trained and use the Sexual Exploitation Youth Risk Assessment tool. This approach will help: • move from the current discretionary approach to a consistent provincial standard, strengthening accountability and ensuring children and youth receive a more coordinated response regardless of where they live in Ontario • implement standardized, child welfare-specific anti-human trafficking training for direct service society staff to strengthen their ability to recognize warning signs and respond appropriately. • support earlier identification of risks, more consistent assessments, and timely intervention and referrals to appropriate supports and services.

Protecting Children and Supporting Families Cont'd

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Updating the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) Policy Directive for children's aid societies to help improve long term outcomes for eligible children	Children and youth leaving care continue to experience poorer long-term education and employment outcomes than their peers. While Ontario's RESP policy supports savings for eligible children in care, the RESP Policy Directive has not been substantially updated since 2008 and does not align with youth leaving care policies, rising education costs, or the needs of children and youth with disabilities. Administrative barriers have resulted in inconsistent implementation which has limited access to savings, reducing the policy's effectiveness in improving long-term outcomes.	The government intends to update a Minister's Directive to modernize savings supports for eligible children and youth by: • Increasing contributions; • Improving access to post-secondary education and providing greater flexibility for youth to benefit from savings if they choose not to pursue education pathways; • Strengthening accountability of societies for establishing savings plans; • Supporting the transfer of savings between service providers; • Enhancing supports for youth with disabilities; and • Aligning savings planning with youth leaving care policies (e.g., with the Ready, Set, Go program requirement to discuss savings plans as part of transition planning)

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Children's Aid Society Governance Reform Cont'd

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Expand society reporting to the Ombudsman for the Ready, Set, Go Program	Societies and residential licensees have a legal obligation to report information to the Ombudsman if they learn of the death or serious bodily harm involving a child or young person (under the age of 18) who sought or received services within the previous 12 months. *Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025* which received Royal Assent in 2025, amended the Ombudsman Act to expand the Ombudsman's authority to investigate complaints from youth aged 18 to 22 who are eligible for or subject to a Ready, Set, Go (RSG) agreement made under s.124 of the CYFSA. However, there is no corresponding reporting requirement amendment that aligns with other reporting requirements for societies.	The government intends to develop regulatory amendments that would require societies to report to the Ombudsman where a youth participating in the RSG program has died and provide information to youth participating in the RSG Program regarding the Ombudsman and how to contact them should they experience serious bodily harm.

Response to Intimate Partner Violence Report

Initiative	Current State	Future State
New legislation to protect victims of intimate image abuse	The harm caused by intimate image abuse is uniquely time sensitive. The longer an image remains online, the higher the chance that it could be copied, shared and become more difficult to remove. The Criminal Code makes it an offence to distribute or threaten to distribute an intimate image without consent. These criminal offences require proof of knowledge, which can be difficult to establish. Victims of intimate image abuse in Ontario generally rely on common law torts to seek compensation or removal of non-consensually distributed intimate images, outside of remedies available through the criminal court process, Statutory torts are wrongful acts or 'civil wrongs' created by legislation. By contrast, common law torts are created and developed by judges through court decisions. Lawsuits of this kind can be slow, costly and subject to complex and strict legal requirements. In these situations, it can also be difficult to prevent the original wrongdoer or others from continuing to distribute these images.	Ontario is proposing legislation that would better protect victims of intimate image abuse by providing them with new legal mechanisms to seek the prompt removal of intimate images posted online. If passed, the legislation would create statutory torts providing victims with access to civil remedies including the ability to seek court orders for the deletion of the intimate images, removal from online platforms and compensation when intimate images are created or shared without their consent, or when someone threatens to share them. The new law would also create a fast-track court application process to help victims seek the removal of intimate images from online platforms more quickly. These changes would empower victims to regain control of their images, protect their privacy and seek remedies for the harm they have experienced. The proposed legislation would fulfill recommendations in the Standing Committee on Justice Policy's report on intimate partner violence. If passed, the government plans to consult with victims and victim services organizations, the public and legal stakeholders to develop a regulation to implement changes. The regulation would include court procedures to support victims in bringing forward expedited applications, considerations for awarding remedies, and requirements to promote compliance.

Restrict Publicizing Locations of Facilities Serving Vulnerable Ontarians

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Restrict the publication of locations and other details of settings that serve vulnerable clients that are operated, funded or licensed by MCCSS	While several sector-specific practices and safeguards are in place for settings with identified high risks to keep location information confidential, there are currently no restrictions preventing third parties and members of the public from publishing addresses of facilities that serve the vulnerable populations funded, licensed, or operated by the ministry.	Legislative amendments to provide authority to develop future regulations that would restrict publishing certain location information of places serving vulnerable populations that are funded, licensed or operated by the ministry, including providing for exceptions to the publication ban. It would be an offence to contravene the publication ban, which could result in a fine upon conviction.

