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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 16 November 2026

ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO

Lundi 16 novembre 2026

The House met at 1015.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Good morning, everyone, and welcome back.

Prayers.

REQUEST TO INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I beg to inform the House that during the adjournment, I received and laid upon the table a request by the member for Davenport, Marit Stiles, to the Integrity Commissioner for an opinion pursuant to section 30 of the Members' Integrity Act, 1994, on whether the member for Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes–Brock, the Honourable Laurie Scott; the member for Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, the Honourable Steve Clark; and the member for Northumberland–Peterborough South, the Honourable David Piccini, have contravened the act or Ontario parliamentary convention.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

DEEP RIVER AND DISTRICT HEALTH

MPP Billy Denault: Not long ago, I had the privilege of attending the Deep River and District Health masquerade ball in Chalk River. It was an amazing night to come together and support DRDH when it came to its newest endeavour, hospice services in the upper Ottawa Valley.

I want to recognize Christian Kaiser and Megan Jones, along with the entire foundation team, for their ongoing work organizing amazing events in support of the hospital. Having done the Polar Plunge in the Ottawa River, I am waiting with bated breath for my invitation to do it again this year.

It is not just the foundation that has shown amazing innovation, but also the leadership of the hospital at Deep River, from board chair David Cox to the hospital CEO, Janna Hotson. A new primary care building, a new long-term-care building, a revitalized emergency department, community access to a long-term-care pilot program and, of course, now hospice services are all examples of this innovation on full display.

None of this would have been possible without positive working relationships, from myself and the DRDH leadership team to our governments and their continued support of health care and long-term care in our own community—focusing on that word, "community." Building community is why we do what we do. We build it by working together and making sure people have access to services they need close to home.

I'm proud to represent these communities and the people across the Ottawa Valley, and I look forward to continuing to do so for the years to come.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Peter Tabuns: Global heating is a growing problem that's taking lives and destroying people's homes. Tens of thousands died in Europe this past summer from extreme heat events. Homes are being damaged or destroyed by flooding, fires and other extreme weather events right here in Ontario.

The world is at risk of dealing with much higher temperatures much faster than previously expected. This year, it's being recognized that we are passing the temperature increase limit the world agreed over 10 years ago to avoid. This government is fundamentally determined to add to this crisis and make the world hotter. The ramp-up of gas-fired power generation is on track to wipe out at least half and maybe more of the climate pollution reductions that Ontario pioneered over 15 years ago.

1020

The government claims that Ontario has made a huge contribution to Canada's climate efforts with the shutdown of coal-fired power, and it is now actively wiping out that effort. The government's commitment to ramping up burning garbage to make power means they're intent on wiping out all the gains that we have made. Lost income, lost homes, higher prices, dangerous weather: That is the impact of this government's actions.

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL

Mr. Ted Hsu: Speaker, growing scientific evidence shows that arts participation and engagement significantly benefit physical, mental, cognitive and social health.

Professor Daisy Fancourt, author of Art Cure: The Science of How the Arts Saves Lives, leads a University College London research group studying how arts activities impact long-term health. Her team conducts experiments to measure how singing affects depression and how dancing affects Parkinson's disease, investigating the complex mechanisms behind these health improvements. Her book explains how the arts offer a cost-effective way to enhance

health by fostering brain development, regulating stress, strengthening social bonds, supporting physical rehabilitation and promoting healthier aging. I recently met with a member of her research team to learn more.

While the arts possess intrinsic cultural and social value beyond health benefits, there's debate regarding public funding. Notably, the Ontario Arts Council's provincial base funding of $60 million was set 17 years ago. I believe ongoing research will shift this political conversation. Although we cannot yet quantify the exact health care savings generated by specific arts investments, the potential benefits are significant and warrant careful consideration. To leverage this potential, I recommend appointing a public health professional to the Ontario Arts Council's board when the next vacancy arises, to help integrate health perspectives into decision-making.

PETER FRAMPTON

MPP Mohamed Firin: Today I recognize Peter Frampton for his outstanding leadership and more than three decades of dedicated service to the Learning Enrichment Foundation in York South–Weston.

Peter joined LEF in 1993 and became its second executive director in 2007, playing an important role in strengthening the organization's programs and services to meet the evolving needs of our community. Under his leadership, LEF has continued to support thousands of individuals and families annually through child care, newcomer settlement services, employment counselling, skills training and youth mentorship programs.

Guided by Peter's entrepreneurial spirit and deep belief that anything is possible, LEF is working to develop an integrated housing project, the Mount Dennis Quilt, which includes engaging streetscapes with social enterprise retail, two floors of community space and 149 units of affordable housing.

Peter has led the way for LEF's priority to a commitment to a journey of learning from and with Indigenous peoples, which fosters genuine understanding and meaningful action. With the children and families leadership team, he has led the introduction of seasonal pedagogy in the child care space, which has been groundbreaking and is being embraced by other child care centres in Ontario.

Beyond LEF, Peter has contributed to several provincial and national organizations focused on strengthening the non-profit sector and community economic development. His contributions have also been recognized through the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee award.

On behalf of the residents of York South–Weston, I extend my sincere appreciation to Peter Frampton for his remarkable leadership, commitment and many years of service.

Peter is watching from home today, and in his place here today is Jason Dockeray, and Amina from the LEF as well. I welcome them to Queen's Park.

TRUCKING SAFETY

Mr. John Vanthof: Speaker, down here winter is coming, but where we live winter is here, and how we measure winter—road closures and deaths—is already happening. One of the reasons we have those problems—there's many, but one of them—is very badly trained, inexperienced commercial truck drivers.

So imagine my surprise—which we've told the government about for a long time—when the owner of 5th Wheel driving school in my riding—it's a good driving school—called to say his funding for Better Jobs Ontario seems to have dried up.

That school and many other good schools are at risk of closing, because it sounds a lot like OSAP. They didn't go after the bad actors, they know who the bad actors are, and instead they punish everyone—everyone. They know who the good truck driving schools are. They know which ones put out drivers who can actually drive. But no, they look the other way, look the other way, look the other way until they can't look the other way anymore and they have to put the brakes on everybody.

But at least with the OSAP thing, it's public. With Better Jobs Ontario, they're trying to keep it kind of quiet that this funding has just disappeared. It's on hold. The Minister of Labour needs to come clean, explain why this is happening, and get the good truck driving schools back on the road.

VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

MPP Silvia Gualtieri: Last week, across Mississauga East–Cooksville and across our great province, we stopped to remember. During Veterans' Week, I joined Royal Canadian Legion Branch 582 as it marked 100 years of remembrance in our community. At the Mississauga city hall, I stood with veterans, serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces and neighbours. At the community memorial, my fellow MPPs and I laid a wreath and we stood in silence. I thought about the families left behind. Behind every soldier was a household waiting for news with an empty place at the table. Their sacrifice mattered, too.

On November 14, the Knights of Columbus hosted the memorial blue mass at Sts. Martha and Mary church, honouring military personnel, police, firefighters and paramedics who run towards danger while others run away from it.

To every veteran and first responder in Mississauga East–Cooksville and beyond: I want to say we gather in safety and peace because of you. We cannot repay your debt, but we can remember and we can teach our children to do the same. Lest we forget.

THUNDER BAY ART GALLERY

MPP Lise Vaugeois: I want to talk about the importance of supporting cultural institutions in our northern communities. The government has made capital investments of $50 million for the McMichael gallery and $35

million for the Shaw Festival. These are important cultural venues, but the cultural richness of Ontario doesn't stop at Barrie.

For example, the new Waterfront Gallery in Thunder Bay will house one of the best collections of contemporary Indigenous art in the country. Built on the shore of Lake Superior, this architectural masterpiece, with its floor-to-ceiling windows, will create a magnificent community space.

Our Rotary Club and conservation authority are building a beautiful trail along the waterfront that will bring people to the gallery's outdoor garden, where they can sit by the lake, watch ships coming into port, spend hours birdwatching, or come inside to visit the café, gift shop and gallery spaces, all open to the public.

The gallery will be an economic boon, a destination for Canadians and people from all over the world, a place for renowned and emerging artists, and a place for people of all walks of life. World-class and unique, the Waterfront Gallery will be a generational gift to our community, the province and the country—a gift we believe is worthy of financial support by the government of Ontario.

Meegwetch. Thank you. Merci.

COMMUNITY THEATRES IN OXFORD

Hon. Ernie Hardeman: Local theatre brings people together, Madam Speaker. It showcases the incredible talent in our communities, both on the stage and behind the scenes. Over the years, I've enjoyed many productions across Oxford, and I have always admired the volunteers, performers and crews behind them.

Yesterday, I was delighted to visit Theatre Tillsonburg to celebrate a $125,000 grant it received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. With the funding, Theatre Tillsonburg was able to replace and modernize all 62 of its stage lights. This important upgrade will provide better lighting for performers and audiences. It will also create new opportunities for future productions.

Following the announcement, I had the pleasure of seeing The Numbers Game. It's a comedy about two former high school sweethearts who reconnect 37 years later under some unexpected circumstances. It was another fine example of the talent and creativity found in our local theatres. I would encourage anyone in the area to come out and see it.

I would also like to recognize the other community theatres in Oxford: Ingersoll's ITOPA, Theatre Woodstock, Embro's Thistle Theatre and the newest, One Act Players Community Theatre. If you haven't seen a local production, I highly recommend showing support to our local talent.

1030

Madam Speaker, I'm proud to see our government supporting local theatres in our community. With this support, they can continue to showcase our homegrown talent, celebrate our heritage and tell the stories that make our community special.

CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

Mr. Sheref Sabawy: I wish to congratulate the newly elected council of Mississauga, in particular the new mayor, Alvin Tedjo; and the new councillors, Tom Ellard and Lucas Alves. As well, congratulations to the re-elected Mississauga–Erin Mills councillors: Sue McFadden, Matt Mahoney and Martin Reid.

I also want to send my best wishes to our outgoing mayor, Carolyn Parrish. We are grateful for her leadership and her decades of service in Erindale, Erin Mills and across Mississauga.

Speaker, over these last few months, we have heard concerns about property taxes, affordability, infrastructure and housing. Ontarians, especially seniors, are rightfully upset when their municipal taxes continue to increase. Residents deserve affordable taxes. The government of Ontario understands the problem of constant tax hikes. That's why, since 2018, the province has never raised the tax.

Recently, the government of Ontario announced a new funding program, the Development Charge Reduction Program. This will subsidize municipal projects to build more infrastructure and housing, while also reducing fees and preventing the need for massive tax hikes. Under this program, the city of Mississauga is receiving up to $401 million and the region of Peel is receiving up to $1 billion.

We are building infrastructure, helping municipalities grow and supporting housing, while keeping taxes low for Ontarians.

POET LAUREATE OF ONTARIO

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the government House leader on a point of order.

Hon. Steve Clark: Good morning. I seek unanimous consent to move a motion without notice regarding the appointment of the new Poet Laureate of Ontario.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The government House leader is seeking unanimous consent to move a motion without notice regarding the appointment of the new Poet Laureate of Ontario. Agreed? Agreed.

Hon. Steve Clark: I move that, in accordance with subsection 1(2) and section 2 of the Poet Laureate of Ontario Act (In Memory of Gord Downie), 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 16, Heidi Sander be appointed Poet Laureate of Ontario for a term of two years, commencing on November 27, 2026.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The government House leader has moved that, in accordance with subsection 1(2) and section 2 of the Poet Laureate of Ontario Act (In Memory of Gord Downie), 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 16, Heidi Sander be appointed Poet Laureate of Ontario for a term of two years, commencing on November 27, 2026.

I recognize the government House leader.

Hon. Steve Clark: I'm going to be sharing my time with the Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries, who, by the way, is Ms. Sander's local member of provincial Parliament.

I got the chance to talk to Heidi just briefly to let her know the run of show, to let her know that this will be the

collegial part of the morning, followed by, perhaps, something that might not be as collegial. But I just want to congratulate her for putting her name forward.

In case members don't know the process, this is done by a selection panel chaired by the Speaker. We also have the Ontario legislative librarian, as well as two members of the Ontario Arts Council, and the final member is the current Poet Laureate for Ontario. That's the panel that selects it.

I wish Ms. Sander well. I look forward to inviting her to meet my municipal poet laureate in Gananoque, Gretchen Huntley.

Thank you, and I'll turn it over to her local member of provincial Parliament—he's over here now—the Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the minister.

Hon. Matthew Rae: I want to start by offering my congratulations to Heidi, as well, for being appointed the new Poet Laureate of Ontario.

Speaker, the Poet Laureate plays an instrumental role in allowing the rich culture and heritage of Ontario to be expressed through art and literacy. It's also there to help raise awareness of poetry and act as a spokesman for the literary arts.

We all use words every day and don't think too much of it, but it is great spoken word artists like Heidi that take these words and turn them into something meaningful and empowering and reflecting on our shared human experience.

As the famous Canadian writer and poet Leonard Cohen once said, "Poetry is just the evidence of life. If your life is burning well, poetry is just the ash."

And as a multi-award-winning poet, successful author, keynote speaker and spoken word performer—I cannot think of someone more deserving and more qualified for this role than Heidi. I know first-hand, Speaker, because Heidi is my constituent, and I've always enjoyed attending her events in Stratford.

Applause.

Hon. Matthew Rae: Yes.

Heidi is also a strong supporter of novice spoken word artists across Ontario, inspiring people to tap into their creative voices. She's also the founder of several organizations, including Blue Moon Publishers, Stratford Writers Festival, Appetite for Words festival and DigiWriting book marketing agency.

Please join me, my colleagues, in congratulating Heidi. I know she will do an incredible job for the people of Ontario.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Further debate?

Mr. Terence Kernaghan: It's an honour, as a former teacher-librarian and educator, to rise today to recognize Ontario's new poet laureate, Heidi Sander.

Poetry is the most vaunted, deliberate, distilled, musical and powerful use of language. It would behoove all members of this great chamber to know how poets carefully—with surgical precision, even—endow their writing with maximum weight and depth, leading readers to different conclusions, signifying something else completely or signifying nothing.

Our new poet laureate, Heidi Sander, exemplifies the divine nature of words as balm and beacon. The words we write can right us. Her work speaks to the therapeutic nature of putting thoughts, emotions and power onto a page. Within her verse is the beauty and chaos of transformation, which has led her to be a well-regarded public speaker, writing books on grief and loss, gratitude, kindness, courage and spirituality. She also helps open people to their own voice, with guided journals, workshops, community poetry events, and always uplifting those around her.

It is to this role of Ontario's poet laureate that she will bring much to elevate poetry and poets alike, showing the rich diversity of language, thought, expression, metre, figures of thought and poetic device in the artists of today as well as tomorrow.

As a resident of Stratford, Heidi has been moved by the place she calls home. In her poetry of place, she celebrates Stratford: the festival city, the Avon River, swans, gorgeous architecture, sumptuous food and much more.

At a pivotal and crucial moment in our history, Heidi brought together leading Canadian poets to reinforce our identity and to inspire us all, creating the Canada Is Our Poem anthology in 2025.

I'd like to share a couple of Heidi's poems for the chamber today:

Rest is presence within,
growing in silence,
returning to yourself.

And:

Let go of what doesn't serve you,
there is so much waiting,
on the other side of this darkness.

And the last one, Speaker:

Spring rises in all of us,
embracing change & blossom,
forever becoming

I want to thank Percy Hatfield, the former MPP for Windsor–Tecumseh, for never giving up. His legislation became law in 2019 and was his third attempt, spanning two different governments. His poet laureate act was named for the frontman of the Canadian powerhouse The Tragically Hip, Gord Downie.

On behalf of our leader, Marit Stiles, and our entire official opposition NDP caucus, congratulations, Heidi, on becoming Ontario's third poet laureate.

Thank you to Matthew-Ray Jones, or Testament, the outgoing poet laureate of Ontario.

And as I close, I recall the words of an eloquent enemy of tyranny, the outspoken, radical and visionary "philanthropos

tropos"—lover of humanity—democrat and atheist, Percy Bysshe Shelley, who wrote, "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world."

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Further debate?

M^me^ Lucille Collard: First I also want to start by offering my sincere congratulations to Heidi Sander for her appointment as poet laureate of Ontario. That is for the next two years.

1040

I think this is an excellent opportunity for poetry to continue to shine as a unique expression of our experience, our cultures and also of our identities. It is great to have someone here today who will promote literature, creativity and the arts throughout Ontario, and I certainly look forward to discovering your art more.

But, Speaker, I also want to stand today to take the opportunity to ask this assembly to expand the scope of the legislation that enables us to appoint a Poet Laureate. Back in November 2021, almost five years ago to the day, I introduced a bill, Bill 47, the Poet Laureate of Ontario Amendment Act, that was proposing the creation of a French-language Poet Laureate alongside the existing position. While this bill was never brought forward for debate, I was hoping that the government would take notice. There has been some conversation on the side, but nothing has been definitely moved forward. Today, I think it's the right time to bring it up again.

We all acknowledge the place of Franco-Ontarians and the Francophonie in this Legislature and in this province as well, and I am proud to hear more French spoken in here. Then I think it would be natural that our province would officially recognize a French-language poet as well.

I would even go further. Why not also recognize the richness of the Indigenous traditions by creating an official Indigenous poet that could be collaboratively developed with respect to their own unique knowledge transmission?

I'm not asking the government to revisit today's appointments. Of course, I think it is an excellent appointment, and I'm very proud of this. I'm asking it to consider what future appointments could look like.

Once again, congratulations to our new Poet Laureate. I look forward to seeing the creativity and inspiration this appointment will bring to our province. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Merci. Meegwetch.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Further debate?

Ms. Aislinn Clancy: I'm honoured to speak in support of appointing Heidi Sander as Poet Laureate, who I learned is a Kitchener native. Go Rangers!

The Poet Laureate of Ontario Act was established in honour of the late Gord Downie by MPP Percy Hatfield. Gord Downie is best known as a rock musician but was also a poet, an advocate and a champion of Canadian arts and culture. With his poetry and music, he inspired and galvanized a nation. He showed us the power of poetry and music to create a sense of belonging and to move hearts.

A Poet Laureate is more than just a title; it's a chance to become the voice of a people. It is an opportunity to express hopes, dreams, struggles and the shared experiences of people. Through poetry, you have the power to preserve our stories, to celebrate our diversity and remind us what it means to be human.

That is what Heidi Sander represents: someone who elevates all of us through her work, helping us to see the poet in each and every one of us. I'm inspired by her commitment to the belief that everyone has a creative voice in them and creates the space to express it. Her work travelling across different cities, facilitating open mikes and poetry performances, has created open and welcoming spaces where everyone can share their stories.

Humans are storytellers. This is how we connect, something that no technology can replace. Through words, we find companionship, shared experiences and humility in diverse experiences. In one of her essays, Margaret Atwood said, "A society without the arts would have broken its mirror and cut out its heart. It would no longer be what we now recognize as human."

I'm proud to have artists like Heidi Sander, who through her words and the spaces she creates continuously encourages everyone to hold up the mirror both so that we may see ourselves but, more importantly, see each other and keep the heart of our society alive. Let this be a reminder to us to continue to invest in the arts, invest in the Ontario Arts Council, invest in artists like Heidi Sander and invest in the kind of spaces she creates, where we find the meaning of life in each other. This is how we protect the shared humanity in this world.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Further debate? Further debate? Further debate?

The government House leader has moved that, in accordance with subsection 1(2) and section 2 of the Poet Laureate of Ontario Act (In Memory of Gord Downie) 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 16, Heidi Sander be appointed Poet Laureate of Ontario for a term of two years, commencing on November 27, 2026. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): It is now my official honour to officially introduce Heidi Sander, the new Poet Laureate for the province of Ontario. Welcome, and congratulations on your appointment.

Joining Heidi in the gallery is her husband, John Opiola. Once again, welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Also joining us today in the Speaker's gallery is the Honourable David Zimmer, MPP from Willowdale in the 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st Parliaments. Welcome back to Queen's Park.

MPP Lise Vaugeois: I have a few introductions to make.

From the Métis Nation of Ontario: Margaret Froh, president of the MNO; Sharon Cadeau; Matt Robertson; and Mitch Heimpel, who are all here. And there may be a few others. I hope I haven't missed anyone.

Welcome to Queen's Park.

I have a very special set of introductions today. I have family here: my sister, Paula Vaugeois, who I must say is the best sister anybody could ever have asked for, and my amazing mother, Yolanda Hall, who is turning 99 in a couple of weeks. Please welcome them to the House.

Applause.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Welcome to Queen's Park.

I recognize the Minister of Sport.

