Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

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Bill 149

An Act to establish an emergency response task force to address Ontario's toxic drug crisis

Co-sponsors:
MPP R. Lennox
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Private Members' Bill

1st Reading November 16, 2026

2nd Reading

3rd Reading

Royal Assent

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bill enacts the *Toxic Drug Crisis Emergency Response Task Force Act, 2026*.

The Minister of Health is required to establish the Toxic Drug Crisis Emergency Response Task Force. The Task Force is to be chaired by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and composed of persons from among the experts and groups set out in section 2.

The Task Force's mandate includes designing a comprehensive strategy to reduce harms from the toxic drug crisis and implementing the strategy across Ontario, in partnership with First Nations communities and francophone communities. The Task Force is also to collect and monitor data and report to the Minister, including in annual reports.

Bill 149 **2026**

An Act to establish an emergency response task force to address Ontario's toxic drug crisis

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

Definition

1 In this Act,

"Minister" means the Minister of Health or such other member of the Executive Council to whom responsibility for the administration of this Act may be assigned or transferred under the *Executive Council Act*.

Toxic Drug Crisis Emergency Response Task Force

2 (1) Within 60 days after this section comes into force, the Minister shall establish the Toxic Drug Crisis Emergency Response Task Force.

Chief Medical Officer of Health

(2) The Chief Medical Officer of Health is a member of the Task Force and shall be its chair.

Composition

(3) Additional members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Minister from among the following groups:

1. Medical officers of health appointed by boards of health in health units that are disproportionately affected by the toxic drug crisis.
2. Persons with expertise in areas of the health care system that are relevant to addressing the toxic drug crisis, including at least one person with expertise in francophone service delivery.
3. Frontline workers or emergency responders assisting individuals affected by the toxic drug crisis.
4. Persons with lived experience of substance use.
5. Representatives from the Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence established under the *Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence Act, 2019*.
6. Representatives from Ontario Health Teams designated under the *Connecting Care Act, 2019*.
7. First Nations, Inuit or Métis leaders and community members.
8. Such other groups as the Chief Medical Officer of Health may recommend to the Minister.

Meetings, mandate

(4) The Task Force shall meet at least monthly to pursue their mandate of,

(a) designing a comprehensive strategy to reduce harms from the toxic drug crisis, including reducing drug poisoning deaths;

(b) implementing the strategy across Ontario, in partnership with First Nations communities and francophone communities;

(c) collecting and monitoring data on outcomes and system functionality, including with respect to,

(i) the availability and use of health promotion services, including harm reduction services,

(ii) the availability and use of treatment for substance use, and

(iii) the impact of drug poisoning prevention activities on Ontario's health systems; and

(d) reporting on the strategy in accordance with this Act.

Publication

(5) The Task Force shall present the strategy to the Minister within six months after the Task Force is established and the Minister shall publish it on a website of the Government of Ontario in both English and French.

Annual report

3 (1) The Toxic Drug Crisis Emergency Response Task Force shall prepare an annual report respecting the activities of the Task Force and reporting on data described in clause 2 (4) (c).

Publication

(2) The Minister shall publish each annual report on a website of the Government of Ontario and shall table it in the Assembly in both English and French.

Commencement

4 This Act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.

Short title

5 The short title of this Act is the *Toxic Drug Crisis Emergency Response Task Force Act, 2026*.