Social Worker and Social Service Worker Accountability

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Enhance oversight of social workers and social service workers through mandatory reprimand and suspension or revocation of registration upon findings of sexual abuse	The Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers' Disciplinary Committee addresses allegations of sexual abuse. If the Discipline Committee finds a member guilty of professional misconduct involving sexual abuse of a client, it is not currently required to impose a mandatory revocation of registration and can instead order a range of penalties.	The proposed amendments to the *Social Work and Social Service Work Act, 1998* would, if passed, mandate that the College reprimands a member upon findings of sexual abuse and that a member's certificate of registration will either be suspended or revoked following findings of sexual abuse, depending on the nature of the sexual abuse. The proposed amendments would also impose a minimum time period of 10 years before a social worker or social service worker who has had their registration revoked could apply for reinstatement.

Enhancing Data Systems

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Strengthening the integrated patient record	Patient data from many Health Information Custodians (HICs) is not consistently available in the provincial Electronic Health Record (EHR). When that information is missing, it not only leads to safety risks but also unnecessary repeat tests and delays in care. For example, if a patient ends up in the emergency department and their medical history is not readily available, providers may face challenges providing timely and informed care. This also creates problems for family doctors trying to keep their electronic medical records up to date leading to additional administrative burden that takes them away from doing what matters most – caring for patients.	Legislative amendments to PHIPA would establish a faster process for additional classes of Health Information Custodians to contribute defined patient information to the provincial Electronic Health Record (EHR). Having more health-care providers and organizations contribute defined patient information to the provincial EHR would benefit patients by ensuring their medical history is more complete and accessible to clinicians. For clinicians, it will help them deliver more coordinated patient-centred care, reduce administrative burden and improve health outcomes on account of a more complete and integrated patient record. These measures would complement the proposed province-wide Primary Care Medical Record system, which would allow clinicians to quickly and securely access patients' medical histories, so they can have rapid access to the information they need to provide the best possible care.

Enhancing Data Systems

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Adding Indigenous midwives as Health Information Custodians	Indigenous midwives, who provide traditional midwifery services, are not Health Information Custodians (HIC) under the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004* (PHIPA). As a result, they cannot fully participate in the circle of care and may face barriers to sharing to or receiving relevant patient information from the provincial electronic health record (EHR). Currently, the EHR includes patient information from hospitals, laboratories and other providers. Health Information Custodians are defined under PHIPA Section 3(1) as individuals or organizations that have custody or control of public health information as part of their role and/or responsibilities.	Legislative amendments to PHIPA would recognize that Indigenous midwives who provide traditional midwifery services to Indigenous persons as Health Information Custodians (HICs) under the *Midwifery Act, 1991* exemption are also recognized as HICs under PHIPA and can fully participate in the circle of care by obtaining relevant information needed to provide safe, coordinated care. This would enhance access to culturally safe and responsive care for Indigenous people and protection of Indigenous data through PHIPA's existing patient consent and opt-out mechanisms.

Enhancing Data Systems Cont'd

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Streamlining several Ontario Health data authorities into a harmonized framework	Ontario Health currently relies on multiple data authorities to collect and use health information for different purposes. This contributes to administrative complexity and duplication and can limit consistent approaches to health system planning and improvement.	Legislative amendments to PHIPA would streamline Ontario Health's health data roles into a harmonized, consistent framework, enable the appropriate use of the Electronic Health Record for defined health system administration purposes, supported by governance, safeguards and an ability for individuals to opt-out of the collection and use of their EHR information for health system administration purposes. Together with proposed contribution requirements for Health Information Custodians these amendments would establish a coherent end-to-end framework whereby patient health information is contributed to the provincial EHR and used appropriately to support coordinated care, system planning, and health system improvement.
Strengthening access to LTC placement and admissions data	MLTC does not have the authority under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* (FLTCA) to require the designated Placement Coordinator (Ontario Health at Home) to provide information about LTC placement and admissions except in the context of an inspection. This limits the ministry's data collection for planning and policy development related to placement and admissions.	The proposed Legislation would establish the authority to request and obtain information on LTC placement and admissions to support local and system level planning, and policy development (e.g., obtaining data to better understand supply/demand in LTC). This provision would also support continued access to information if there are changes to the designated Placement Coordinator.