Hon. Brian Saunderson: It's my pleasure today to welcome our two newest members of the incredible team over at the Ministry of Sport: Zoe Porlier and William Adamou.

I also want to welcome my beautiful wife, Susie.

Mr. Ric Bresee: During my municipal career, I had the opportunity to learn a great deal from the director of long-term care at Lennox and Addington county, and it is my great pleasure to introduce her in the House today. Angela Malcolm, welcome to your House.

Hon. Charmaine A. Williams: I have a few to introduce.

Please welcome Dewith Anthony Lloyd Frazer, Olympian, Commonwealth Games athlete, Olympic coach, boxing hall of fame inductee, and long-time mentor shaping champions in Canada, Jamaica and beyond.

Like father, like son: Please welcome Joshua "HellRazor" Frazer, Brampton's undefeated professional boxer with a 16-0 record, national and international championship titles, and a passionate mentor in the city of Brampton.

And finally, the glue that holds it all together and makes sure they all are in line, Ms. Janice Frazer.

I also welcome Rod Power, president of Boxing Ontario and regional councillor-elect for wards 7 and 8; Alisa Cheddi, his faithful staff member; and my staff member Karen Aguilar-Perez. Welcome to Queen's Park.

Ms. Marit Stiles: This morning, I am pleased to welcome AdvantAge Ontario board members and CEO Lisa Levin to the Legislature. I'm looking forward to meeting with you later today. Welcome to your House.

Mr. John Fraser: I'd like to introduce my former colleague David Zimmer from Willowdale. He's joined by his granddaughter Tasha Case and her two friends Beatrice Crow and Arwen Doyle.

Hon. Jill Dunlop: Speaker, I would like to welcome Major Rick Zelinsky, Dan Millar and Adam Marshall from the Salvation Army, a valued Ontario Corps partner, to Queen's Park today.

Hon. Rob Flack: I want to introduce one of our new pages, Jate Lilley. He's a Dutton Dunwich young man and attends all local council meetings in his municipality. He'll be here someday, you just watch.

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MPP Fatima Shaban: I would like to introduce my former colleagues from the Salvation Army: Major Rick Zelinsky, the director of emergency disaster services and public affairs, and the entire team. Thank you so much for everything you do. I'm looking forward to meeting with you later on today.

I would also like to introduce Cynthia Marinelli, CEO of Chester Village in my riding of Scarborough Southwest.

MPP Stephanie Smyth: I'd like to welcome my constituent Glen Chow, who is here today with AdvantAge Ontario. Welcome.

Mr. Mike Schreiner: I'd like to introduce all the students who are here from the Consent Futures Fellows, with a special shout-out to Sydney Dougherty, who is a first-year student at the University of Guelph. Thanks for your important words in the media studio this morning.

Ms. Laura Smith: I'm pleased to welcome Aaron Simon, a student from Yeshivat Or Chaim and a dedicated community volunteer, to Queen's Park.

I would also like to welcome Lisa Levin, Thornhill resident and CEO of AdvantAge.

Mr. Dave Smith: I'd like to introduce the Métis Nation of Ontario: Margaret Froh, Mitch Case, Theresa Stenlund, Sharon Cadeau, Kathleen Anderson, Steven Callaghan, Jo Anne Young, Dale LeClair, Jennifer St. Germain, Brian Black, Claire Accettola, Meredith Caplan Jamieson, Matthew Robertson, Ian Chapelle, Sam Utrosa , Cattibre Patterson, Anna Sirdevan, Brenna McCutcheon, Jennifer Pauzé, Taylor Rawson, Alicia Blore, Andy Dufrane, Regan Wilson, Ashlin Milley, Lauren McCartan, Emily Ellis, Jason Madden, and former staff members Mitch Heimpel and Holly Fullager.

There's a reception in the legislative library after question period.

Hon. Kinga Surma: I'm pleased to welcome Massimiliano Magnelli, the general manager of Bristol Myers Squibb in Canada, along with Amanda Meek, also with BMS, and Lisa Maslanka with Amgen in Canada. They are at Queen's Park today for meetings as part of Innovative Medicines Canada's annual visit. Please join me in welcoming them.

MPP Alexa Gilmour: I'd like to welcome the students, the advocates and the legal experts who are part of Possibility Seeds's High School Too project. They are dedicated to ending sexual violence, and they are going to be presenting their report in room 351—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): We do not have political statements when we introduce our visitors.

That is all the time for introduction of visitors. If you have visitors, please come back at 1 o'clock. You can introduce them at 1 p.m.

QUESTION PERIOD

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Ms. Marit Stiles: My question is to the Premier. I was at the Stellantis plant today in Brampton with Brampton's auto workers. They are worried about what the news about the future of that plant means for their future. They feel abandoned by this Premier; they made that quite clear this morning. They feel betrayed, they are gutted and they told me this Premier sat on his hands for too long. I spoke to a

young worker, Rocco, who was working in that plant. Until quite recently he was retooling the plant and now the door is slammed shut.

This is a world-class auto plant, and it needs to remain a world-class auto plant. So, to the Premier: What is your plan to save the Brampton auto plant?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

Hon. Victor Fedeli: Stellantis has been building vehicles in Ontario for decades, and we expect them to live up to the commitments they made to the province and to their workers. We understand the challenges tariffs have put on automakers, but as other automakers have done in a time of uncertainty, we need Stellantis to keep the plant open, keep it warm and keep it ready for a new model.

Across the province, we've seen automakers invest in their future and bring new models to production here in Ontario. Our plan, Speaker, is to meet with Stellantis's global CEO in the coming weeks, where we will bring our message to him directly. We have the supports in place; we announced them weeks ago—$2.5 billion. Those supports are in place to keep these companies exactly where they are today.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Marit Stiles: I don't get it. I really don't. I don't see any sense of urgency here.

I'll tell you, last week every political leader was on the news answering questions, speaking to the public about what was happening at Stellantis. This was the biggest news in the country, and the Premier had snuck out the back door of the Sheraton to avoid any questions. The Premier loves a camera when he gets to pat himself on the back, but when it comes to standing up for workers, he is missing in action every single time.

There are 3,000 good union jobs at stake here—at least 30,000 spinoff jobs—all gone, because this Premier was asleep at the wheel. What is the Premier's plan? I'm going to ask again to keep the doors open at Brampton Stellantis.

Hon. Victor Fedeli: Speaker, we look forward to meeting with the Stellantis global CEO to bring forward our case again that Brampton needs a new model. Premier Ford has said that over and over: "Don't close the plant; keep it warm." We did exactly the same thing at the CAMI plant with General Motors. It's been idled; it's kept warm, waiting for a new product.

The same thing happened several years ago. General Motors, when they shut down, kept the plant warm. We brought them incentives. We brought the Silverado there. This morning and this afternoon, 1,800 men and women are showing up to work. Why? Because they did what we asked: Keep the plant open; keep the plant warm; bring us a new product. It worked in the past, it's working right now in CAMI, and we expect no less than that from Stellantis.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Marit Stiles: I will tell you what workers out front of the Stellantis plant in Brampton were telling me this morning. They were saying, "Where was the provincial government? Where were they?"

So now they're talking about meeting with the global CEO in a couple of weeks. Again, where is the sense of urgency? This is all talk until workers start to see some kind of results, and it is not good enough for the workers that I was standing with this morning, let me tell you.

Make no mistake, Ontario's auto sector is under an existential threat from Donald Trump—no question. Our auto workers are on the firing line, but where is the Premier? He is too busy trying to build spas and casinos nobody asked for. Nobody wants them, not even the members of his own cabinet, for goodness' sake. This Premier sat on his hands while we saw good auto jobs go south in Ingersoll, in Oshawa, in Windsor and now in Brampton.

I've got to tell you, Speaker, if this sale goes through, this will be the legacy of this Premier: the end of the auto industry in Ontario. What's the Premier's plan?

Hon. Victor Fedeli: Speaker, no Premier in the history of Ontario has ever fought as hard for the auto sector as Premier Ford. He is in constant contact with all of the auto companies. Time and time again, we have told automakers we expect them to build and bring more production to the province of Ontario.

Speaker, we're seeing the results of them taking our advice. Just last week, Honda: an $800-million investment to retool Alliston. This week, Ford is working in a plant in Oakville—multi-billions of dollars to bring heavy-duty trucks to Oakville. GM: the super-duty Silverado production and the V8 engine production. Toyota announced the Lexus NX production ramping up in December.

Speaker, this is what's happening around Ontario. If the Liberals and the NDP just took some of our advice, none of this would have happened.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Ms. Marit Stiles: There is no plan. That's what we got.

Anyway, Speaker, back to the Premier—because this Premier has repeatedly denied connections to Mr. X—or, as we know now, his name is John Mutton, the banned lobbyist caught up in the greenbelt scandal. I have asked the Premier, the media have asked him, and he keeps denying it. Now we know that that same lobbyist was named co-chair of the Premier's biggest-ever fundraising dinner, the same dinner that was crawling with developers at the centre of this government's scandals.

My question to the Premier is: Did the Premier direct his fundraising co-chair, John Mutton, to promise favours in exchange for donations?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Hon. Rob Flack: Let me be clear, Speaker: The rules were followed, and where rules were not clear, they've been strengthened, processes enhanced and recommendations followed—period. Our government has implemented the greenbelt recommendations to ensure every public confidence. We've implemented a stringent MZO frame-

work to ensure public buy-in and accountability. That is key. We will continue to follow this path of a disciplined framework.

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Speaker, it's clear that the Leader of the Opposition wants to follow issues of the past, when we are focused on the future. We're protecting Ontario jobs. We're creating the conditions to get more homes built faster. We are protecting our economy. We are protecting Ontario. And we will continue down that path.

At the end of the day, let's focus on the future and things that really matter to Ontarians. This is what it's about.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Marit Stiles: Speaker, they'd really like that, wouldn't they? But here's the thing: This is an issue right now, because the RCMP is still investigating this government. The Premier can deny it all he wants to, but we have photos, we have text messages, we have emails, and I've got them all printed right here. I'm going to send them over to the Premier again today. The Premier denied any connection with Mr. X. He said he knew nothing about the conduct of the member from Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes–Brock, but evidence shows otherwise.

And I want to tell you this: As a perk of being a top fundraiser, Mr. X got to have a special call with the Premier. We know this.

So, back to the Premier: What did the Premier discuss with John Mutton during this very special call?

Hon. Rob Flack: Well, Speaker, I can repeat the answer if you want. The rules were followed to a T; where they weren't, they have been strengthened. The processes have been enhanced, and recommendations have been followed.

I've said it and I'll say it again: We are focused on the future. We are not going to be caught into these machinations that make no sense.

The bottom line in this province: We are facing great uncertainty, great challenges. We need stability. We have it under Premier Ford. We have it with this government. And guess what? It's going to work.

We are creating the conditions to attract more investments. The minister of industry is constantly bringing new businesses here. That is what we're focused on, and that is what this government will continue to do.

With respect to building more homes faster to keep people with roofs over their heads, we are doing that as well.

I met, last week, with my federal, provincial and territorial counterparts—again, fighting for the future, fighting for Ontarians, fighting to build a better economy.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Marit Stiles: This just defies belief. And boy, that was a hell of a list of things that this government has failed to achieve: homes, jobs—my goodness.

The Premier—and I understand why—wants to distance himself from all of this. I get it. But that same lobbyist was behind the greenbelt carve-up.

I'm going to make sure, by the way, that the RCMP is onto all of this and has all of these reports and emails and photographs.

We know that this guy was lobbying for his clients—what land he needed, what MZOs they needed. We all know that's what they were discussing on the call which we now know took place.

This is the same Premier who is defying court orders and hiding his phone records. He wants to hide the truth. But the truth will come out anyway, one way or another, Premier. Will the Premier show us some integrity and release his phone records?

Hon. Rob Flack: Speaker, again, we're focused on the future, and we're seeing results. Let's talk about the results.

We're creating the conditions to get more homes built. We reduced the HST. And guess what, Speaker? We've seen 8,000 incremental sales since we introduced the pause on the HST—8,000 incremental sales.

To date, we are introducing the reduction of development charges throughout the province with the DCRP, the Development Charge Reduction Program, and it's going to work.

We're going to work with the federal government to introduce $8.8 billion across this province over 10 years. That is what we're focused on. We're focused on getting shovels in the ground faster.

Speaker, at the end of the day, I am confident, when you take a look at our success—over 16,000 new sales to date for housing. And as you know, sales lead to starts.

We're going to protect jobs. On that note, we are protecting over 21,000 jobs in the construction sector, to build homes. That is what we're focused on. We're not focused on the issues that have been dealt with in the past.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. John Fraser: My question is for the Premier.

Speaker, getting the facts out of this government is like pulling teeth. Last week, we learned about the Canadian College of Business, Science and Technology. In three years, they went from 500 students to over 17,000. That's a 3,000% increase. They received OSAP funds right up until October. Somehow, an increase of 16,000 students to a storefront career college in three years was allowed by this government. The other three campuses got between 6,000% and 8,000%. These strip-mall, storefront career colleges got $151 million in one year.

Speaker, the Premier allowed this to happen. My simple question is: Why?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the Minister of Colleges and Universities.

Hon. Nolan Quinn: I will take this time to repeat the time frame of how we got here.

In late 2024, we had an understanding of a growing concern of applications towards career colleges. In Janu-

ary of 2025, Career Colleges Ontario, a third-party agency, brought forward the same concerns our ministry officials had. After two years of investigations, we realized how widespread it was, and that is why we're bringing forward legislation this session so we can add appropriate guardrails onto the career college sector.

But ultimately, that's why we brought in the Ontario Provincial Police, and why we referred it to the Auditor General, as well: because these are serious criminal allegations of wrongdoers, malicious actors, who have taken advantage of Ontario taxpayers. That's unconscionable, Speaker, and that's why we're bringing forward legislation so we can release taxpayer dollars to the students that deserve those dollars. But we cannot do that until we have confidence from the auditors, and we will have that by the new year.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the leader of the third party.

Mr. John Fraser: Speaker, here is the actual timeline: The Premier starves our public colleges. We lose 10,000 workers and hundreds of courses at dozens of colleges. Career colleges step in to train early childhood educators, PSWs, lab techs, med techs, paralegals—all these workers that we need for our economy. Then the Auditor General warns the government there's a big risk of fraud here. And then there's an industry dinner that raises $150,000 for the PC Party and the then minister.

So while the Premier is busy filling his party's coffers, this problem begins to grow and gets bigger and bigger, and then it gets too big. And then the Premier has the audacity to send the bill to honest, hard-working Ontarians.

Simple question to the Premier: Is that fair?

Hon. Nolan Quinn: Our government inherited a mess when it came to OSAP when we came to government in 2018.

The Auditor General made it very clear that there is a concern with the sustainability of OSAP—a huge concern. So we brought it back to what it used to be: 25% grants and 75% loans. Under 10 years of Liberal government, Speaker, it was 15% grants. And now that member looks in the mirror and doesn't understand the past and how he worked for the Premier at the time that had a 15% grant. We're bringing back sustainability to OSAP, not just for today's students, but the next generation of students behind them.

They don't want to speak about the investment we made, the 70,000 new seats we just brought online—one of the largest investments in post-secondary education not only in Ontario history but Canadian history. Over the last two years, we've added over 100,000 new seats. Speaker, that's more seats than other jurisdictions have across their whole post-secondary sector. We've added 100,000 seats—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the leader of the third party.

Mr. John Fraser: Speaker, every honest, hard-working Ontarian is paying for this Premier's scandal. And it's tough times in Ontario right now. Stelco, Stellantis, Algoma Steel—manufacturing across this province is being hit hard. And here's the thing: Colleges build skills, and then those students, those graduates, they fuel our economy, Premier.

All the great Premiers of Ontario understood this. These workers who have lost their jobs are relying on the Premier to help them build the skills they need to get a new job. The Premier is not protecting these workers; he's abandoning them—thousands and thousands and thousands of them.

Speaker, how is it that the Premier doesn't understand that the foundation of a modern economy is highly skilled, highly educated people?

Hon. Nolan Quinn: If you hear the Premier or Minister Fedeli speak, they understand that we lead the G7 when it comes to post-secondary attainment rate. Not only are we leading Canada, but we're leading the G7.

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Again, the Premier has a vision. That's why we've brought on another 100,000 funded seats across sectors like STEM, health human resources, education, the trades and other labour-market-driven programs.

I think it's worth reminding the member that under their party, they raised tuition three times the rate of inflation. That was 80% that it increased under their power, Speaker. If it was up to them, right now tuition would be over $15,000 at our publicly assisted institutions.

I'll take no lessons from the member opposite as to how post-secondary education should be in the province of Ontario. We'll continue ensuring that there is respect for taxpayer dollars moving forward.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

MPP Tyler Watt: My question is for the Premier, although clearly he doesn't have the courage to stand up and actually respond.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I will ask the member to withdraw.

MPP Tyler Watt: This government loves pretending that they are tough on—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I can't hear.

I'll ask the member to withdraw.

MPP Tyler Watt: Withdraw.

This government loves pretending that they're tough on crime and that they're fiscally responsible. Well, look at this mess of this major OSAP scandal.

The minister likes to talk about the timeline. Well, here's the timeline for you:

—2020: opened up OSAP grants to online asynchronous courses;

—2022: made it permanent;

—2023: warned about fraud;

—2024: warned about fraud;

—2025: warned about fraud;

—spring 2026: finally cut OSAP off to several bad actors;

—September 2026: turned grants into loans for private career colleges. A few days later, they cut off OSAP to all private career colleges.

Do not fall for it. This government wants you to believe they knew nothing. They knew it for three years. To the Premier: Why did it take this government three years to finally act?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Minister of Colleges and Universities.

Hon. Nolan Quinn: Again, Speaker, I'll continue to repeat the time frame,s because he doesn't have them fully accurate. In late 2024, we saw a growing concern in the amount of applications going towards career colleges, and in January 2025, Career Colleges Ontario had the exact same concerns we did. The federal government in that year—May 2025—completed their own inspection into career colleges and private institutions and gave us the results of that, and we did targeted and enhanced inspections afterwards.

Speaker, the system was working, because ultimately, this year, we removed eligibility from six of those institutions that were the initial concern of investigators. But once we realized how widespread the issues were, we realized we had to put a pause onto the system. We brought forward a third-party auditor, KPMG. I think it's worth reiterating: Just in November 2026, that third party, Career Colleges Ontario, has suspended over two dozen additional campuses because of concerns they have, as well as over—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Nepean.

MPP Tyler Watt: Do not fall for this. Even if I take the minister at his word, he just admitted that they've known about this since 2024. So it still took them, to his timeline, over two years to react to hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer money just flowing to these private institutions that were defrauding the taxpayer and this government.

We learned the latest bombshell from the Canadian Press last week: that at the Canadian College of Business, Science and Technology, they saw OSAP enrolment explode from 562 students to over 17,000. That's a 3,000% increase. At just one campus in North York, enrolment skyrocketed from 74 students to nearly 4,500. In 2024-25 alone, students at this college received $39 million in provincial OSAP grants.

So, Speaker, to the Premier: Were they cut off in the spring along with the Academy of Learning? Simple question: How much money went to these private institutions last year?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Minister of Colleges and Universities.

Hon. Nolan Quinn: Do you know what we learned today? That member can read court documents. Speaker. Over two years we've done investigations, inspections into those institutions. That is the reason why that member has that information: because it's before the courts, recognizing that the two years of individual inspections and investigations took us to the court system.

We took away eligibility from six of those institutions because of the severity of it. We take every single tip very seriously, and we acted upon those. That's why we did targeted and enhanced inspections of those institutions, Speaker.

Ultimately, that's why we had to bring in the Ontario Provincial Police. We had to do a pause on OSAP because once we realized how widespread it was, we needed to pause it to ensure that there was respect for taxpayer dollars. That's why we're bringing forward legislation this session to add more guardrails to cap OSAP eligibility at post-secondary institutions on the private institutions, Speaker. We'll continue to drive forward solutions so that we can have confidence back into the OSAP system.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Nepean.

MPP Tyler Watt: The minister says I read court documents as if that's a slight. I do research. I suggest that this minister starts reading some court documents and starts reading their own ministry files.

He talks about this new OSAP legislation. Well, it's three years too late. And do you know what? There's not one thing in his announcement last week that does anything for students—zero restitution. They have completely abandoned students. This piece of legislation is for them to try to control the narrative. They are one of the bad actors here, Speaker. They're the ones who opened up the loophole allowing these private institutions to defraud the taxpayer and this government for three years. Hundreds of millions of dollars—so much for fiscal responsibility, so much for "tough on crime." I'm so sick and tired of this "oopsy daisy" and then trying to flip the script in the media.

Speaker, through you to the Premier: Will you amend the legislation being put forward today to include justice and restitution for the students this government has personally destroyed the lives of?

Hon. Nolan Quinn: These are serious criminal allegations, and if the legislation is passed, we have two pillars towards the legislation. The first is towards the integrity of OSAP at private institutions. That means caps on OSAP-eligible enrolment, removing access to OSAP for online-only programs, stronger student identity verification checks, higher performance standards on graduation rates and employment rates, as well as the institutions seeking the OSAP.

Speaker, the second pillar is strengthening enforcement and student protections in the career college sector. We're going to have greater oversight with relationships between recruiters and immigration firms, as well as allowing the province to intervene earlier when irregularities are found. We'll also strengthen protections for students and impose real, serious penalties when institutions fail to follow the rules.

With these measures, we're going to restore the private system to one where good institutions can continue to build our workforce, where legitimate students can pursue meaningful careers, and those who abuse the system will be held accountable.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Ms. Peggy Sattler: My question is to the Premier, and it's on behalf of several career college students who have joined us today.

Antonio is studying to be a mental health and addictions worker after losing the mother of his children to an overdose. Without OSAP, he's worried about keeping a roof over his head.

Cindy is learning online so she can be available as a caregiver for her son with special needs, but now she doesn't know how she will pay the bills.

Speaker, when will Antonio and Cindy and the thousands of other students like them receive the OSAP loans they were promised?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Minister of Colleges and Universities.

Hon. Nolan Quinn: I understand the impact this is having on really good students, the hard-working students. I hear their frustration. I am just as frustrated as them that malicious actors have taken advantage of Ontario taxpayers.

The intended use of OSAP is to help support students in their training and upskilling for future careers, Speaker, and that is why the Premier and I both understand the urgency of this, bringing forward this legislation, so we can add the appropriate guardrails back into the OSAP system that, unfortunately, were missing prior.

But this comes down to serious criminal allegations that bad actors took advantage of the Ontario taxpayer, and we're bringing forward integrity back to the OSAP system that was not there in the first place.

I will remind the member opposite: The reason we needed to bring online programming is because we were in that once-in-a-generation pandemic that brought forward the need for online programming. But unfortunately, bad actors have taken advantage of the opportunity that was put in place for students to upskill.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for London West.

Ms. Peggy Sattler: Speaker, November's rent was due two weeks ago. October's rent, for many of these students, is past due. Students need immediate support.

Christy Bruinink is here with her students, including Crystal and Dawson, who are watching their dreams of becoming lab techs slip away. Their instructor, Christy, has been laid off, and their program is at risk of closing.

Crystal and Dawson did nothing wrong. They are not the wrongdoers; they should not be punished for this government's colossal failure to notice what was happening with private career colleges and OSAP fraud.

1120

Speaker, if the Premier won't make good today on the funding these students were promised, will he fire his Minister of Colleges and Universities?

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Order. Order.

I recognize the Minister of Colleges and Universities.

Hon. Nolan Quinn: These are serious criminal allegations. Career Colleges Ontario suspended 24 campuses just this month, and they sent us a letter acknowledging that, Speaker. They have another 13 campuses that are under review and another additional 33 campuses where they have concerns of backdating applications to be able to get the old grant-to-loan ratio—concerning serious criminal allegations; the Ontario Provincial Police are looking into it. This is a very serious matter, and they can trivialize it all they want. We have to put a pause on flowing of OSAP dollars until we have the confidence back in the system.

But to say we sat for two years is fundamentally wrong, Speaker. We had individual inspections and investigations into those individual institutions, but once we realized how widespread it was, we had to put a pause across OSAP across the private institutions. We brought forward KPMG, a forensic auditor, to ensure that we can get the confidence that we need back into the OSAP system.

These are serious criminal allegations by malicious actors, and we're going to always take those very seriously.

HEALTH CARE FUNDING

Mr. Adil Shamji: Madam Speaker, today I would like to introduce you to Elizabeth Stewart. Elizabeth is a runner, triathlete, coach, volunteer and fundraiser. Last year, she developed a rare form of mucosal melanoma and was advised to have tumour-infiltrating lymphocyte therapy, a proven treatment not offered in Ontario. When she applied to OHIP for coverage of this medically necessary care, she was rejected.

We've heard over and over that our province is ready to protect Ontario, but when it had a chance to protect Elizabeth, this Minister of Health said no. If there's any doubt that this Minister of Health wanted Elizabeth to be rejected, never forget that she changed the rules to make sure that Elizabeth and every other patient like her will never, ever get treatment under Ontario's out-of-country program, even when those treatments are supported by the government's own doctors.

Will the Minister of Health do the right thing and reverse her decision to reject life-saving care for cancer patients?

Hon. Sylvia Jones: As a doctor, as a parliamentarian, you should know—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Through the Speaker.

Hon. Sylvia Jones: —that these are not decisions that are made through a political process. They never have been, they never should be and this is exactly why they should not be. I will not speak to individual clinical cases. I will not put someone's personal medical record on the Hansard, because it's not appropriate.

We have a system in the province of Ontario for out-of-country coverage that has been in place literally for decades. I understand how challenging these stories are for patients, for their families, for the clinicians who are advocating for their patients. But at the end of the day, our

job should be to build Ontario-made treatments, Ontario-made—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Don Valley East.

Mr. Adil Shamji: Madam Speaker, the point is that she has been ignoring her own doctor's recommendation. Now, last year Elizabeth wrote a letter to the Minister of Health, and I've been given permission to read some of what she wrote.

She said, "I'm writing to respectfully request approval for OHIP coverage of out-of-country tumour-infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) therapy as part of my treatment for cancer.

"For nearly a decade, I worked in hospital health care fundraising at the Foundation of Guelph General Hospital, where I helped raise close to $20 million in support of patient care.

"Most importantly, I'm the mother of a 12-year-old son who needs me. He needs my love, guidance, stability and support as he grows into adulthood."

And she closed by saying, "Thank you sincerely for your time, consideration and compassion in reviewing my request."

Unfortunately, Elizabeth got neither time, consideration nor compassion. On July 9 of this year, Elizabeth died, without her treatment and without even a response from this minister. Would the Minister of Health like to provide a response to the family now?

Hon. Sylvia Jones: I will say, again, that we know out-of-country coverage is very specifically used in very specific situations. The idea that we do not want to build a health care system in the province of Ontario is ludicrous.

When we look at cancer care as an example, under the leadership of the colleges and universities ministry, we have 5,000 clinical trials happening today in the province of Ontario. We want to build capacity in Ontario, funded by Ontario and available in Ontario through our OHIP system.

That is the work we're doing with the Health Innovation Pathway. That is the work that we are doing: leading the world with a fast program that ensures nine—already nine—new, innovative clinical drugs are available in the province of Ontario over a year sooner. It is leading innovations that are going to be happening and are happening here in Ontario. That's what our focus is.

FIRE SAFETY

Mr. Will Bouma: Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. We've heard about the dangers of lithium-ion batteries from Toronto Fire Chief Jim Jessop, as well as various fire chiefs across the province of Ontario. Fire experts agree that these batteries pose a risk that just was not widespread across Ontario 10 to 15 years ago. Now, with the spread of e-scooters, e-bikes and other micromobility devices, cheap lithium batteries have entered almost every community in Ontario.

Lithium-ion batteries contain chemicals that are highly volatile and that are easily ignited, especially when they are modified or improperly handled. As the MPP for Brantford–Brant and a volunteer firefighter, I am concerned about the effect of these batteries on fire safety in my community.

Speaker, could the Solicitor General please explain what our government is doing to mitigate this fire hazard in our province?

Hon. Michael S. Kerzner: Please let me thank my friend for being a volunteer firefighter in Brant county and for all the other people across Ontario who are volunteer firefighters.

Madam Speaker, it's undeniable: Lithium-ion batteries, when not used properly, are a real threat, and similarly, when they're used safely, are safe. I want to thank my chief, Chief Jim Jessop of the Toronto Fire Services, and my president of the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters' Association, Michael Smith, for reminding Ontarians that this is an important issue.

Our government, led by the Premier, is acting. That's why we've posted on the Ontario Regulatory Registry changes that we will be making to the Ontario Fire Code to make sure that e-bikes and e-scooters are not stored in stairwells; to make sure that people are not modifying the batteries, which would create a threat. We will protect Ontario.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Brantford–Brant.

Mr. Will Bouma: I appreciate the Solicitor General's response. It's reassuring not just to me but to my constituents, about the upcoming changes in the fire code, as they would be instrumental in preventing lithium-ion battery fires in the future.

However, my constituents would also like to know if there is anything else being done to deal with the lithium battery issue. For example, are there any other regulation drafts that are under consultation right now?

Speaker, through you to the Solicitor General: Moreover, what is the federal government's role in this, given that many cheap lithium-ion batteries are imported from abroad? Could the Solicitor General please elaborate on other steps that are being taken to solve the issue of lithium-ion battery fires?

Hon. Michael S. Kerzner: Again, to my friend on the government side, let me say this: We want to make changes to the Ontario Fire Code which will stop people from modifying a lithium-ion battery. That's very important. When we use our e-products safely—our phones, our scooters, our e-bikes—that's safe. But when we try to modify and manipulate and juice up a battery, it's not.

The federal government, as the member said, has a role to play, and I've been working hard with MP Judy Sgro to make sure the federal government takes action to ban third-party products, generic batteries, batteries that are not consistent and complementary to original OEM product. Madam Speaker, it is very important that people know, especially now: Take efforts not to manipulate batteries. Don't buy generic products. This way, we will use the product as originally intended, to keep your families safe and Ontario safe.

1130

COST OF LIVING

MPP Lisa Gretzky: To the Premier: Ontario should be a province where employment provides a decent standard of living, yet more than one million Ontarians are now turning to food banks regularly, and food bank visits have increased by 165% since 2019. Even people with multiple jobs are using food banks, because their paycheques no longer cover the basics. Parents are skipping meals so their children can eat. Seniors are choosing between groceries and medication.

When will the Premier stop offering excuses and start addressing this crisis, so children, seniors and workers in Ontario aren't going hungry?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Minister of Finance.

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy: Thank you for the question.

Of course, cost of living is definitely impacting many people around Ontario—and not just in Ontario, but of course Canada—not least of which are our most vulnerable. Madam Speaker, that's why we announced in the fall economic statement that we have some $12.5 billion of cost-of-living support for the many people of Ontario: the families, the individuals and the businesses.

Let me highlight one that's really, I think, important: No government ever indexed disability payments or low-income senior payments to inflation. It took this government to index it to inflation, so that when inflation went up, their receipts went up. That's just one example of how we're helping Ontarians.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Windsor West.

MPP Lisa Gretzky: I would challenge the minister to actually live on ODSP or OW and then stand there and defend it.

Speaker, while the Premier and his caucus are out doing $1,000-a-plate fundraisers, breakfasts, more than one million Ontarians relied on food banks last year for an estimated 8.7 million visits. Working people made up nearly one quarter of those accessing support, and children were nearly one third. Let that sink in: Children in one of the wealthiest provinces in the country are increasingly going hungry. Food banks are overwhelmed as families struggle with the cost of housing, utilities and groceries. This isn't a charity problem; this is legislated poverty caused by the Premier and his Conservative government's inaction since they were elected eight years ago.

So when will the Premier do something to address the growing reliance on food banks and implement solutions to reduce the need for people to rely on food banks in the first place?

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and again, through you to the member opposite for that question.

The Minister of Children, Community and Social Services increased the student nutrition funding program, so it's through his leadership that we're helping students who require it. He did so by more than 50%.

And let's remember it was this government, four years ago, that cut the gas tax so that the most vulnerable who have to use a car to get to where they're going are paying less at the pump. If they're taking transit, they're paying less for transit—integrated One Fare. They're paying up to $1,600 less when they take transit.

So this government is going to continue to make cost of living and affordability for all Ontarians a priority.

EDUCATION FUNDING

M^me^ Lucille Collard: My question is for the Minister of Education.

Since the introduction of the Staples portal, teachers have been reporting many challenges: The supplies they need are not available, the deliveries are late and some products are more expensive than in other stores—all of this despite the fact that the minister's solution was supposed to make things easier and better for everyone.

The only winner here is Staples, an American company with an exclusive contract funded by taxpayers. So much for the "Buy Ontario" slogan.

The minister has been made aware of all these challenges and problems. What is he doing to fix it?

Hon. Paul Calandra: I would remind the member opposite that the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board also used Staples, and that Staples is a company headquartered in Richmond Hill that has over 11,000 employees nationwide, that pays millions of dollars in taxes to the people of the province of Ontario.

I'll also remind the member opposite that when her government was in power, teachers got on average about 100 bucks a year to supply their classroom. We're not going to do that. We're not going to go back to the old Liberal style, where you get 100 bucks a year to try to supply your classroom. What we've done instead is put in a $750 supply card with 200 of the products that teachers themselves identified for us and said, "These are the things that we need for our classroom." On the Staples portal, you will find that they are the lowest price anywhere. Teachers have access to that through this $750 supply card. We also give them access to some of the other things that are on Staples.

But we're not going to do what the member opposite is suggesting, take that $750 away from teachers and bring it back down to what it was, 100 bucks on average, when the Liberals were in power. We think our teachers deserve a little bit more than that.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Ottawa–Vanier.

M^me^ Lucille Collard: Speaking of that $750 allocation, does the minister realize that tens of thousands of teachers don't even have access to it? The fund is strictly reserved for elementary homeroom teachers. Does the minister believe that educators teaching music, physical education, art, science have no need for supplies? These teachers share the same schools; they teach the same students and

face the same out-of-pocket pressure. Why did the minister create a two-tier system among educators?

Hon. Paul Calandra: It's interesting that the Liberals now are worried about those very same teachers that, for years, they refused to fund at all—never gave them anything. They didn't care about them.

What we've done is we've put in place a homeroom classroom fund for all teachers. The rotary teachers that she mentions still have access to supplies that are provided through the school principal, and we know that teachers are working with each other. When a French teacher requires something, they're asking the homeroom teacher to use that $750 to buy something that they may require.

But do you know what the difference is? Under the Liberals, they got nothing. Under Conservatives, they're getting access to $750, and teachers are saying that they are liking this. It's not just in Ottawa; it is in all parts of the province. When you can provide resources to a school in Kenora, when you can provide resources to Thunder Bay—all over the province, teachers now have access to the things that they need to supply their students, so that they can ensure that they get the best quality of education.

The Liberals want to rip that $750 from teachers, because they don't trust them. We're going to keep it, because we trust teachers—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Question?

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

MPP Mohamed Firin: My question is for the Minister of Transportation.

For anyone who drives through Brampton, Caledon, Vaughan, it's easy to see how much this region has grown. New homes, new businesses and more families are choosing to put down roots here.

But for too long, Speaker, the roads haven't kept up. People are spending more time stuck in traffic and less time with the people that they love. Protecting Ontario means investing in the infrastructure our growing communities need to stay strong and keep moving.

Speaker, I'm proud to be part of a government that isn't just talking about way-off solutions, but acting today, and that includes building Highway 413. Can the minister tell the House how Highway 413 will fight gridlock, give families back their time and keep Ontario's economy moving?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the member for—sorry. I apologize.

Hon. Graham McGregor: Lambton–Kent–Middlesex.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Lambton–Kent–Middlesex. I apologize.

Mr. Steve Pinsonneault: Thank you, Speaker, and thank you to the member from York South–Weston for that question.

Speaker, it is my absolute honour to speak to this important issue in my new role as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Transportation. I'm ready to help Minister Sarkaria lead some of the biggest transportation projects in all of North America.

Why is our government taking such an ambitious approach to getting people moving? For a parent, time spent in gridlock is time they can never get back with their family. For a trucker, it means potentially not making a delivery on time.

By building Highway 413, there will be a new 52-kilometre highway connecting Halton, Peel and York regions, saving drivers up to 30 minutes per trip. And for that parent, it could mean the difference between making their daughter's hockey game and a business receiving its goods it needs safely and on time.

The Liberals had 15 years to get this region moving. Premier Ford is building the transportation infrastructure we need to make our province stronger.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Before I acknowledge the member for York South–Weston, I just, for the first time ever, want to thank the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. For the first time, I actually appreciate your heckling. Thank you.

Back to the member for York South–Weston.

1140

MPP Mohamed Firin: Thank you to the parliamentary assistant and member for Lambton–Kent–Middlesex for that beautiful response.

Families in Peel region have heard plenty of talk about fixing gridlock over the years, but now they can see the work happening. Our government recently announced that construction has started on two bridges at Highway 10 and Bovaird Drive in Brampton, another big step forward for Highway 413. That's good news for commuters, for local businesses and for the skilled tradespeople who will help build it.

Protecting Ontario means getting shovels in the ground and building the infrastructure that keeps our economy competitive. Can the minister tell this House what this milestone means for the people of Peel region and how our government is keeping Highway 413 moving forward?

Mr. Steve Pinsonneault: Thank you for that follow-up question. The people of Ontario heard promises for years from previous governments, but progress isn't measured in what could be; it's measured in shovels in the ground.

Right now, in Brampton, crews are building two new bridges that will carry Highway 10 and Bovaird Drive over the future Highway 413. When built, the 413 is expected to support nearly 6,000 good-paying jobs a year and will help contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to Ontario's economy.

Under Premier Ford, we're investing $31 billion over 10 years in highways, transit and rail, including building the Bradford Bypass, getting more people moving with the generational Ontario Line and bringing back the Northlander to keep the province better connected. That's how we protect Ontario. That's how we build a stronger and more efficient economy.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

M^me^ France Gélinas: Ma question est pour le ministre des Transports.

Since this House last sat 10 days ago, three people have died on the two-lane section of Highway 69. That includes Celeste Robillard, a healthy, happy mom to beautiful nine-month-old baby Gabriel. That's 13 deaths this year, Speaker, and it hasn't even started to snow yet.

The minister needs to offer some hope to my grieving constituents, because all I hear right now is, "How many more people need to die before this government four-lanes Highway 69?"

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria: Thank you very much, and condolences to the families that have passed just recently. But as that member knows, before us today here in the Legislature, we also have legislation that recognizes the importance of building Highway 69 and speeding it up. That legislation will speed up the process of four-laning Highway 69 by over five years. We're putting that into place, and four out of the six sections of Highway 69 will be under active construction by the end of December 2027.

Our teams have been up there in Sudbury, across the entire stretch, making sure that we can get this highway built as quickly and effectively as possible. We'll continue to provide updates along the way to ensure that we can deliver that highway for the people of Sudbury and the north.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the member for Sudbury.

MPP Jamie West: Speaker, Celeste and her infant son Gabriel were killed on Highway 69, and on the morning of their funeral, there was another fatal accident, this time a collision with a pickup truck. Do you know who drives a pickup truck in northern Ontario? Everyone. Everyone drives one.

That morning, every single person in northern Ontario was worried that they would get a knock on the door from the OPP, the same knock that Celeste and Gabriel's family got.

After more than eight years of doing nothing, the Premier has finally promised shovels in the ground by the end of next year, but there have been 13 deaths this year alone. We can't afford any more deaths. What actions is the Premier taking now to prevent further deaths until the highway is four-laned?

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria: We've put forward legislation that is currently in the House as we speak today and look forward to both of those members voting to support that legislation that will accelerate construction by over five years.

On top of that, we were on the Highway 69 stretch where we announced early works to enable the four-laning of Highway 69. We are relocating the existing CN rail so we can expand Highway 69. We're working across the entire stretch to accelerate that project. We've tabled legislation in this Legislature this session to make sure that can be expedited and that we can work as quickly as we possibly can to move forward on the expansion of Highway 69.

I hope those members step up outside of their political stripes and support that piece of legislation that will be very important for their community.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. John Fraser: Speaker, my question is for the Premier. I just thought I'd give him another chance to let us all know how he knows how important schools are to the foundation of our economy.

We also know that small class sizes are really important in student success. We know that last year, more than half of Ontario's grade 4 to grade 8 students were in classes of 25 or more, and that in 1,100 grade 8 classes there were more than 30 students. Specifically, in the Toronto District School Board—here in Toronto, obviously—were 313 grade 4 to 8 classes that had 30 or more students and another 1,400 that had between 25 and 29 students.

Speaker, through you: Why has this government allowed class sizes to grow so much over the past eight years?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Minister of Education.

Hon. Paul Calandra: Actually, we haven't, Madam Speaker. In fact, average class sizes across the province of Ontario have remained stable over the last 10 years, so there has been actually no change whatsoever.