Ontario

Strengthening Oversight and Accountability

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Streamlined hearing processes for OHIP payments	The current Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) legislation has defined 'extenuating circumstances' more broadly than was intended. Courts and providers have interpreted it to mean the General Manager of OHIP has the discretion to pay for services that do not meet the payment requirements, including for uninsured services. Rather, this provision was only intended to apply to insured services that did not meet specified technical claims submission requirements or were submitted late.	The proposed legislative amendments will streamline the physician hearing process at the Health Services Appeal and Review Board (HSARB) to help ensure more timely hearings, without changing the overall appeal process mechanisms. It will clarify that the General Manager's discretion to consider "extenuating circumstances" only applies to OHIP claims that were not submitted within the required time. Expected outcomes include: • Stronger accountability and oversight • Improved stewardship of taxpayer dollars • Effective OHIP administration

Strengthening Oversight and Accountability Cont'd

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Improving Board of Health Oversight	When there are significant public interest concerns with boards of health, current authorities under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA) are limited, which can delay provincial action. Current authorities can only be exercised by the Chief Medical Officer of Health in response to health risks or by the Minister following a lengthy assessment and direction process.	The proposed legislative amendments would provide the Minister of Health authorities to intervene if there are public interest concerns with boards of health (e.g. significant governance, leadership, operational and financial oversight issues), including to issue directives and appoint a supervisor to act as the board of health if necessary. The intended outcome is strengthened board of health accountability and the continuity of high-quality public health service delivery.
Exploring options to restrict dispensing prescription drugs for non-Canadians who are outside of Canada	Ontario currently lacks authority to restrict dispensing of pharmaceuticals to non-Canadians who are outside of Canada. This means that pharmacies within Ontario are able to dispense prescription drugs to non-Canadian recipients outside of the province, including in the United States, even when those drugs may be in short supply here in Ontario. This could include taking advantage of comparatively cheaper prescription drug prices in Ontario. Consultation with stakeholders is required to explore options for possible legislative and/or regulatory amendments to restrict community pharmacies from dispensing designated prescription drugs to non-Canadians outside of Canada, in order to ensure an adequate supply of prescription drugs for recipients in Ontario.	Ontario will consult on issues related to cross-border dispensing of drugs intended for Ontario patients in order to protect drug supply for the people of Ontario where the drug supply is at risk.
Protecting retirement home residents' access to ongoing caregiver support	Retirement home residents often receive care and support from family and friends. However, residents' rights to receive care from these individuals is not enshrined in the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010* (RHA).	An amendment to the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010*, (RHA) updates the Residents' Bill of Rights to include the specific right for residents to receive ongoing support from caregivers (e.g.. family and friends providing care).

Ontario

Strengthening Oversight and Accountability Cont'd

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Strengthening retirement home resident protection from infectious diseases	Retirement home residents living in congregate care are vulnerable to contracting infectious diseases. Currently, gaps exist in the authority to issue sector-specific direction and recommendations concerning the prevention and management of respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases.	An amendment to the R*etirement Homes Act, 2010,* (RHA) provides the ministry (MSAA) with the authority to issue sector-specific direction and recommendations to retirement home licensees regarding the prevention and management of respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases.
Supporting sustainable medical leadership in LTC homes	The *Fixing Long Term Care Act* (FLTCA) requires all LTC homes to have a Medical Director who must be a physician.	The proposed changes would enable NPs to fully use their extensive education, clinical expertise, and broad scope of practice by serving in a Medical Director role (to be revised to Clinical Director). This change would maximize existing health human resources capacity, enabling physicians to focus on more acute and complex clinical responsibilities, and support continued access to high-quality care for residents.
Enhancing oversight of LTC homes	Under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* (FLTCA), a limitation period does not apply to offences. Therefore, prosecution of an offence can begin outside a set timeframe resulting in uncertainty for licensees and individuals, delays in resolution, deterioration of evidence quality, and misalignment between FLTCA and other sectors.	The proposed Legislation would establish a four-year limitation period for commencing a prosecution under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 (*FLTCA), beginning on the date an investigator first becomes aware of evidence of the offence ensuring procedural fairness for licensees and individuals being investigated for offences under the FLTCA. This change would protect resident care, safety, and well-being by supporting timely investigation and resolution of potential offences.

Improving Access to Quality Care Cont'd

Initiative	Current State	Future State
Ensuring Dementia Care Delivery in LTC	The FLTCA does not currently require LTC homes to have a documented program of dementia care and services. As a result, there is no dedicated statutory dementia program requirement against which the ministry can inspect.	The proposed Legislation requires every LTC home to offer an organized program of dementia care and services to better meet the care needs of residents. This will ensure residents receive consistent and equitable access to dementia care regardless of where they live in Ontario.