But it is interesting coming from the member opposite, because when they were in office, their Minister of Education said the following—this was Liz Sandals, who said in 2007, "The truth of the matter is that no matter what class size you choose, be it 20 or 25 or 30, students do not come in convenient packages of any size. So no matter what size you choose, you will have split grades." That is what the Liberals believed then. They believe something differently now.

Now, we have maintained class sizes, we have put more money into education, we have fired trustees who took money out of the education system—they are opposed to all of this. They want to rip the $750 out of the hands of teachers. They want to go back to a system that saw, year over year over year, student achievement declining. No, thank you. We'll continue on the path of students doing better year over year over year; supporting students, parents—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the leader of the third party.

Mr. John Fraser: It's so refreshing to know that the minister hadn't changed a bit and he still doesn't answer the question.

So, Speaker, we know that smaller class sizes deliver better results and they help our kids learn. We all know that. Across all grade 4 to 8 classes at all school boards in Ontario, this number—out of all school boards, 4,344 classes have more than 27 students. The government is allowing class sizes to grow. When you combine this with the government starving special education, it makes our classrooms not safe places to learn or to work.

So, Speaker, will the government stop letting class sizes grow and stop starving special education?

Hon. Paul Calandra: You know, I take umbrage with one part of it. I have changed quite a bit, Madam Speaker. I think I've lost a few pounds. I think I'm looking a little bit better, a little bit healthier. So I'm not sure what he's talking about.

But let's go back to the nub of what he's talking about. I love questions from the Liberals, right? For 15 years, what did they do to special education? Nothing, nothing at all. We've come into office and we have put billions of dollars more into special education. The Liberals didn't want to do it, but we said it has to be done.

Average class sizes: "Oh, they're up." No, they aren't. Average class sizes have remained the exact same as they were when they were in office. And I'll congratulate you: Some of the lowest class sizes in the entire country—in fact, in North America—are right here in the province of Ontario.

Now, what has changed is this: more money for special education, billions of dollars more to support the education system. And the biggest change of all is that, unlike the Liberals, our students are actually doing better in school, Madam Speaker. They're actually doing better every—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Question?

FOREST INDUSTRY

Mr. Sheref Sabawy: My question is for the Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products.

Speaker, President Trump's unfair tariffs and constantly changing trade measures continue to put enormous pressure on Ontario's forest sector. With nearly all of our forest product exports going to the United States, it is clear that we cannot continue to rely on just one market.

Last Thursday, the Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products met with industry leaders at an export diversification round table in Thunder Bay to discuss new opportunities for Ontario's forest sector. Can the associate minister tell this House about the round table and how these discussions will help our government open new markets and attract investment to Ontario?

Hon. Kevin Holland: Thanks to the member for Mississauga–Erin Mills for the question. As he stated, this past Thursday, I had the opportunity to again meet with industry leaders at our third export diversification round table, this one being held in Thunder Bay.

Our industry leaders are the boots on the ground, the experts in the field. They know the challenges, the opportunities and what it takes to succeed. That's why their input is so important.

The Premier has tasked me with helping our forest sector recover from unfair duties and tariffs and build a stronger future. Part of that plan is to look at opportunities around the world and make them commercially viable. That's why we're developing two plans under our road map: an export diversification plan to reach new customers and markets and an investment attraction plan to bring more investment and jobs to Ontario. What we heard directly from industry will help shape these plans and strengthen Ontario's forest sector.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Mississauga–Erin Mills.

Mr. Sheref Sabawy: Thank you to the associate minister for that answer. It is encouraging to see our government working directly with industry to identify new opportunities and build a stronger future for Ontario's forest sector. But we also know that workers, businesses and forestry-dependent communities need support today as they face continued pressure from President Trump's unfair tariffs and duties.

Since releasing our road map in April, our government has continued to make significant investments to help businesses modernize, increase production and find new opportunities for growth. Can the associate minister outline what our government has accomplished so far and how these investments are helping to protect forestry jobs and strengthen the industry for the future?

Hon. Kevin Holland: Our government has invested more than $355 million in Ontario's forest sector since 2022. In just six months since launching our road map, we've committed close to $65 million to forestry businesses all across this great province.

These aren't just numbers; they mean good-paying jobs, support for families and a stronger future for communities that depend on our forestry industries. Our road map provides a clear path forward to defend, adapt and grow this cornerstone industry.

We're standing up against US duties and tariffs while helping businesses reach new markets and attract new investment, because it's not just about sustaining the industry; it's about growing the industry and ensuring Ontario remains a G7 leader in forest products for generations to come.

MEMBER'S BIRTHDAY

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the member for Kitchener South–Hespeler on a point of order.

Ms. Jess Dixon: Thank you, Speaker, for the indulgence. He is such a humble man that he has just stepped out, but I can't let the day go by without wishing our wonderful Minister of Sport, Brian Saunderson, a very, very happy birthday.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Unfortunately, we do not draw attention to missing members who aren't in the chamber, but we'll grab him.

There being no further businesses, this House stands in recess until 1 p.m.

The House recessed from 1154 to 1300.

NOTICES OF DISSATISFACTION

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Pursuant to standing order 36(a), the member for Nickel Belt has given notice of dissatisfaction with the answer to the question given by the Minister of Transportation regarding Highway 69. This matter will be debated tomorrow following private members' public business.

Pursuant to standing order 36(a), the member for Ottawa South has given notice of dissatisfaction with the answer to the question given by the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security regarding OSAP. This matter will be debated tomorrow following private members' public business.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Deepak Anand: Speaker, I'd like to introduce Leonard Zatychies, Luigi Presta and Paul Chana from Avion Technologies, a manufacturing company from Mississauga–Malton serving commercial aerospace and defence, satellite, nuclear, space, and oil and gas industries.

If anyone is looking to spread their wings in Mississauga–Malton, these are the kinds of people we have.

MPP Mohamed Firin: I would like to welcome Jason Dockeray and Amina Omar from the Learning Enrichment Foundation, who were here today to listen to my member's statement in regard to the retirement of Peter Frampton.

INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BILLS

PROTECT ONTARIO FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ACT, 2026

LOI DE 2026 VISANT À PROTÉGER LES FAMILLES ET LES COLLECTIVITÉS EN ONTARIO

Mr. Parsa moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 148, An Act to enact the Intimate Images Protection Act, 2026 and to amend various Acts / Projet de loi 148, Loi édictant la Loi de 2026 sur la protection des images intimes et modifiant diverses lois.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

First reading agreed to.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the minister.

Hon. Michael Parsa: I'm pleased to rise today to introduce the Protect Ontario Families and Communities Act, 2026. Speaker, at its core, this bill achieves three key priorities: strengthening child and family services, enhancing Ontario's response to intimate partner violence and connecting every Ontarian to primary care.

Today's legislation builds on our ongoing work to ensure every person has access to the services and the supports they need to succeed and to reach their full potential.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TOXIC DRUG CRISIS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TASK FORCE ACT, 2026

LOI DE 2026 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR LA RÉPONSE D'URGENCE À LA CRISE LIÉE AUX DROGUES TOXIQUES

MPP Lennox moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 149, An Act to establish an emergency response task force to address Ontario's toxic drug crisis / Projet de loi 149, Loi créant un groupe de travail sur la réponse d'urgence pour lutter contre la crise liée aux drogues toxiques en Ontario.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

First reading agreed to.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Does the member wish to explain the bill?

MPP Robin Lennox: As we all know, the toxic drug crisis continues to cause significant harm in our communities, and we lose one Ontarian every three and a half hours to drug-related harms.

This bill would match the emergency that we're facing with a response and a plan. It would require that the Minister of Health establish the toxic drug crisis emergency response task force, a group of experts, people with lived experience and front-line providers, who would provide a plan to navigate us through this crisis and to ensure that there is accountability in our response.

It is my pleasure to sponsor this bill in collaboration with my colleagues the MPPs for Toronto Centre, for Nickel Belt and for Parkdale–High Park.

ONTARIO COLLEGES ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION WEEK ACT, 2026

LOI DE 2026 SUR LA SEMAINE DE L'ONTARIO COLLEGES ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Mr. Babikian moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 150, An Act to proclaim Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Week / Projet de loi 150, Loi proclamant la semaine de l'Ontario Colleges Athletic Association.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

First reading agreed to.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Would the member like to briefly explain the bill?

Mr. Aris Babikian: Speaker, this bill will proclaim the week commencing the second Sunday in February in each year as Ontario Colleges Athletic Association week. The Ontario Colleges Athletic Association represents 26 member institutions and approximately 4,000 student athletes each year. Its member institutions generate more than $200 million annually through sport-related travel, accommodations, food and beverages, employment and events.

Proclaiming Ontario Colleges Athletic Association week would create an opportunity every year for colleges, athletic departments, students and community organizations to highlight achievements in college sports, encouraging participation and recognizing the people who make these programs possible.

It would also provide a focal point for celebrating the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association's 60th anniversary and its ongoing role in Ontario's broader sports system.

PETITIONS

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. Ted Hsu: I'm presenting a petition today entitled "Fix OSAP ASAP." It has the same title as previous petitions, but when I look at it it's got some new points and it's got signatures from Kingston and the Islands, Lanark–Frontenac–Kingston and Hastings–Lennox and Addington ridings.

They're asking this government to fix OSAP, in particular, to honour OSAP funding commitments and protect students who applied for or were assessed for or were approved for funding before the recent suspension by this government, which left a lot of innocent, hard-working students in the lurch. It is calling for the restoration of OSAP eligibility at compliant private career colleges that are not under investigation or that have not been found to be engaged in wrongdoing.

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They're asking for a reverse to cuts to OSAP grants for the many more students at public colleges and universities in order to reduce their financial risks. They are asking the government to investigate and take action against institutions and individuals who are responsible for abusing OSAP and asking the government to provide full transparency by releasing a timeline of government warnings and actions along with findings from completed audits and investigations, making that public, subject to, of course, legal and privacy requirements.

This is the latest version that has quickly gotten a number of signatures, entitled "Fix OSAP ASAP."

SMALL BUSINESS

MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam: It's always an honour to rise in this House and to present on behalf of the people of Toronto Centre. I'm proud to send forward this motion to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is entitled "Save Small Businesses."

We all recognize, Speaker, that small businesses are the heart of Ontario's main streets and local economy, bringing vibrancy and jobs to our neighbourhoods. Small business owners invest a significant amount of money, labour and care in renovating these spaces so that they can actually create income for their families and to hire locally.

Small business tenants are facing a crisis, including a lack of tenure, even when they pay rent on time. Commercial tenants are facing sudden eviction and unexpected and unsubstantiated additional charges, insufficient documentation for any of those additional costs, and they receive little to no protection under the current lease terms that are set out in the Commercial Tenancies Act.

Therefore, Speaker, the solution to fixing this problem—the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to begin public consultation and to start to modernize the Commercial Tenancies Act; protect small businesses against unfair, retaliatory commercial evictions; require transparency and documentation when landlords ask for additional rents, when they force upon the tenants maintenance fees and other commercial lease charges.

We need to explore, Speaker, in this House, standardized commercial lease agreements where you are able to set out those rights and responsibilities for both the landlord and the tenant so it's fair and consistent and easy to understand. We must review the policies that exist today. Not doing so will mean we'll see more and more small businesses continue to collapse, and we do not want that. It's time to develop stronger provincial regulations so that small businesses will thrive in Ontario.

I'll be happy to affix my signature to this petition and send this back to the centre table with page Chelsea.

RED TAPE REDUCTION

Mr. Anthony Leardi: I'd like to thank David Mady from LaSalle, Ontario, for sending in this petition.

This petition talks about the assessment process with regard to archaeological assessments in the province of Ontario. It describes how about 98% of these archaeological assessments ultimately support various building projects, including the building of homes. It talks about how during the process it can become very cumbersome and expensive, and then ultimately talks about how at the end of the day, 98% approximately of these assessments ultimately result in approval in any event.

It talks about the necessity of revising this assessment process, and it calls upon the Legislature of the province of Ontario to institute a framework which would make this process more efficient and less costly, and at the end of the day, lower costs for home purchasers and everybody else across the province of Ontario.

I certainly support this petition. I will sign it and provide it to this very excellent page, Cameron, who will bring it to the Clerks' table.

WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Ms. Peggy Sattler: I am very proud to present a petition today that is entitled "Declare October Menopause Awareness Month." This petition is in support of a private member's bill that I introduced in this chamber earlier in October. The petition points out that menopause is a natural stage of life that will affect half of Ontario's popu-

lation and yet is often stigmatized, unrecognized and misunderstood.

Menopause and perimenopause can have significant impacts on health, quality of life, employment, and economic security. It occurs at a time when many women are in the prime earning years in the workforce. Public education and awareness is a critical tool to support those who are experiencing menopause, to ensure that there is accurate information about symptoms, health treatment options and to encourage workplaces to acknowledge the impact of menopause and support workers who are experiencing menopause.

The petition calls on the Legislative Assembly to pass the Menopause Awareness Act to officially designate October as menopause awareness month and October 18 as menopause awareness day.

I fully support this petition, affix my signature—

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): I recognize the member for Nepean.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

MPP Tyler Watt: I'm happy to introduce a petition from hundreds of students from Carleton University and Ottawa U called "No to OSAP Cuts! No to Tuition Hikes!"

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"(1) Grants not loans and remove all interest on OSAP loans;

"(2) Stop the tuition hikes; and

"(3) Halt government interference on admissions, research security plans, and student fees."

This government has scapegoated students. We know now that their rationale for this was nonsense.

I support this, I will sign this and hand it over to Yuvki.

LAND USE PLANNING

Ms. Bobbi Ann Brady: I have a petition here signed by thousands of Ontario residents asking for a food belt to be created in Ontario.

We should all know that the farming and food sector contributes $50 billion to Ontario's economy and employs nearly one million people—that's one in 10 jobs across Ontario. We also know that food security has never been more important given the threat of tariffs and trade war with the USA. We also know that once you pave over farmland, it never comes back.

The undersigned have asked for the Ontario government to create a food belt to permanently protect farmland in Ontario from being paved over for non-agricultural uses.

I wholeheartedly support this petition and will send it to the Clerks' table with Georgia.

SNOWMOBILING

MPP George Darouze: It's great to be in the chamber this afternoon representing the people of Carleton, a privilege I never take for granted.

I'm pleased to present another round of petitions signed by residents across Ontario, and this petition is related to our snowmobile trail network right here in Ontario. It is very close to the season right now, so it's very important.

As this House knows, last year, the government took action to make sure that the full OFSC trail network remained intact for the 2025-26 season, recognizing the important economic impact that snowmobiling has across Ontario, especially in small, rural municipalities. And what a season it was. I'm hoping that we get another winter of good snowmobiling weather so residents can enjoy themselves the same way they did last year.

This petition is signed by residents from across Ontario and especially in my Carleton riding. I want to thank the local club, the district and especially Osgoode snowmobile trail club, my local club, for advocating for that.

I support this petition, will sign my name and give it to page Humza to present to the Clerk.

HEALTH CARE WORKERS

MPP Robin Lennox: I'm very pleased to rise to present this petition to implement mandatory nurse-to-patient ratios now. This is an issue that's very important in Hamilton. Just in Hamilton alone, we've had more than 1,000 signatures on this petition already because we are a health care community. Just two weekends ago, when I was in the hospital, every single unit was down two or three nurses, which meant their ratios were out of control.

This petition calls on the government of Ontario to implement mandatory safe nurse-to-patient ratios, just as they have done in Manitoba, and that are proven to improve patient care, to improve retention of our nurses and to ensure that both nurses and patients have the best future possible.

It's my pleasure to join Simone and Victoria Robinson in signing this petition, and I will give it to page Emily.

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HEALTH CARE WORKERS

MPP Tyler Watt: I am pleased to rise about this petition called "Stop Firing Ontario's Health Care Workers."

We are asking for the government to immediately halt layoffs and staffing reductions affecting front-line health care workers in Ontario's publicly funded hospitals; to provide adequate, stable and sustainable funding to Ontario's hospitals to protect front-line health care jobs and ensure safe staffing levels; and invest in the recruitment and retention of health care workers, including nurses, personal support workers and allied health professionals, to reduce wait times, improve working conditions and ensure Ontarians receive the quality care that they deserve.

It's no secret right now that hospitals are laying off nurses and health care workers across Ontario. This is a huge crisis—emergency rooms have never been this bad. It is like a war zone in there, and the minister has her head in the sand. I hope that she takes this petition to heart and actually does something about it.

I will sign this petition and give it to Seher to bring forward.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. Mike Schreiner: It's an honour to rise today to present a petition with over 350 signatures, primarily from students at the University of Guelph, saying, "No to OSAP Cuts! No to Tuition Hikes!"

The petitioners note that, due to the cuts to OSAP and the shift from grants to loans, students are facing a huge financial burden at a time when it is very hard to afford life in Ontario. They're graduating with higher levels of debt and it's hurting access to higher education.

These students are calling on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to have grants, not loans, and to remove interest on all OSAP loans; to stop tuition hikes; and to halt the government's interference on admissions, research security plans and student fees.

I fully support this petition, will sign it and ask page Georgia to bring it to the table.

ONTARIO ECONOMY

Mr. Anthony Leardi: I would like to thank Rick Patterson for sending in the petition. This is a petition about tariffs. It talks about how Canadian purchasers literally keep millions of Americans working every single day. It talks about how the US House of Representatives voted against Trump's improper tariffs, it talks about how the US Senate has voted against Trump's improper tariffs and it talks about how even the US Supreme Court has declared those tariffs to be illegal.

It calls upon the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to adopt regulations that would issue procurement directives—that is to say, purchasing of Ontario-made goods and services and supply chains in the public sector procurement process.

I fully support this petition. I will sign it and hand the petition over to this fine page Melchi to bring to the Clerks' table.

ONTARIO DRUG BENEFIT PROGRAM

M^me^ France Gélinas: I would like to thank Rira Heydi and the 250 women who have signed this petition asking for hormone replacement therapy to be free—covered—in Ontario.

As you know, Speaker, untreated menopause costs the economy an estimated $2.5 billion annually, and menopausal hormone therapy, including transdermal therapy, is a clinically proven treatment. Unfortunately, the Ontario drug benefit does not cover transdermal. British Columbia and Manitoba already provide menopausal hormone therapy to residents at no cost, leaving Ontario women without equal access to the standard-of-care treatment.

I don't know if you follow the news, but Pfizer just advised that it is pulling its hormone replacement therapy Premarin from the Canadian market. The pharmacy association tells us that there is only one drug to replace it, but it is not covered in Ontario. Dr. Amanda Selk, an obstetrician-gynecologist at Mount Sinai Hospital, says that if there's only one cream available in the country, it should be covered in Ontario.

I support all of those women who want to direct the Ministry of Health to add all clinically approved forms of menopausal hormone therapy, including transdermal therapy, to the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary as a standard, covered benefit.

I fully support this petition. I will affix my name to it and ask page Daniel to bring it to the Clerk.

OPPOSITION DAY

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY
RESPONSABILITÉ GOUVERNEMENTALE

MPP Tyler Watt: I'd like to put forward our opposition day motion.

Whereas in October 2026, this government froze OSAP at every private post-secondary institution in Ontario, including schools under no suspicion, punishing students who did nothing wrong; and

Whereas the freeze has cut off the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant and paused the Better Jobs Ontario fund; and

Whereas the minister used the taxpayer-funded KPMG audit to justify the freeze, yet has told reporters it will never be made public;

Therefore, in the opinion of this House, the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security should:

(1) Request, pursuant to section 17 of the Auditor General Act, that the Auditor General undertake an audit of the ministry's oversight on the OSAP and career colleges system;

(2) Publicly release all interim and final reports prepared by KPMG regarding the OSAP scandal;

(3) Disclose how much OSAP funding went to students of the Academy of Learning for the 2025-26 academic year;

(4) Immediately release previously approved OSAP loans to eligible students at private career colleges that have been inspected and cleared;

(5) Immediately restore access to Better Jobs Ontario funding and Ontario Learn and Stay grants for eligible students whose funding has been paused as a result of the OSAP suspension; and

(6) Restore OSAP to its 2018 state by returning the proportion of OSAP aid to 85% grants.

Interjection.

MPP Tyler Watt: Oh, okay. My apologies, Speaker. I missed part of the motion, so here we go—take two.

Whereas in 2020, this government created the loophole to make online asynchronous learning OSAP eligible, claiming it would be temporary, only to make it permanent in 2023; and

Whereas the Ontario PC Party collected over $150,000 in donations from private career colleges since 2018; and

Whereas Career Colleges Ontario warned the government in 2023, 2024 and 2025 of suspicious activity related to OSAP and a series of private career college operators, including a recommendation to refer the issue to the OPP; and

Whereas OSAP grants to career college students nearly doubled, from about $554 million in 2023-24 to about $994 million in 2024-25, accounting for 95% of the year-over-year increase, with just seven career colleges receiving about $385 million and three Academy of Learning campuses alone receiving $219 million; and

Whereas in February 2026, this government cut OSAP grants for every college and university student, calling OSAP costs "unsustainable," when the growth in those costs came overwhelmingly from private career colleges; and

Whereas the minister delayed in-person inspections of Academy of Learning for 10 months, allowing another full year of OSAP funding to flow; and

Whereas in October 2026, this government froze OSAP at every private post-secondary institution in Ontario, including schools under no suspicion, punishing students who did nothing wrong; and

Whereas the freeze has cut off the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant and paused the Better Jobs Ontario fund; and

Whereas the minister used the taxpayer-funded KPMG audit to justify the freeze yet has told reporters it will never be made public;

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(4) Immediately release previously approved OSAP loans to eligible students at private career colleges that have been inspected and cleared;

(5) Immediately restore access to Better Jobs Ontario funding and Ontario Learn and Stay grants for eligible students whose funding has been paused as a result of the OSAP suspension; and

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(6) Restore OSAP to its 2018 state by returning the proportion of OSAP aid to 85% grants.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): MPP Watt has moved opposition day number 2.

I return to the member to start the debate.

MPP Tyler Watt: Thanks, everyone, for hanging in with me there.

Today's motion calls on the government to do five very important things. We have known about this really huge OSAP scandal now for about a month and a half. That's when the media really blew the lid off of this story and just how much fraud was going on as a result of what this government did to the legislation, allowing those loopholes to continue. And despite years of warnings, all dating back to 2023, repeated warnings in 2024, 2025, 2026, they didn't act until October 2026, where they just ripped the rug out from every single student in private career colleges, basically ruining the rest of their year, forcing them to drop out. They no longer have money to pay their rent, their groceries, pay for stuff for their kids.

This government has been flailing and improvising because of this scandal. During committee, I asked the minister why there was so much OSAP grant spending being spent to private career colleges—this was in estimates—and he said, "Well, we've turned it into loans." That was Thursday. On Monday, I held a press conference to bring light to the story by Allison Jones in the Canadian Press that really was exposing just the amount of fraud that was going on in the private sector of career colleges with those handful of bad actors. And then, this government held an emergency caucus meeting. The next day, they referred it to the OPP. They let the Auditor General know, but they didn't call on her to investigate it, and they cut off OSAP to everyone.

So, one, we are requesting, under section 17 of the Auditor General Act, that the Auditor General audit the ministry's oversight of OSAP and career colleges. This is important because we deserve transparency and accountability. Students and taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability. You don't just get to let a billion dollars fly out the door to a handful of bad actors and think that you can get away with it. The consequences of what this government has done is massive. It is directly impacting students today, and it is directly impacting the economy and future jobs. They need to fix this. They should have fixed this months ago, but they've let it get to this point, and the legislation that they're going to be putting forward does nothing for students.

So we need to have this Auditor General investigate the ministry and this minister, frankly, because they've said, "Well, we already have KPMG doing an audit"—well, KPMG is only auditing the private colleges. They're not auditing the ministry itself. The minister is not being investigated. I don't buy that they didn't know. He himself admitted today in question period that they knew in 2024—so, even if I take him at his word, two full years before they did something about it. If you were being robbed, would you wait two years to report it to the police? We need an investigation by the Auditor General that will be—the findings will be released to the public. It's what they deserve.

Two, publicly release every interim and final KPMG report on this scandal: I would like to know how widespread this is. I would like to know which colleges are those bad actors. And the minister has changed his story twice, saying, "No, we're not going to release it"; "Maybe we will release it." Well, here's the thing: I don't trust this government, Speaker. They're going to cherry-pick what they want to release. So just be transparent and release it all, because we know that if they just—a little drop here, a little drop here, I'm going to look at it with a lot of skepticism.

Three, immediately release the OSAP loans already approved for eligible students at career colleges that have been inspected and cleared: I fear that it is too late for many. I have heard countless stories through emails, through DMs, phone calls, that these students have already been forced to drop out, and they're trying so hard to find work, to take any minimum wage job they can so they can try to make ends meet. And remember, the students at these private career colleges, those that are training to become a paralegal, a lab tech, PSW, these are people who were promised an OSAP loan in the summer they enrolled, and they were abandoned by this government seven weeks into their program. And this entire time, they never got a dollar. So do you know what? They had to depend on the kindness of humans to help them put off paying rent, to maybe help them out with food banks.

A lot of these private institutions were just deferring tuition in the hopes that the government would release the OSAP. But they never got it. At the beginning of October, they were told, "No, it's not coming anymore." Seven weeks—what are they supposed to do? How are they supposed to put food on their table? I hear over and over again from this minister that he feels for them, that he hears them. Well, feelings don't put food on the table. Feelings don't pay their tuition. Feelings don't get them trained into those jobs that—we desperately need them in the workforce.

The devastation from this government's handling of OSAP is absolutely astonishing. This has to be one of the worst scandals I've seen from this government—and there are many—and that's because of the level of widespread consequence that this decision will play in Ontario. A whole year now lost—how many PSWs? Speaker, 80% of PSWs are trained at private career colleges—a whole year now of those PSWs are not going to be entering the workforce this year. We desperately need them, but they're not coming.

I want to talk about the students in the public sector as well. These students were told last spring by this government, "We've got to cut your OSAP because it's unsustainable. You, the students, made it unsustainable. You've been wasting it with your basket-weaving courses, wasting it on fancy cologne and watches"—maybe it was fancy watches and cologne; I can't remember. But we all remember what the Premier said. And then, last week, he had the audacity to tell students, "You should be grateful." When they are protesting and they are exercising their democratic right to protest and fight for what they deserve, they don't want a Premier who's basically telling them, "Be quiet. Be grateful."

Do you know why they're so mad right now? Because the Premier tried to use the unsustainability thing to justify why they cut the OSAP grants for these students at public colleges and universities, but they know now that the unsustainability came from a loophole that this government allowed. They knew it was happening for three years—billions flowing to a handful of bad actors at private colleges. That's why it was unsustainable. This government knew about it. So students are rightfully upset, and I support them getting out there and protesting and feeling that fire under them. I hope that they remember, come the next election, who was there for them—because this Premier wasn't, this minister wasn't.

The least they could do right now is to admit that it wasn't unsustainable because of the students in the public sector—those who are just trying to get an education and training to better their lives, enter the workforce in Ontario and provide a better quality of life for themselves and their families. They're not the villains here, but this government keeps trying to scapegoat them. They've moved on now. They're very focused on the bad actors. But I'd argue that this government is one of those bad actors. They let this go on for years. So we need transparency. We need accountability.

I implore Ontarians who are watching, do not be fooled by what this government is trying to sell you. They're pretending as if they just found out and they got the bad actors right away. The minister himself admitted today that he knew about it in 2024. We know for a fact that this government was warned as early as 2023. Speaker, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026—that's how long this went on. No one in the ministry was questioning, "Hey, why has this school at a mall gone from 500 students to 17,000, all of whom are applying for OSAP grants?" So many red flags—I can't believe it—and the biggest red flag of all has been this government's response.

So I hope that this government takes this opposition day motion seriously. This is a start, to start apologizing and atoning to the students and the taxpayers that you have abandoned. You wasted their money, and they deserve accountability. They deserve transparency.

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The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate?

Hon. Nolan Quinn: I rise in the House today to talk about our government's action to strengthen the integrity of OSAP and oversight of the private career college system.

OSAP was designed to support real students pursuing real educational opportunities. For decades, it has opened doors for students to gain the skills they need to build rewarding careers and become the nurses, skilled tradespeople and other professionals our communities and businesses rely on.

But over the last two years, our government's inspections and investigations have uncovered serious concerns about how OSAP is being used in the private post-second-

ary sector. What we uncovered was so egregious we brought in a third-party auditor to get to the bottom of the misuse. While the audit is still ongoing, what we have found so far left our government no choice but to pause all OSAP payments to students at private institutions until the audit is complete.

As I have said in the House, with the media and to the public many times, we referred the matter to the Ontario Provincial Police and have notified the Auditor General. But our work does not stop there. While the audit continues, we are also building a stronger OSAP system and private institution sector that would stop these bad actors in their tracks.

Earlier this afternoon, our government introduced a suite of measures to strengthen oversight and compliance in the private post-secondary sector. If this proposed legislation is passed, this would restore integrity to the sector and build a stronger private post-secondary system for students and taxpayers by bolstering OSAP integrity, ensuring stricter compliance within career colleges and holding bad actors accountable.

Based on preliminary findings from the investigations and audit, our government has identified several areas of concern, like common ownership between career colleges and immigration consultants and firms that may not be acting in the best interests of students. Concerning student recruitment practices, our investigations also identified students who could not name the institution they attended, the program they were enrolled in or the courses they were taking. We found evidence of entire courses being completed in a single day. Final exams were completed in as little as six minutes. Our government also detected high concentrations of OSAP applications submitted from the same geographic locations, in some cases even from the same IP address.

These are just a few of the examples of the coordinated, systematic abuse of our system that bad actors have been leading. It is despicable and must be stopped. That is why, with this legislation, we're building a stronger OSAP system that will cut these wrongdoers off at the source. Specifically, we would put caps on OSAP-funded enrolment at private institutions and remove OSAP eligibility from predominantly online programs where we have been seeing serious evidence of abuse.

Our government would also implement stronger approval and performance requirements for OSAP eligibility, meaning private post-secondary institutions would not be OSAP-eligible unless these enhanced standards are met.

The legislation also includes stricter student identity verification measures to make sure that only legitimate enrolled students are receiving OSAP.

We would introduce a threshold that would trigger an institutional audit when irregularities are uncovered. This would also allow for closer scrutiny when growth needs to be supported by the appropriate information and oversight.

If this legislation is passed, it would give the government further authority to hold private post-secondary institutions liable for OSAP misuse, not only the individual students, meaning anyone who attempts to abuse OSAP for personal gain will face the real consequences.

And while we're on this topic, let me be clear to those who have taken advantage of OSAP: We will pursue all avenues to ensure these wrongdoers are held to the fullest extent of the law.

Let me be very clear: One OSAP dollar being used for fraudulent means is one dollar too many. With this legislation, we're establishing the necessary guardrails to ensure every dollar goes to hard-working students who are preparing for good-paying jobs and careers.

Next, this legislation also includes measures to enhance compliance within the private institution sector, ensuring every institution is delivering the world-class education Ontario is known for.

With this bill, our government would crack down on inappropriate arrangements between career colleges and third-party organizations, such as immigration and recruitment firms, to ensure that institutions remain solely focused on providing education and training. Any third-party agreements would have to be disclosed, with fines if they fail to do so.

The Superintendent of Career Colleges would also be granted authority to impose conditions on career college program approvals at any given time, allowing for quicker interventions to protect students when necessary.

Career colleges would also be required to publish student complaint procedures on their website and on campus to make sure that students understand their rights and how to make a complaint. And we would begin publishing any enforcement actions taken against a career college on our website, so students know what standing their institution is in before they even apply.

We would also require every career college to have a physical location that students can visit and regulators can inspect, and establish the authority for the superintendent to approve ownership changes at career colleges.

Our proposed suite of measures would also require career colleges to maintain a higher level of financial security to operate. Career colleges with a higher financial risk rating would have to contribute higher premiums so that in the event of a sudden career college closure, students' investments in their education would be better protected.

These measures would give our government the power to better protect students, ensure our institutions are delivering top-quality education, and hold wrongdoers accountable for failing to meet our standards.

While we're on the topic of OSAP, I want to discuss the actions we took earlier this year to ensure the program remains sustainable for decades to come. In 2018, the Auditor General warned that the changes to OSAP introduced by the previous Liberal government were financially unsustainable. The Wynne government changed the OSAP grant-to-loan ratio, moving from 15% grants and 85% loans to 85% grants and 15% loans.

At the time, the Auditor General gave a clear warning that that approach was unsustainable and would double the cost of the program quickly, and that is exactly what has

happened. With enrolment growing across the board, especially in high-demand, high-cost programs, OSAP was becoming unsustainable, so our government took action to fix it.

By bringing the grant-to-loan ratio to a manageable 25% and 75% respectively for students at public institutions and removing grant eligibility for students at career colleges, in alignment with the federal government, we're ensuring the next generation of students can continue to access the training they need to become the teachers, doctors, engineers, nurses and more that our province needs to thrive, not just for today but for the decades to come.

Before I close, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the good students and the legitimate institutions. I hear your frustration about how the actions of these wrongdoers have impacted you and your education. Please know I'm working as quickly as possible to get good actors like yourselves back into the system and hold those wrongdoers accountable.

The legislation we introduced today is a critical step forward in flowing OSAP into the system again. The bottom line here is that Ontario is globally recognized for providing an exceptional post-secondary education, and our government is proud to support students in accessing that education to get the skills they need to meaningfully contribute to our economy.

But predatory, malicious actors took advantage of our post-secondary system for personal gain. It was intentional, it was sophisticated and it was criminal. As a result, we need to build a stronger, more resilient OSAP system and private institution sector to protect students and taxpayers. And that's exactly what this legislation does.

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If passed, this bill would enable us to better detect, prevent and respond to abuse of our OSAP system and ensure every student in Ontario receives a world-class education. That is what students deserve; that is what taxpayers expect.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate?

Ms. Peggy Sattler: This is a very timely debate that we are having today. We just heard the minister talk about the new bill on OSAP that was tabled. It was an omnibus bill with many schedules covering many different ministries, but it was good to see some of the changes that the minister had talked about earlier.

I think we are all still thinking about that stunning reporting we received from Allison Jones at the Canadian Press with yet more evidence of the government's failure to weed out OSAP fraud. And I do want to recognize those hard-working journalists who are going above and beyond to comb through the massive court documents, the FOI data that they're getting, which has really helped us understand the full extent of this government's malfeasance and incompetence when it comes to handling the OSAP file.

But with all of the details that have come to light since the government started its 147-day break from the Legislature, I'm sure that they are happy that they're only going to be sitting another 15 days because it certainly can't be easy for the Premier to have to stand up day after day and defend his Minister of Colleges and Universities when we are seeing clearly just how badly he failed at his job.

So we now know that there was a 6,000% increase over three years in the number of students receiving OSAP at one campus of the Canadian College of Business, Science, and Technology. OSAP funding went to $39 million at that campus, which is an 8,000% increase. But either the minister did not notice this, or he did not mind, because OSAP funding was approved for that school again in 2025-26. So if what was happening at the Canadian College of Business, Science, and Technology did not raise concerns for this minister, it is more clear than ever that he needs to go.

But turning to the motion before us, Speaker, we will be supporting this motion. We agree that the government needs to be held accountable and that the public deserves transparency. We need to understand how this shameful squandering of public funds was allowed to happen, why multiple warnings and red flags were ignored over several years, why hundreds of tips about suspicious activity were disregarded, why investigations were delayed or not conducted at all.

But Speaker, in my opinion, the two most important parts of this motion are about restoring OSAP grants so that young people can go to college or university without being forced to take on a mountain of debt, as well as providing immediate support to the career college students in programs where there is no suspicion of wrongdoing, who have done nothing wrong, but who are suffering as a result of their OSAP being withheld.

I'm glad the minister is here. I want to share some of the stories, which I know he is hearing regularly in his own riding as well.

Antonio is a father of two young children. He decided to switch careers after the mother of his kids died of an overdose last spring. He enrolled at triOS College to become an addiction and mental health worker, but now his family is in complete turmoil once again. He's halfway through his program, but without OSAP, he has fallen behind on rent. He doesn't know if he can continue his program and still feed his kids.

Cindy is studying social media marketing at CDI College. She chose an online program, Speaker, because her son has special learning needs, and studying online lets her be available to support him. With the freezing of her OSAP loans, she owes the college $5,000 in unpaid tuition. She doesn't know how she's going to pay this bill. She worries about the impact this will have on her credit rating and on her family's future if she doesn't pay it.

Diane did not apply for OSAP, but she is also suffering. She is a dental hygiene student at Southern Ontario Dental College. She's eight months away from graduating. With her husband, they were able to pay the $42,000 tuition bill, but because about 90% of her classmates rely on OSAP, the college has stated that they may have to close as early as December. Diane's tuition dollars will be lost, and she

worries about the future for her family with her five-year-old son.

Christy Bruinink is an instructor in the medical laboratory assistant technician program at Anderson College in London, and she has also had her life upended as a result of the freeze. She is one of 10 staff members in that program who were recently let go, after dedicating years of her life to training the next generation of health care workers. She was at Queen's Park today with four of her students, including Crystal, a mother of seven who dreamed of becoming a med lab tech to support her family, and now doesn't know what's going to happen.

Alyssa Wilson, a low-income mother of four kids—she is their sole provider. She told me, "My circumstances have become increasingly difficult. I reduced my employment from full-time to weekends so that I could attend school after my OSAP had been assessed and approved. I am now attending classes while trying to cover rent, groceries, utilities and other essential expenses without the funding I had planned around."

There are so many stories, Speaker. This minister has heard them as well, and I know he feels badly for these students, but we have not seen a plan and a time when these students know that they will get their money. These students are honest, hard-working people just trying to get ahead, but they have been treated as collateral damage by this government. They should not be punished for this government's colossal failure.

I have a few minutes left, Speaker, and I want to spend some time talking about the Liberals. I know that they do not like it when I remind them about their own record on post-secondary education, but I think it's important because it's part of the story of how we got here today.

I dug up a media release that was put out by the Canadian Federation of Students in July 2008, which reads:

"Yesterday evening, the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities announced that it has ordered the Goodwin College of Technology and Management Inc. to cease operations because the 'private career college' was offering unapproved programs and operating an unregistered campus. The announcement came nearly one month after the owner of the corporation was charged with bribery for attempting to pay off a public official in exchange for a favourable report on whether the business was meeting the provincial government's standards for operating a 'private career college'."

Speaker, let's remember that it was under the Liberal government that the private career college sector really came into its own. Between 2006 and 2012, the number of programs delivered by private career colleges in Ontario almost doubled from about 2,700 to over 5,000. It was under the Liberals in 2014 that private career colleges first became eligible for OSAP grants, which had previously only been available to students at public colleges and universities. And, given of course what we all know about the Liberals and cash-for-access, it would not be surprising if there were also Liberal Party donations from private career college owners.

When the Liberals were elected in 2003, we had already seen a gradual decline in operating grants from the government to post-secondary institutions, but instead of increasing per-student funding, we saw government funding continue to fall as tuition almost doubled. We saw huge increases in student debt, both in the number of households carrying debt and the amount of debt. We saw aggressive recruitment of international students with their high tuition fees and the introduction of sketchy public-private partnerships in the college sector.

It was successive governments that built this system, and the Conservatives have failed abysmally to manage it. And now, students across Ontario are being punished.

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There is no question, Speaker: Students in this province deserve to be able to go to college or university without being forced to take on huge debts. Career college students deserve some certainty and some immediate support from the government. And all Ontarians deserve answers as to how the government managed to fumble this file so badly.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate?

Ms. Lee Fairclough: I'm very pleased to be here to speak to this important motion today. For weeks now, we have been trying to get to the bottom of what is happening with the OSAP program. There are two big things that have happened in this program. One is the complete mismanagement of what appears to be fraud, to the tune of $385 million just last year being funnelled into private colleges, and the government ignoring all the warning signs. And secondly, in the spring, the Premier and the minister actually blamed students for misuse of OSAP funds, to justify a change to the program and the proportion that was loan versus grant, and it immediately increased the financial burden for students and their families.

Let's just talk for a minute about the mismanagement of this by the Conservative government.

We did learn that $385 million in funds had been funnelled into a handful of colleges. Under your watch, just recently, you have seen enrolment at the Canadian College of Business, Science and Technology jump from 562 to 17,000 students over three years—a 3,000% increase. Surely that might have raised some alarm bells.

It's clear that they knew there could be a problem of fraud dating back to 2023, when they received serious warnings. In 2024, Career Colleges Ontario recommended calling the police. In 2025, the federal government said that there might be potential fraud going on. The minister delayed audits and inspections, kept sending the money out the door and didn't act quickly. And now, it's 2026. As a previous leader of an organization, I don't think I would wait three years to act on warnings and multiple claims of potential fraud; why did this minister?

We also know that there are donor connections, to the tune of about $150,000, to the decisions on this program.

It is a picture of mismanagement of a program that is unacceptable and has become a regular occurrence with this government. The OSAP program scandal, the green-

belt scandal, the Skills Development Fund scandal, the hotel expense scandal—the list goes on. In this motion, we are looking for accountability.

Last week, my colleague the MPP for Nepean and I tabled a motion to have an Auditor General review of this program now, to get to the bottom of what has happened and ensure the results are available to the public. The Conservatives voted it down. The Conservatives said that they will rely on an audit by KPMG. It won't be made public. We won't know what really happened here.

Students have paid the price of this mismanagement. And this fall, as OSAP was frozen, young people and people returning to school felt it. They didn't know how they would be able to pay their tuition or their rent. It's the students who have been caught in the crossfire of this mismanagement.

On the second issue, we can't forget that the government had the audacity, actually, to blame students last spring to justify the changes to the program for loans versus grants. And why would they make that change to the program now? It is difficult for families, right now, to afford to live. People are losing their jobs, given what's happening with tariffs in the US. And the government chose this moment to make it harder for families and students to pursue their education?

Let's talk for a second about just how hard it is. We know that unemployment for young people is at its highest in decades. The portion of earnings going to rent has skyrocketed, and it's unacceptable. Families are struggling, relying on food banks at record levels.

Yes, of course, this is the moment the government picked to saddle young people and families with more financial burden. I would reverse this decision today if I could. It is not the time to be making life harder for families.

Last week, I received a stack of postcards from students and college students in my riding asking me to address this issue in the Legislature. I'm just going to share a couple of quotes from them:

"As a student at Humber College having an opportunity to have an education is a privilege my parents did not get. I want to achieve big and make them proud. However, with the changes to OSAP I'm stressed that I'll be in debt and it makes me rethink my future. Do I want to continue."

Well, that's sad, knowing how important education is to their future but also to our future economy in this province.

Secondly, another quote: "OSAP is more than a financial aid program, it is a pathway to my future and without it I cannot afford to go to school. In capital letters—PLEASE HELP US!"

This motion today is about being accountable. The job of a government is to manage taxpayer money with the rigour that people deserve from their government. This minister and the government have failed young people and families with this program. This motion today is asking for real accountability and asking the government to see the impact their mismanagement has had on so many hard-working students and families in Ontario.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate?

Mr. Lorne Coe: I rise today to speak about an issue that goes to the heart of public confidence in Ontario's post-secondary education system, and that is the protection of students, the protection of taxpayers and the protection of the Ontario Student Assistance Program.

Our government was elected on a promise to protect Ontario—to protect Ontario workers, to protect Ontario families, to protect Ontario communities—and that responsibility extends to every public dollar that supports a student to pursue their future through post-secondary education. Because when taxpayers make an investment in a student's education, they expect that investment to support learning. They expect it to support opportunity and to provide a meaningful path to the skills and careers that build Ontario's workforce. That is why the allegations of OSAP misuse at certain private post-secondary institutions are deeply concerning, and it is why our government is taking action.

As the minister just said, following two years of inspections and investigations, as well as removing grant eligibility from career college students and not renewing OSAP eligibility for six institutions due to compliance issues, our government brought in KPMG to lead a sector-wide audit into OSAP usage within private institutions. While this audit is ongoing, we have no choice but to pause all OSAP payments to students at private institutions until we have the confidence that every dollar is being used as intended.

The matter has been referred to the OPP, and the Auditor General has been informed. And earlier this afternoon, as an important step forward in protecting the OSAP system and strengthening the private institution sector, we introduced legislation that would build a stronger private post-secondary system for students and taxpayers by bolstering OSAP integrity, ensuring stricter compliance within career colleges and holding bad actors accountable.

With this legislation, we're stopping criminals who have preyed on students and taxpayers in their tracks. We're cracking down on inappropriate partnerships with recruiters and immigration firms, ensuring students are actually legitimate students and capping OSAP enrolment to keep malicious actors out of our system.

Protecting OSAP is about much more than just protecting a program; it's about protecting opportunity. Today, nearly 500,000 students across the province are training to become the jobs our province needs: lab technologists, engineers, teachers, entrepreneurs and tradespeople. Supporting their education is one of the most important investments we can make in Ontario's future workforce, which is why earlier this year we announced a historic $6.4-billion investment in our public post-secondary system, the largest investment in Ontario and Canadian history. This investment: $1.7 billion to fund more than 70,000 additional seats in in-demand post-secondary education programs at publicly assisted colleges and universities across Ontario. From STEM to health care to teaching and the trades, these seats are 70,000 more

opportunities for learners to build highly sought-after skills so the province can stand up to tariffs and economic uncertainty and we can continue to develop a world-class, highly skilled workforce to drive a more competitive economy.

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But we're not just investing in opportunities; we're also investing in access to these opportunities. The Ontario Learn and Stay Grant supports students pursuing in-demand health care careers in communities that need them. And through the grant, our government has invested more than $182 million to fund the education of over 13,000 future nurses, paramedics and medical laboratory technologists in high-need areas of the province. The grant encourages students to learn and stay locally, bringing in-demand health care workers to high-need communities across the province. Our government also recently expanded OLSG to support family doctors with a further $200-million investment to cover educational costs for more than 2,000 future family doctors.

And as part of our funding model review, we enhanced our student access guarantee, ensuring that students who need financial aid most receive support to continue accessing higher education. This is in addition to our First Nations mining scholarship, which breaks down barriers to training for in-demand careers that will unlock the Ring of Fire, and the nearly $2 billion in scholarships that our public colleges and universities provide every single year.

Our government knows that access to excellent post-secondary education can change lives, which is why we continue to invest in that opportunity, whether it be through student aid like OLSG or in creating 70,000 more in-demand seats.

But when bad actors try to take advantage of this system for personal gain, we have to take action, Speaker. That is why we have launched a sector-wide audit and have introduced legislation to protect OSAP against these malicious actors and strengthen oversight and compliance of the private post-secondary sector.

Speaker, this ultimately comes down to responsible stewardship: the stewardship of public funds, the stewardship of student opportunity and the stewardship of our post-secondary education system. Our government will continue to take action to protect all three.

We will continue to support students pursuing their educational goals. We will continue to strengthen the integrity of OSAP, and we will continue to ensure that taxpayers can have confidence that public resources are being used responsibly for their intended purpose. Because protecting students means protecting the programs they rely upon, protecting taxpayers means safeguarding public investments and protecting Ontario means ensuring that every dollar invested in post-secondary education builds the skilled workforce and prosperous future our province depends on. And that, Speaker, is exactly what our government will continue to deliver.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate?

Ms. Catherine Fife: Let's just get right down to it, okay? The scandal that is before us is unlike any other that has happened right now.

Actually, I just have to thank Martin Regg Cohn because he wrapped it up in a nice little bow here for me. The title of this is: "Why Doug Ford's OSAP Scandal Goes Beyond Private Colleges."

So this "latest scandal is" like any other "before it. Here's why.

"The burgeoning OSAP boondoggle is much more of a student aid program gone awry. When you connect the dots of this fiasco, it impacts all Ontarians and implicates the entire government—from" the Premier "on down.

"Mostly, it is malfeasance of his own making. In his misguided bid to save money, the Premier wasted taxpayer funds and wreaked havoc with higher education.

"That's a lousy return on disinvestment.

"With billions of dollars at stake annually and increasingly dodgy disbursements, OSAP ... became an irresistible target for fraudsters ... rapacious immigration consultants and reckless private colleges.

"But that's only the half of it. The government didn't just give away the store; Ford's Tories made it easy for the culprits to get away with the goods.

"First, the Premier starved the higher education system of funding after taking power eight years ago." Tuition, you will remember, was cut 10% and frozen. "In a weakened state, desperate for funds, schools were openly encouraged to shop overseas for students willing to pay higher foreign fees (often with lower marks).

"In the frenzy that followed, Ontario did what others didn't—it allowed students to take online-only courses, post-pandemic. This created fertile ground for fraud by wayward consultants who milked students and bilked the system." You knew that this was happening.

"For years, Queen's Park ignored warnings from the provincial Auditor General, Career Colleges Ontario and the federal government, not to mention hundreds of tips and complaints. Finally, a panicked government pulled the plug on all loans and grants for the private, profit-making, 'career college' system earlier this year and belatedly called in the cops." I would argue, Madam Speaker, that the OPP needs to look into more than just the career colleges in this instance.

"In some cases, these consultants," who took advantage of these students, charged "high fees to recruit customers." They cashed in "by filling in hundreds of student OSAP applications from just a few IP addresses." You knew that this was happening.

"The sledgehammer approach fails to distinguish between bad actors and innocent victims." You know that this is what you are doing right now. You are intentionally, knowingly hurting students. "It's as if the government suspended welfare payments to all needy recipients across Ontario merely because it uncovered fraud in certain segments."

It's an interesting comparative, Madam Speaker, because people on ODSP—if they make an extra $50 a month, the government comes in and claws that back. The

accountability can be there, even when it's a cruel program.

"But it gets worse." Martin Regg Cohn goes on: "All these contortions led to further distortions in the system.

"Last February, the government announced it was reducing OSAP grants from 85% to 25%"—so they doubled down on the pain of this system.

You will remember that the Premier, in all of his glory, announced that these students were taking "basket-weaving courses" and spending OSAP money on cologne, not having ever experienced the college system himself. This is a direct quote from the piece: "'Folks, it was in the red; it was just not sustainable,' the Premier proclaimed last February: 'I've heard some nightmare stories ... about kids going out there buying fancy watches and cologne' while enrolling in 'basket-weaving courses.'" There is a word for this kind of description, Madam Speaker, but it is very unparliamentary. I will not be saying it in this House.

The last word goes to Regg Cohn: "By plundering our public campuses and privileging these private, for-profit schools, the Premier has robbed Peter to pay Paul. That's not just a fail by Ford; it's a scandal that cries out for an accounting."

The people of this province deserve an accounting, they deserve transparency, and they're going to get it from the Auditor General.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate?

M^me^ Lucille Collard: I have to say that after spending this last week in my riding, I had the opportunity to meet with students at the University of Ottawa and speak also to operators of private colleges. I certainly feel that the motion that we're bringing forward this afternoon is absolutely relevant.

We are trying very hard to make the government understand that its handling of OSAP is having devastating effects on private career colleges, but most importantly on students who are paying the price. The way this government has been managing OSAP is more than just making mistakes after mistakes; it's incompetence, negligence and unfairness.

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It all started years ago, with actions like:

—collecting donations from private career colleges to the PC Party;

—ignoring suspicious activities despite being warned by Career Colleges Ontario;

—cutting OSAP grants for every public college and university student while some private career colleges were receiving insane amounts in increases in grants.

And then, after waiting and waiting and waiting some more, they went ahead and froze OSAP across the board for private colleges, punishing students who did absolutely nothing wrong.

Ce qui est le plus troublant dans toute cette affaire, c'est que le gouvernement avait non seulement la connaissance d'activités suspectes, mais il avait aussi le pouvoir de corriger la situation. Mais ce n'est pas ce qu'il a fait. Au lieu d'agir en temps et lieu, il a décidé d'attendre en espérant que personne ne remarquerait rien. Et quand le chat est sorti du sac, c'est seulement à ce moment-là qu'il a semblé se réveiller d'une torpeur qu'il s'était lui-même infligé et a mis la hache dans l'espoir de milliers d'étudiants.

L'indignation dont fait preuve le gouvernement ne trompe personne.

The government can appear outraged all it wants and repeat that it wants to catch the bad actors, but the reality that everyone sees is that the worst bad actor in this story is actually the government—a bad actor that is taking its frustration out on innocent, hard-working students who need to be supported in pursuing an education, and instead of supporting them, the government is turning its back on them.

Speaker, University of Ottawa students are worried about the kind of future they're going to have with this switch in loans and grants that will leave them with huge debts to begin their career. Willis College that's also in my riding is an institution with an over 160-year-long history of career-focused education, and right now, they're not only losing students; they're actually laying off teachers.

The mistakes the government keeps on making will be felt in our neighbourhoods. We are in the middle of an opioid and addiction crisis; our health care system is struggling with staffing shortages; families are waiting for support for their loved ones. And yet this government is clipping the wings of students who want to contribute by pursuing an education in the very fields where we need them most.

I will conclude by asking the government to do the right thing: make the KPMG report public; call in the Auditor General to provide transparency; release previously approved OSAP loans; and return the OSAP grants and loans to the previous proportion. The Liberals had it right.

I urge all members of this House to support this motion.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate?

Ms. Jennifer K. French: I am glad to be able to add my voice to this conversation, but more importantly, the voices of folks across my community. Whether they are basket weavers or whether they are nursing students, they deserve respect and they deserve a clear path, and I'm glad that we are again having the opportunity to talk about the fact that post-secondary students across this province are in a mess. They are in limbo.

The Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and—ironically—Security had to call the cops on his own ministry's mismanagement of the OSAP file. Warnings from the Auditor General: ignored. Warnings from Career Colleges Ontario who sounded the alarm years ago: ignored. Students were blamed by this minister and this Premier when, in fact, it was their own mismanagement. It wasn't watches and cologne or whatever other blame-and-shame tactic they were employing.

No one who was reaching for OSAP as a student who's trying to make their life better deserves what they're getting right now. I have told the stories of Brittany, who

was getting surprised by a sudden, unexpected $6,000 by November 2, and if she couldn't come up with that money because the OSAP has been frozen, she wasn't going to be able to start her program.

I had a good chat with Jennifer on the phone—who is not a New Democrat, PS. We had a good chat about what a mess—and she's trying to become a teacher. She's trying to become a teacher in an accredited program, accredited institution—accredited by this government. Are they lumped in with the bad actors? And when will they get their reprieve? When will the OSAP start flowing? She wants to know where all the funding has gone. I don't know.

We're reading scandal after scandal; piece by piece, we're putting this puzzle together—who's married to whom, who's donated to whom, who's in what photos with whom. This stuff is kind of typical, but still, it is very upsetting to know that this is actually what is deciding who gets the money in this province. It should be who is deserving, and it should be our institutions, especially education.

We're in a mess when we look at the economy, we look at the world around us. There was a time, Speaker, when Conservatives actually thought—and maybe it's their fathers' Conservatives; I don't know; but when Conservatives and New Democrats had something in common—that they believed in an educated workforce, that they believed in a healthy workforce. And now this PC government seems to believe in whoever they're sitting next to at a wedding, right—instead of the next generation, young people who are trying to improve their circumstances in this province.

Tamima wrote, "I rely on OSAP to pay my tuition and help manage my essential living expenses. Because of this delay, I'm now facing significant financial pressure with:

"—college tuition and school fees

"—monthly rent and household expenses

"—groceries and basic necessities

"—transportation and school-related costs

"—credit card bills that I have had to rely on while waiting for my funding.

"This situation is becoming increasingly difficult. I am concerned that the longer this delay continues, the more debt and financial hardship I will face. I have worked hard to continue my education and I do not want this funding delay to put my studies or basic living needs at risk."

She had also written that she understands "the ministry has not provided a clear timeline, but the uncertainty is extremely stressful for me." Yes, not just for Tamima, but for everyone.

Molly wrote that she had been "approved for student loans under the understanding that repayment would not be required until I had completed my education.

"I have not completed my education.

"I'm still working towards my qualification, still trying to build a future for myself and still navigating the challenges of post-secondary education.

"Yet somehow, I have now been informed that OSAP expects me to start repaying those loans in four weeks."

That's another part of this mess. This government has made a total mess of this file.

But, as she writes, "OSAP has since severed its connections with private career colleges, including the sector of education I'm enrolled in, following an investigation that, from what I understand, has been known about since 2023.

"So let me get this straight.

"An investigation has apparently been ongoing for years. Decisions are now being made that directly affect students who enrolled, attended classes and accepted financial assistance in good faith. And somehow we are the ones left scrambling to deal with the financial consequences?

"Why am I expected to pay for a situation I did not create? Why should students be financially penalized for decisions, administrative failures, or mistakes made by the institutions or the government responsible?"

Great question, Molly.

Our inboxes are filled with letters from students. I wish that the government would do right by our students and their future.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate?

Mr. Ted Hsu: Let's review the OSAP scandal timeline:

—2020: This PC government opened OSAP funding to online private career college programs;

—2023 to 2025: They received repeated warnings from independent sources about suspicious OSAP activity but didn't act;

—2024-25: OSAP grants to private career colleges nearly doubled to $994 million. Just seven colleges received $385 million. This PC government didn't stop it;

—February 2026: Instead of fixing their failures, the maximum grant share of OSAP was slashed from 85% to 25%, forcing students to take on more debt and discouraging lower-income students from post-secondary education; and

—October 2026: This PC government refers cases to the OPP and freezes OSAP across private colleges, ensnaring innocent, already enrolled students who count on OSAP money for rent, groceries and tuition while they work hard to get a better job.

There is no other conclusion, Speaker, but that this PC government broke OSAP, let millions be stolen from public funds and made students pay the price.

But the problem for young people goes much deeper than OSAP. This government has no vision for Ontario, nor for the future of young Ontarians. I was fortunate to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s, with abundant opportunities to build a good life. Previous generations were given a ladder. Today, young people are being handed a bill. There is growing unfairness between generations, connected to today's many economic and social challenges. Addressing that unfairness should be at the heart of any serious vision.

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Consider what this generation is facing. Their education was disrupted by the pandemic. Yet this government has no serious plan to address shortages of child care

workers and educational assistants. Colleges and universities are underfunded, and mental health services are stretched thin. At the very moment when young people need a world-class education to compete and succeed, we're failing to support it.

After finishing school, the first rung of the employment ladder is harder to reach. Youth unemployment remains well above its pre-pandemic norm.

High housing costs aren't just keeping young people from buying homes. They're keeping them from building independent lives.

They're entering a workforce being transformed by AI. Now, experienced workers can benefit, but young, inexperienced workers lose entry-level opportunities.

Then there's the cost of living. After decades of relatively low inflation, young people face steep increases to everyday expenses, just as they're trying to get established.

They're also inheriting high public debt, so future governments will have less financial flexibility to address their problems.

And there's an infrastructure debt. Roads, bridges, transit, hospitals, schools, water, electricity—all require billions of dollars.

Climate change adds another bill. Young people will keep paying for floods, wildfires, disaster recovery, higher insurance premiums, electricity system adaptation and infrastructure replacement.

And then there are the demographic headwinds. Fewer workers are supporting more retirees, and those retirees are living longer.

All of this is made harder by Canada's weak productivity growth. We're behind other countries in improving how much we produce for each hour of work. Compounded over decades, it has taken a toll on our standard of living.

Finally, young people are inheriting a world that is less safe. Democracy and trade are under pressure. The long period of relative peace, international co-operation and shared prosperity that my generation benefited from can no longer be taken for granted.

So when I talk about OSAP, I'm talking about much more than financial assistance. I'm talking about whether we are willing to give the next generation the opportunities that we ourselves enjoyed. Young people should not have to pay for our mistakes, our neglect and our unwillingness to invest in the future, but that's just what happened with this PC government's OSAP debacle.

I believe it's our responsibility to accept the sacrifices needed to build an Ontario where young people have equal opportunity. That is the vision that Ontario needs, and that is where this PC government is failing.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate?

Mr. Terence Kernaghan: Thank you very much, Speaker. I want to thank you for the opportunity to rise to speak today on behalf of all the amazing students in London North Centre.

The question remains: How did we get here? How did the Conservative government ignore the writing that was on the wall from the Auditor General's reports in 2021 and 2023, warnings from Career Colleges Ontario? As these Conservatives have dragged their feet, students have suffered the consequences. Any words that this government, this Conservative government, has said about students ring hollow. They're vacuous; they are utterly devoid of any sort of empathy and human care.

I want to begin by highlighting the stories of a few students in my riding. The first is Ciara, a woman who spent 15 years in the culinary industry. After 15 years, she decided that she would change her career. She enrolled in the addiction and mental health worker program at triOS College because she wanted to give back to her community. Ciara wanted to do what is so necessary and important, especially at a time when mental health and addiction services are needed now more than ever.

She describes her classmates as dedicated, diverse, passionate people who simply want to better themselves. She talked about women attending classes with babies, trying to study while managing the responsibilities of being mothers. These are people who are working hard to change their lives and contribute back to society, and now, because of Conservative funding cuts, some of them are wondering whether they will be able to continue at all.

Ciara said something I think everyone in this House needs to hear and think deeply about: "An undereducated community is an underserved community." She also described this funding freeze as "anti-education, unnecessarily punitive, and disproportionate."

I'd also like to share a story of another student in my riding, who enrolled at North American Trade Schools. He wanted to develop new skills and build better opportunities for himself across Ontario. His program started on October 5. He showed up, started his classes and did everything right. Unfortunately, he never received his OSAP funding, because this government did not do their job. Imagine the anxiety of starting a program and not knowing how you're going to pay your tuition. Imagine attending classes and having to worry about putting food on the table. This student wasn't relying on OSAP to just pay his school fees; he was relying on it for basic necessities while studying. And now he finds himself in a very difficult financial situation.

When people go back to school to learn new skills and become part of Ontario's workforce, this Conservative government has set them up to fail.

I want to also share the story of Joel in my riding, a single mother of five children. She enrolled in the dental assistant program at Anderson College in January 2025. Joel made this decision because she wanted a better future for her family. She left her job to go back to school. OSAP was her main source of income while studying. She was expecting payments in August and October, and none of these payments arrived, because the Conservatives didn't do their job. We can't train enough dental assistants and dental hygienists in this province. There are far too many job openings. And yet this government won't allow Joel to

finish her education. It's devastating for a mother of five children. She had to turn and rely on Ontario Works, and now she's not sure how she's going to complete her final term. She made sacrifices. She left her job. She had a dream. She committed herself to education because she believed it would give her family a decent life and a better future. And now she's left wondering if she can even finish what she started.

I want to share the words of an instructor from Anderson College, Christy Bruinink, who visited the House this morning. She wrote to me about losing the job she loves at Anderson College. She wrote: "Where is the fairness for private career colleges that have remained compliant, upheld educational standards, and worked tirelessly to support student success? And where is the fairness for students who have done absolutely nothing wrong?"

There is no fairness with this Conservative government. They have gone and engaged in attacking the entire system—a system that they have ignored.

When someone decides to go back to school after a decade, when someone makes an effort to start a new trade, hoping for a better life, or when a mother of five leaves her job to build a better future for her children—that is exactly the kind of people that we should be supporting and protecting, not punishing.

This government needs to do their job. It does make one ask the question: Did they start investigating these private career colleges because they stopped getting their pockets stuffed full of donations? Is that why, suddenly, they've put a pause on this OSAP? It makes one wonder how this has happened now, after years of warning.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate?

Mr. Rob Cerjanec: I'm pleased to rise today in support of this motion brought forward by my colleague the member for Nepean.

What we're seeing here with OSAP is a government that created a problem, ignored the warnings, and is now making students pay for those mistakes. Students were approved, they were enrolled, and then they were abandoned.

In 2020, this government made online learning eligible for OSAP. It was supposed to be temporary, but then it was made permanent. And now, Speaker, look at what happened: OSAP grants to private career college students nearly doubled in a single year, to almost $1 billion. Just seven private career colleges received almost $400 million, one fifth of all OSAP grant money in Ontario, and more than went to public college and university students. Three Academy of Learning campuses alone received over $200 million. Those numbers should have set off alarm bells within the ministry.

Speaker, I listened to one of my colleagues in this House talk about how this government is trying to protect students, how it's trying to protect taxpayers, and that it has a responsibility to every public dollar. But that's not what happened here. They ignored the warnings repeatedly—not just once, not twice, but at least three times.

Career Colleges Ontario, the association representing these institutions, raised concerns in 2023, 2024 and 2025. In fact, two years ago, they told the government to call in the cops. Now, to anybody at home, if somebody said to you, "Somebody's stealing from your business, you should really contact the police," wouldn't you do that right away or at least make a meaningful effort to look into it right away, to then call the police? But that didn't happen. Instead, this government waited and more taxpayer money went out the door and, quite frankly, it was lit on fire.

1440

Now, after three years of this government's mismanagement, they're telling Ontarians they're finally fixing the problem. Why did it take so long? What was the minister doing? Was the minister out of his depth? Was he told to look the other way? We still haven't received answers to some of those questions in here. Or did the government spend the last three years twiddling its thumbs while hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars were at stake? So much for protecting the taxpayer, Speaker.

What's really frustrating is that this government now wants to take credit for fixing a problem that it created. They don't even need new legislation to address many of those issues; in fact, they already had the authority to investigate and act on it then, and that didn't happen. Instead, they've blamed everybody else—they blamed students, they blamed international students, they blamed the federal government and both good and bad actors.

Let me be clear: If there were bad actors who took advantage of the system, they should be investigated—I completely agree with the government there—and, if wrongdoing is proven, prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. There's no disagreement, I think, on this side of the House about that, but it doesn't absolve the government of its responsibility. They created the rules, they ignored the warnings and now they're punishing students that did nothing wrong.

I want to talk about who's actually paying the price for this government's failures around OSAP: first, students at public colleges and universities all across our province. In February, the government announced significant changes to OSAP, reducing the maximum proportion of grants from 85% to just 25%. They told students that OSAP was becoming unsustainable, but now students attending public institutions are being forced to take on more debt because of this government's mismanagement. The cost of education should not be a barrier to someone going out and trying to chart a better path for their future. We simply cannot have people graduate with tens of thousands of dollars in debt, leaving no time to save for their futures or maybe a down payment on a home.

Then there are students attending private career colleges who were approved for OSAP, were enrolled in their programs and then abandoned—real people investing to build a better life for themselves and their families. The average age of a student at a private career college is about 34 years old. These aren't young people just starting their education; they're people looking to retrain, they're

people looking to change careers or build a better future for themselves and their families.

Just last week, I met with a woman in my constituency office who was caught up in this mess. She came to Canada not too long ago in order to help her daughter and her granddaughter who are here, and she wanted to contribute to their household. So she did what we encourage people to do: go back to school, train and get a job so that you can help contribute and take control of your own future and your family's future. Now she's wondering—because of this government's decision—if she'll be able to finish her program. Will she have to take out private loans? How will she afford her education? What will happen to her classmates? Those were the very real questions that she had for me in my office. She spoke to me about the fear and the uncertainty that she and other students are experiencing. She did everything right. She followed the rules. She was approved for funding and now this government abandoned her.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate?

MPP Robin Lennox: It's my pleasure to rise to speak about this important topic. Like so many people here, I have had so many college students reach out to me just absolutely devastated by the changes to OSAP. Particularly in Hamilton, it has impacted students at Redeemer college, at McMaster Divinity College and at so many other career colleges where people are trying to seize opportunities to improve their lives, improve their family's circumstances and seek that higher education to try to launch their careers.

I think the context is really important here, because the riding I represent in Hamilton Centre, one in five children are living in poverty, and for those children, when they think about how they're going to try to build a brighter future, many of them try to do so through educational attainment, through going to college and university, developing the skills that they need to be able to build a better life for themselves. Many of those students will need to rely on OSAP in order to actually take that opportunity.

For too many of those children, the idea of taking on loans is so prohibitive because it means that they're already going to be starting out in debt. They don't have a wealthy family to rely on to carry them through. They're going to be standing on their own two feet. It's a really frightening time for many people.

Just today we met with the College Student Alliance, and they shared with us that recent surveys show that up to 70% of their membership, of their college students, are already experiencing mental health concerns that are compounded by the stress related to their financial circumstances.

One in three of those students is struggling to pay for groceries—struggling to pay for groceries. And there are even more who have to give up so many things to be able just to make tuition or are having to give up on their educational opportunities because they can't make tuition or they can't make their living expenses. I just think that we're failing so many students right now.

When you think about the purpose of government—the purpose of government is to be able to take our tax dollars, take our public money, and then invest it in the essential services that uplift us all, that serve our communities. And instead, what we have is this: We have a government who is taking public money, and then with such disregard allowing it to be wasted—or to be pickpocketed in this case, after years and years of warning about fraud—to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars that have now been sucked away from the very people who contributed that public money. Instead, it's now having to be investigated, but we're not getting that money back, and certainly the students who have been affected are the ones who are now shouldering the burden of this Conservative government's mismanagement of money.

If it was one time, maybe we'd think, "Okay, something went wrong." But the pattern that we're seeing here is that there is so much fiscal mismanagement with this government, whether it's the Skills Development Fund, whether it's the OSAP scandal, whether it's the fact that you've blown $117 million on self-promotional ads—it's wild.

Even just today, I heard your new ad about affordability on the radio, or "protecting Ontario, because we're never raising a single tax." But while you're never raising a single tax, you are recouping that money by gutting OSAP, underfunding our health care, underfunding our education, doing everything you can to put as little money as you can into the working people of this province, and putting as much money as possible into reinforcing your own power, promoting yourselves and keeping your friends and your donors happy. This is truly inexcusable, and the fact that you went so far as to blame the very students who are now being mistreated is that much more shameful.

I hope this government actually realizes what its mandate is, which is to serve the people of Ontario, to provide the services that the people of Ontario rely on. And if you cannot do it, then the ministers responsible should resign, and I hope that they do.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate.

Mr. John Fraser: I'd say it was a pleasure to get up and talk about this. It is to talk about my colleague's motion, but in my more than 30 years of watching the provincial government, I have never seen something so big and so bad that hurts so many people as what's happened here with the career colleges.

We know the government has lost a lot of money. They gave a bunch of money to storefront colleges, strip mall, storefront colleges—hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars. Some of them went from 500 students the first year to 17,000 the next year.

1450

I don't want to recount how much money in the few minutes that I have that this government has wasted. I want to talk about the people that they've hurt, like the paramedic from Sault Ste. Marie, who lost—actually, he's not a paramedic; he wanted to be a paramedic. He lost his

job at Algoma Steel, and do you know what? He wanted to go back to school to be a paramedic. He's got kids. He got some support from the government. He started to go. The government cut off that support, and that left him unable to pay the mortgage, pay the property tax bills—he had to go to a food bank.

He's not the only one. Let me read some stories here, some emails:

"I am in a cardiology technology program at Anderson College North York. My plea to my PC MPP is futile, hence I am reaching out to you. My program is facing suspension due to the OSAP pause. This is deeply unjust and inhumane. I don't have a support system to cushion me financially, and this decision is a kick to my gut.

"I am scheduled to begin my clinical placement on February 15, placing me just weeks away from completing my credential and writing my national certification exams. I have no safety net to catch me if this program collapses. I'm standing at the absolute edge of my career, asking for someone with power to listen, to step in. Please help me save my education."

No one is stepping in. This minister, this Premier cut off thousands and thousands and thousands of people, just like the two I described—people with kids, people with bills, people who have to buy groceries, people who have to buy kids clothes. They just cut them off, all because the government was spending too much time thinking about fundraising than it was protecting the public purse.

Hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars to strip mall, storefront colleges that had increases in student enrolment of 6,000% and 8,000%—thousands and thousands of students. We don't have to go over that evidence. But what they did is, they punished honest, hard-working people—people who didn't deserve it.

And now they put forward some legislation as if they need legislation to do what they say they're going to do. If you can cut off thousands and thousands and thousands of people without a piece of legislation, how come you can't do what you're doing in the legislation? They're just trying to cover their backside. They're trying to make it like they're doing something. They are doing something: They're hurting honest, hard-working people every day. They're making them wait. Their bills can't wait. Their rent can't wait. Their groceries can't wait. But this government is saying, "Wait."

And then they have the audacity to say—I couldn't believe this last week; I can't use the word that I used to describe it when I was asked about it—"If you pass this legislation, maybe we'll get some money to these people who we've made suffer in the new year." It's too late. You're holding people hostage to a bill that you don't really need to do. You could fix it right now without the bill. You could make them whole. It's not too hard to figure out which colleges are good colleges and which colleges are bad colleges. Like I said last week, a 15-year-old with the information could do it with AI in about 15 minutes.

You know the people that you have to look out for. You know the colleges that are taking advantage of you. But don't actually hurt all these people because you messed up, because you spent too much time thinking about how much money your party was putting in the bank than people paying their bills and watching the public purse.

Speaker, I want to leave a little bit of time for my colleague. Is two minutes okay? Good.

Interjection.

Mr. John Fraser: One minute? You gave me a lot of time. He's so good; he's so generous. You're all going, "No, no; take two, take two."

Listen, you've all heard the stories. You all know. There are thousands of emails just like this. There are thousands of stories of people who were just trying to get a better job, get more skills, earn more money, make a better life for their families. That's all they were trying to do. And the government said, "Yeah, we've got your back. Here's a loan." And let's remember, we're talking about loans here, folks. We're not talking about grants; we're talking about loans—loans that people will pay back, that they have to pay back. And the government said, "Yes, we've got your back. Here's this loan. We'll sign there with you." And then seven weeks in, they said, "Sorry, we're not doing that now." But people had already made the choice. They made a decision. They quit a job. Their income got reduced. Their bills didn't go down. Groceries didn't go down. Their kids' needs didn't go down. But the government ripped the rug out from underneath them.

So there are a lot of recommendations, and I know my colleague is going to talk a little bit about those when he sums up here for this motion, but at the very least, we need to have an Auditor General's report into this fiasco—bottom line, section 17. The government can do it.

The other thing is, we have to give these people whom we have disadvantaged, whom the government has disadvantaged, some restitution. We need to have their backs. It's not just good enough for the Premier to say, "I've got your back," when he's doing this to people. So we need to do those two things. And that restitution, making people whole, making sure people can finish their courses, making sure people can pay their bills, we need to do right now. If you can take it away as quickly as you did to everybody, you can put it back to where it needs to be and should be, in the same time, as fast. You don't need a piece of legislation to do that.

So I fully support this motion, and I'm calling on the government to make good on their promise to all the students in Ontario.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate.

MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam: I'm proud to rise in this House to speak on behalf of the good people of Toronto Centre and to speak to this Liberal motion which calls out the Conservative government's scandalous mismanagement of OSAP.

But before I say another word, take another breath, it would be wrong and misleading to suggest that the problems in Ontario's private career colleges and OSAP began under the Conservative government in 2023. That would be a horrible omission of the truth and history. The

Liberals were keen to point their fingers directly at the government, but Speaker, the disastrous impact of the private career colleges cannibalizing OSAP grants and loans from publicly funded post-secondary institutions have been happening for over two decades. This happened under the McGuinty government, and this crisis is still before us today.

It is the previous Ontario Liberals that created the conditions for this crisis. During their tenure, the average university student had to work twice as long as their parents did to afford a single year of tuition. The Ontario Liberals left a broken funding formula that is what this Conservative government has set ablaze in 2018, and they continue to do so today. Students deserve a government that has their back, not a false choice between a party that raises their tuition and another one that cuts their grants.

The Ontario Liberals now say that they are shocked at the crisis in the private, for-profit career colleges that they propped up, which is now draining OSAP. This would be an ultimate flip-flop that would make Brad Bradford blush. But in 2008, the Canadian Federation of Students warned the then Liberal McGuinty government that the private career colleges "siphoned money from the public system." The CFS said to the Liberal government, "It's astonishing that our government continues to give these diploma mills legitimacy." They asked the Ontario Liberals to stop approving any new private, for-profit career colleges. The Ontario Liberals said no. In fact, the Ontario Liberals did not close that door; they pushed it wide open for the worst exploitation that we are now seeing today.

New Democrats have said it before, and it's worth saying again today: Public money belongs in public colleges and universities, not in the for-profit diploma mills. The Conservative government's OSAP disaster has been widespread, and the devastating implications are not just for the students but also for the province as a whole, and it must be addressed through a lens of accountability and transparency. But instead, what we see is this Premier who's blaming everyone, and he is pointing the fingers. He said, "These kids are so naive. They should be ... thanking the government just for investing." Speaker, it's the Premier who is naive, or worse, wilfully ignorant.

1500

Today's motion is a step in the right direction; I must say that. But, as student leader and organizer Raymond Bhushan told me, "It doesn't go far enough." Where is the ultimate accountability? OSAP has been taken advantage of, and there were many clear signs and warnings. We've heard about many of them today. In 2023, 2024, 2025, Career Colleges Ontario flagged suspicious activity involving a series of private career college operators, even going as far as recommending the matter be referred to the OPP.

Speaker, the matter was not, and I think we know why. And if you don't, I'm going to suggest this: This Conservative government received over $150,000 in campaign donations from private career colleges since 2018. This tells us who the government is listening to and who they are not. And because the Premier will not meet with the students and will not listen to the students, let me share with you just simply one story—a story that I believe represents the student voices from across Ontario, and it could be any of the thousand students that have already written in to this House.

This student lives in my riding of Toronto Centre. His name is Merone Belete, and he writes:

"My OSAP funding has been delayed because the government of Ontario has paused OSAP payments to all private career colleges without notice, including mine.

"This delay in funding has affected me in the following ways: I cannot afford groceries, transportation, textbooks or other course materials."

And now, he doesn't know what is going to happen to his future. He is asking this government to fix the problem. It's the very least that they can do.

So yes, I support the six recommendations coming out of the motion, and I would add one more: that the Minister of Colleges and Universities, who's been behind this failed scandal, must resign or be fired. And if you can't do the job, Speaker, then let us do it.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate? I recognize the member for Nepean.

MPP Tyler Watt: Thank you to my colleagues for this important debate today—

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): The member for Nickel Belt.

M^me^ France Gélinas: Je voulais vous parler du cas de l'Université de Sudbury. L'Université de Sudbury, c'est quelque chose que les francophones du Nord veulent—depuis des décennies, je vous dirais—depuis très longtemps : une université pour, par et avec les francophones.

Vous vous souvenez, madame la Présidente, que j'avais présenté un projet de loi pour l'Université de l'Ontario français. L'Université de l'Ontario français a été financée, existe à Toronto et les étudiants qui vont à l'Université de l'Ontario français ont droit aux prêts et bourses.

Maintenant, l'Université de Sudbury est devenue l'université pour, par et avec les francophones; ont commencé à offrir des programmes. C'est leur deuxième année qu'ils offrent des programmes seulement en français—une université pour, par et avec—mais l'Université de Sudbury existe depuis plus de 100 ans. Ça fait longtemps qu'ils sont là. Mais, pour des raisons techniques inexplicables et inexcusables, le gouvernement dit aux étudiants qui vont à l'Université de Sudbury qu'ils n'ont pas droit aux prêts et bourses, que l'Université de Sudbury est une université privée. C'est absolument faux. C'est absolument faux.

Le gouvernement de l'Ontario a investi 21,6 millions de dollars dans l'Université de Sudbury. Les programmes qui sont offerts, ce sont des programmes qui sont reconnus et pour lesquels les gens ont des diplômes. Ça n'a pas de bon sens. L'Université de Sudbury est désignée sous la Loi sur les services en français.

Pour être désigné sous la Loi sur les services en français comme un organisme, tu dois être un organisme public qui

reçoit des fonds du gouvernement. Donc les lois du gouvernement qui leur disent que l'Université de Sudbury est une université publique qui reçoit des fonds et qui se qualifie pour être un organisme désigné sous la Loi sur les services en français—pour des raisons inimaginables, le gouvernement décide que non, c'est une université privée puis les étudiants n'ont pas droit aux prêts et bourses.

Pendant la première année, ils se sont dit : « Bon, bien, c'est juste une erreur technique. Tu sais, là, on est passé d'une université bilingue qui offrait beaucoup de services en français et des programmes en anglais à une université seulement en français. Ça va se régler. » Mais là, c'est la deuxième année.

Vous savez ce qu'il arrive aux étudiants du Nord? L'Université de Sudbury offre des programmes pour tous les francophones. On a des francophones d'Ottawa et de partout dans le nord de l'Ontario qui viennent à Sudbury. Ça coûte de l'argent. Ces gens-là doivent payer pour le transport pour se rendre à Sudbury, doivent payer pour une place où rester, doivent payer pour leur nourriture, pour leurs livres, pour leur inscription, etc., etc., et n'ont pas droit aux prêts et bourses. C'est complètement impensable et inacceptable.

Ils travaillent avec le ministre des Collèges et Universités pour dire : « Écoutez, vous avez—en dessous du règlement 70/17, le ministre a l'autorité d'approuver les institutions postsecondaires pour que leurs étudiants et étudiantes aient droit au RAFEO. » Mais ça fait deux ans de ça et apparemment ce n'est pas une priorité pour le gouvernement. Le gouvernement n'a toujours pas eu le temps de regarder et de vérifier : « Ah, oui. C'est un organisme public à but non lucratif qui offre des diplômes universitaires depuis plus de 100 ans et que les étudiants et étudiantes devraient avoir droit aux prêts et bourses. »

Pourquoi est-ce que le ministère et le ministre ne sont pas capables de traiter les francophones comme tous les autres? On se sent traités comme des citoyens de deuxième classe. Pourquoi est-ce que, quand l'Université de l'Ontario français a ouvert à Toronto—on était tous bien contents—instantanément, les étudiants et étudiantes ont eu droit au RAFEO?

Maintenant que la même chose se passe dans le nord de l'Ontario à Sudbury et que l'Université de Sudbury rouvre ses portes—réouvre ses portes comme université pour et par les francophones—la communauté francophone est tellement, tellement heureuse; on y a travaillé tellement fort—le ministre nous dit : « Mais non, vos étudiants n'auront pas droit aux prêts et bourses. » Pour des raisons qu'on ne comprend pas, quand le règlement 70/17 pourrait faire tout changer ça instantanément, le ministre n'agit pas. Ce n'est pas acceptable. Ça doit changer—le plus tôt sera le mieux.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate? Further debate?

I recognize the member for Nepean.

MPP Tyler Watt: Thank you to everyone today for coming here and debating this really important motion.

Right now, people are suffering. Students don't know what to do next. They've had their lives turned upside down by this government, and it is time that this government actually starts to listen to them. They are depending on this government to make their lives whole again.

I fear that it's too late for a lot of those students that were in the private career colleges right now, because it's now mid-November and they've been without OSAP for months.

The point of being in government—the privilege of being here—is that it is our duty to listen to people. It is our duty to listen to our constituents and try to make their lives better. What this government has done has—there are no words to properly describe just the amount of consequences that will come out of this decision, for what they've done to OSAP and all of these students.

I implore the government to vote yes on this motion. It is the right thing to do.

They talk a big game about being transparent and accountable and respecting the taxpayer dollar—well, here is the motion for you to prove it. Vote yes on this and start to show students that you actually care about them. Your vote of no will show that you're just going to keep on disrespecting them, and they deserve better.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): MPP Watt has moved opposition day motion number 2. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? I heard a no.

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed to the motion will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Call in the members. There will be a 10-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 1510 to 1520.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): MPP Watt has moved opposition day motion 2. All those in favour of the motion will please rise one at a time and be recognized by the Clerk.

Ayes

Blais, Stephen	Hsu, Ted	Schreiner, Mike
Bourgouin, Guy	Kernaghan, Terence	Shaban, Fatima
Cerjanec, Rob	Lennox, Robin	Shamji, Adil
Collard, Lucille	Mamakwa, Sol	Smyth, Stephanie
Fairclough, Lee	McCrimmon, Karen	Stevens, Jennifer (Jennie)
Fife, Catherine	McMahon, Mary-Margaret	Tsao, Jonathan
Fraser, John	Pasma, Chandra	Watt, Tyler
French, Jennifer K.	Rakocevic, Tom	Wong-Tam, Kristyn
Gélinas, France	Sattler, Peggy	

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): All those opposed to the motion will please rise one at a time and be recognized by the Clerk.

Nays

Allsopp, Tyler	Firin, Mohamed	Pinsonneault, Steve
Anand, Deepak	Flack, Rob	Pirie, George
Babikian, Aris	Grewal, Hardeep Singh	Quinn, Nolan
Bailey, Robert	Gualtieri, Silvia	Racinsky, Joseph
Beattie, Jeff	Hamid, Zee	Rickford, Greg
Bouma, Will	Hardeman, Ernie	Rosenberg, Bill
Bresee, Ric	Harris, Mike	Sabawy, Sheref
Calandra, Paul	Holland, Kevin	Sandhu, Amarjot
Cho, Raymond Sung Joon	Jones, Trevor	Sarkaria, Prabmeet Singh
	Jordan, John	

Cho, Stan	Kanapathi, Logan	Saunderson, Brian
Ciriello, Monica	Kerzner, Michael S.	Smith, Dave
Clark, Steve	Khanjin, Andrea	Smith, David
Coe, Lorne	Kusendova-Bashta, Natalia	Smith, Graydon
Cooper, Michelle	Lahey, Susan	Smith, Laura
Crawford, Stephen	Leardi, Anthony	Thanigasalam, Vijay
Cuzzetto, Rudy	Lecce, Stephen	Thompson, Lisa M.
Darouze, George	McGregor, Graham	Tibollo, Michael A.
Denault, Billy	Pang, Billy	Triantafilopoulos, Effie J.
Dixon, Jess	Parsa, Michael	Vickers, Paul
Dowie, Andrew	Piccini, David	Williams, Charmaine A.
Downey, Doug	Pierre, Natalie	
Dunlop, Jill		

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. Trevor Day): The ayes are 26; the nays are 64.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): I declare the motion lost.

Motion negatived.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PROTECTING ONTARIO'S STREETS AND COMMUNITIES ACT, 2026
LOI DE 2026 VISANT À PROTÉGER LES RUES ET LES COLLECTIVITÉS DE L'ONTARIO

Resuming the debate adjourned on November 5, 2026, on the motion for third reading of the following bill:

Bill 119, An Act to enact two new Acts and to amend various other Acts / Projet de loi 119, Loi édictant deux nouvelles lois et modifiant diverses autres lois.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): I'm going to give the members a minute or so to leave the chamber quickly and quietly. Thank you.

When we last debated this bill, the member from Mississauga East–Cooksville had the floor. I recognize the member for Mississauga East–Cooksville.

MPP Silvia Gualtieri: Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege to speak on this very important bill, Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act. I speak today from my experience in touring the province and hearing from law enforcement officers in my previous role as parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General Michael Kerzner and from my role as Mississauga's MPP for the wonderful riding of Mississauga East–Cooksville.

As an MPP, my office conducted two community town halls in less than a year, and I can tell you that this bill speaks to the concerns I heard residents voice at those town halls. Speaker, community safety is not achieved by a single piece of legislation. It is the result of choices. It is the result of investments. It is the result of actions taken by a government that understands that community safety is not something you just talk about; it is something you build year by year, decision by decision, legislation by legislation. That is exactly why, once again, under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is taking decisive action to protect Ontario, to keep communities safe and to hold the bad guys accountable.

So what does this bill do? If you haven't been following, then let me tell you one more time that this package strengthens public safety by equipping law enforcement, prosecutors and regulators with strong tools to crack down on illegal activity. It strengthens protections for victims of crime, human trafficking and harassment while improving enforcement against illegal drugs, organized retail crime and other threats to community safety. It also reinforces oversight and accountability across policing, private security and other regulated sectors, strengthening public confidence. Speaker, throughout, we are going after Ontario's most wanted while protecting Ontario's most vulnerable by making sure supports remain available for victims and their families.

We all know that retail theft is a growing menace. We've all seen the videos of commercial break-ins, of suspects crashing stolen vehicles through the storefronts to gain access to buildings or violently smashing store windows and doors with hammers and grabbing an unknown quantity of items. Wherever it happens, it leaves a community's faith in government and law enforcement shaken.

The very capable Joy Edwards, superintendent of 12 Division administration, informed my office in Mississauga–East Cooksville how Peel police are fighting back against these criminals, and they're winning. While retail theft is a prevalent crime, it saw a decrease in Mississauga–East Cooksville of roughly 10%, with 1,121 thefts in 2024 and 1,002 in 2025. Peel police, one of the best police forces in the country, is out combatting this organized crime that endangers staff and customers; it endangers our community.

In September 2025, Peel police launched a special enforcement team in Mississauga as a pilot project to deal with break-ins and auto theft. In May this year, once they realized that a more coordinated response was needed to address organized retail crime, they expanded the team's mandate. It is now known as the break and enter, auto and retail—or BEAR—unit. This year alone, Peel Regional Police have made 611 arrests and laid 1,276 charges in connection with retail theft. I was also pleased to see the results of Peel Regional Police's Project Filcher, a targeted investigation addressing repeat retail theft across Brampton and Mississauga that led to 65 arrests and the recovery of over $250,000 in stolen merchandise.

But commending our officers is not enough. We need to back our brave officers in this battle, and they need to know that this government is exploring and legislating tools to crack down on organized retail theft, which is a $9.1-billion issue province wide. I am pleased that we are moving forward with a dedicated prosecution team for organized retail theft, building on the success of similar specialized teams already established. The Ministry of the Attorney General will create this team to prioritize the most serious cases and provide early investigative advice to the police. We will also continue to urge the federal government to amend the Criminal Code to recognize assaults against security guards as an aggravating factor at sentencing.

1530

Further, Ontario is exploring automated licence plate recognition technology on major provincial highways to help combat retail theft. The government will also examine options to address the costly misuse of manual fire alarm pull stations, which are often used as a distraction during organized retail thefts.

Let me reiterate why this is important. Organized retail crime continues to fuel violent criminal activity in our communities, including drug trafficking and robberies, extending beyond simply stolen merchandise. These are not isolated crimes. This is a chain reaction that we need to stop.

This is exactly the message we walked away with when I joined Premier Doug Ford and Solicitor General Michael Kerzner at Queen's Park for a critical round table on retail theft earlier this year. We promised to strengthen enforcement, back our police services and ensure repeat offenders are held accountable to keep our communities safe. We are doing just that with this bill.

Speaker, let me move to another important community safety issue: human trafficking. Human trafficking remains one of the most disturbing and heartbreaking crimes happening in our province, and what makes it even more devastating is this: The average age of those trafficked into the sex trade is 13 years old—13, Speaker. These are children—vulnerable, targeted and manipulated. Some 70% of victims identified by the police are under the age of 25. Behind every statistic is a young person whose trust was broken, whose safety was stolen and whose future was put at risk. That is why today matters. That is why this bill matters.

In February of this year, I was at the Provincial Human Trafficking Symposium held in Mississauga. We heard from Victim Services of Peel and Peel Regional Police, but most importantly, we heard from the survivors, the front-line workers, social service agencies and policy leaders gathered in that room. In one voice, everyone made a commitment: This is a fight we refuse to lose.

This bill, I am happy to note, aligns with Ontario's renewed anti-human trafficking strategy for 2025 to 2030, which received a $345-million boost to prevent exploitation, protect victims, intervene early and hold offenders accountable. Let me reiterate that we have already strengthened legislation, including the Accommodation Sector Registration of Guests Act, 2021, which gives police stronger tools to investigate trafficking in hotels and short-term rentals. And now this bill would help survivors of human trafficking to rebuild their lives.

Speaker, human trafficking victims are manipulated and exploited and often left carrying financial burdens created by the very people who abused them. Justice for them also means they should not spend years paying the price of crimes committed against them. This is why Bill 119 would provide up to $50,000 in debt relief for victims of human trafficking who were forced or coerced into debt by their traffickers. Our government has taken a strong stand against traffickers, and this bill proves that we are equally committed to supporting survivors.

The bill also strengthens Christopher's Law to protect the most vulnerable people in our society, our very own children. When someone who poses a serious risk to public safety is the subject of a public notification, that information should be accessible, consistent and easy to find. Too often, parents do not know where to look for these notices. All of us have a right to know about serious public safety risks in our communities. Bill 119 would create a centralized offender notification website so that information is easy to access, easy to understand and available in one reliable place. Ontarians can stay informed and take appropriate precautions to protect themselves and their families.

This government believes that clean and easily accessible information keeps communities safe. And that is what Bill 119 delivers.

So, today, I want to take this opportunity to—

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Mr. Terence Kernaghan: I'd like to thank the member for their presentation on Bill 119 and some of the discussion that we were having about holding offenders accountable.

However, I will note that in Bill 119—this government had the opportunity to bring forward legislation that the official opposition NDP had introduced in the form of Lydia's Law, which would have improved tracking and reduced criminal case delays. It would have made sure that they're tracking criminal case charges that are being withdrawn. It would ensure that people who had the courage and the determination and the will to face someone who had allegedly attacked them in court would actually receive justice. And yet this government voted against women who had the courage and the desire to see justice be upheld.

How is it possible that the government talks about holding criminals accountable and voted against Lydia's Law?

MPP Silvia Gualtieri: Speaker, let me tell you, we have a Solicitor General who is a true champion of our police and our front-line workers. I have had the honour of working closely with him, as his PA, and learning from him, and whether we're standing with police officers, firefighters or correctional staff, one thing always stands out: He listens, he genuinely cares, and he never forgets who he's fighting for. I've learned so much from our minister. Whether it's a local police event, a police graduation or an open house at a fire station, Minister Kerzner shows up, not for headlines, but for people; not just in front of the cameras, but behind the scenes. He's always there listening and checking in. Truly, he cares.

I remember my trip to a town several hours from Queen's Park this summer to represent—

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Hon. Michael S. Kerzner: Madam Speaker, I have to tell you, there is no finer example of a person who put their name on a ballot than the member from Mississauga East–

Cooksville, because she loves her province and she wants to make sure it's kept safe.

I ask her a simple question: When we have come of age, as a government, of being unapologetic and proud and someone that will stand with every Ontarian to make sure they know there's somebody fighting for them, why is it so important now, more than ever, that we come forward with Bill 119 as a reaffirmation of our public safety being a priority in our province?

MPP Silvia Gualtieri: Thank you, Minister. And I'd like to say, everything that we did together as a ministry was a wonderful opportunity for me to see how much our front-line workers are important to us.

Earlier this year, I was at a badging ceremony of 88 new officers in Peel Regional Police, the recruits of 2504. Speaker, Peel is one of the most diverse regions in Canada, and that class reflected the richness of Peel. Its diversity was not only inspiring, but it was also essential; it is a policing advantage. These young men and women who were born in countries across the world, from Canada, Jamaica, Scotland to Yemen, India to Armenia, and speaking so many languages—they span every corner of the globe. They presented a powerful example of what makes our region and our province strong.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Mrs. Jennifer (Jennie) Stevens: Thank you to the member for her kind remarks on Bill 119.

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Within Bill 119—I was speaking with the Salvation Army today; they came to my office, and we had a really good talk. They actually attended the committee on Bill 119. But they want to know that—regulatory implementation of Bill 119 may unintentionally exclude survivors. The financial impact of trafficking often persists long after exploitation ends, including trafficking-related debt, damaged credit cards, coerced financial obligations. They're worried that unless regulations are put in place, regulations that reflect these realities—

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Mrs. Jennifer (Jennie) Stevens: I'm just wondering, will the member work with the minister in making sure that there's guardrails there for survivors to be able to remain and make sure that they can recover from human trafficking, as well as look at labour trafficking that's on the rise?

MPP Silvia Gualtieri: Thank you for that question. I always enjoy your questions and interaction. Thank you so much.

But Speaker, I just want to tell you and the rest of the House how I felt during that ceremony. I thought to myself, when our police services reflect the people they serve, trust grows stronger, understanding deepens, communities feel seen and heard. I also thought about the families in that room. Those badges belong to them as well. I felt as if those badges also belong to us as a government in the Legislature. They are the foundation, the wind beneath the wings of every police recruit who chooses service over self.

Policing is not easy. There are long shifts, difficult calls, moments that test you, but there are also moments when you help someone on the worst day of their life, when your presence becomes calm, when your compassion restores dignity, when your courage protects a family—

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

MPP Stephanie Smyth: I was wanting to ask the member about how—this bill is all about protecting those victims of crime. I want to ask you about the real impact on those who are facing home invasions daily. In fact, in my neighbourhood, just the other night there was another home invasion—two in the last two weeks. What exactly is this bill going to do to protect them? Because they're living in real fear.

MPP Silvia Gualtieri: Thank you for that question. I'd just like to say, I understand where you're coming from. I live in an area where you wouldn't imagine that you would have a home invasion, but they happen. And let me tell you, when I leave my home, I put on the alarm, and I do it regularly because I feel that that will protect me. But do you know what I really feel protects me? The fact that I know that the Peel Regional Police will be there if there's something happening in my neighbourhood.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Hon. David Piccini: What an impassioned speech. I have got a question for the people of Cobourg, for the moms and dads sick and tired of walking on the streets with drug paraphernalia everywhere you look, Speaker. We've got to keep our streets safe, and this government has stepped up with increased action. I'd ask the member to explain the drug enforcement measures in this bill that will help ensure seniors, families are safer on the streets of Cobourg, Ontario—a special shout-out to Rich Ferguson, who we're going to see tomorrow, and the men and women of the Cobourg Police Services, who work hard every day to keep our streets safe.

MPP Silvia Gualtieri: Thank you for that question. Thank you, Minister. I'm very happy to work with you now after I had a wonderful relationship with our minister Mr. Kerzner, Solicitor General.

I would like to say that as I walked along with Minister Kerzner, we had a very productive working relationship, and I appreciated the opportunity to work together on issues that matter so much, on the safety of families of Ontario. I appreciate his professionalism and dedication to the ministry team. We worked very collaboratively, and it was clear that everyone shared the same objectives of making Ontario safer. I'm particularly proud of the work being done by the Peel Regional Police, having had the opportunity to work with them and hear directly about their priorities. And yes, their priorities are to keep our streets safe.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): I recognize the member for St. Catharines.

Mrs. Jennifer (Jennie) Stevens: I'm going to try this again one more time. Ontario has an opportunity right now to strengthen its response to human trafficking. As well, it has a chance to be able to effectively address this human trafficking and survivors, and actually labour trafficking as well.

Right now, with this bill, this government, as it advances it forward—Bill 119—I want to know, will this government put up safe rails and guardrails to make sure that there are things in place after the—

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): We're out of time.

Further debate?

Mr. Sol Mamakwa: It's always an honour to be able to speak on behalf of the people in Kiiwetinoong, and especially to be able to speak on Bill 119, the Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026.

I want to first say thank you to my colleagues MPP Stevens and MPP Wong-Tam for their work in leading the official opposition's response to Bill 119.

But before I start, I want for the House to indulge me to speak about, but also honour, Jerry Moskotaywenene—Mosquito—who passed away last month on October 17.

I've spoken about Jerry here at the Legislature several times before today. Jerry worked as an OPP officer for most of his career, serving northern First Nations. But one of the things that happened is, his experiences being an OPP officer took a toll on his mental health, and he spoke about changes that are needed in First Nations policing.

Two years ago, I did go to Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug—KI—to hear his story, and we had shared it in a video. Jerry at that time took me out on the land as well. We spoke about how important it is to stay connected to the land and to the ways of life.

I want to read a text that Jerry sent me just a few months ago, in the summertime. It was actually July 23, 2026. These are Jerry's words:

"For most of my life, I stayed silent.

"I lived through trauma as a child, and then I spent 31 years as an Ontario Provincial Police officer responding to some of the worst days in other people's lives. I believed that my job was to keep going, no matter what I was carrying inside.

"Today, I am saying something I never thought I would say out loud:

"I have PTSD because of both my childhood and my policing career.

"For years, many of us were taught to be strong, to keep our emotions to ourselves, and to never admit we were struggling. That culture helped us do difficult work, but it also kept many of us from asking for help when we needed it.

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"I don't know how many of my former teammates carry the same invisible wounds. Some have spoken publicly, while others may still suffer in silence. I cannot speak for them. I can only speak for myself.

"I am no longer ashamed to say that trauma changed me. Acknowledging the truth does not erase my years of service. It does not make me less of a police officer. It simply means I am being honest about the cost of serving others while carrying wounds of my own.

"If sharing my story helps even one person realize they are not alone, then breaking my silence would have been worth it."

Those are the texts that I had received a few months ago. At this time, I just want to extend my condolences to Jerry's family, his colleagues, but also my thoughts are with everyone who knew and loved Jerry. Rest in peace.

Now I'll turn to address Bill 119, which is presented as a law-and-order bill. It does not take the necessary steps to make the kind of impact we need to see. Many people in Kiiwetinoong, but also all of Ontario, are concerned about safety everywhere. There are so many issues. In the north, we're seeing more and more gang-related violence caused by illegal flow of drugs into the communities, even the fly-in communities.

I know there was a show by CBC's The Fifth Estate on how people were grabbed from southern Ontario—very young, Black young men, young boys, taken up north to traffic across Canada and the fly-in First Nations. But we also know that in First Nations, the crisis that we see today is fuelled by the continued intergenerational impacts of the Indian residential school system, but also the colonial policies that are in place.

I know that many First Nations, not just in Kiiwetinoong but across Ontario, have declared states of emergency related to public safety. But this bill does not take action to improve public safety and law enforcement in northern First Nations.

I know there's also a crisis in human trafficking in the north. Speaker, I know that from 2014 to 2024, Thunder Bay had the highest average annual rates of reported human trafficking incidents in the country, and First Nations women face the high rates of human trafficking.

Schedule 9 of Bill 119 takes supportable steps when it comes to addressing human trafficking in Ontario and protecting survivors of human trafficking. I'm glad, and it's so good to see that this government is finally acting on issues of coerced debt for human trafficking survivors.

I know that while this is important, it is nowhere near the type of action we need to see to address human trafficking in Ontario or to protect survivors. It's good to see the government take some steps to support people with restraining orders in other jurisdictions, many of whom are survivors of intimate partner violence.

At the same time, Speaker, I'm disappointed to see what was not included in the bill. For example, we do not see any measures in this bill to address the rise in targeted extortions that some communities have been facing. I know that my colleague the member for Waterloo has put forward Lydia's Law multiple times. This government had the opportunity to pass this law and make strong changes to support survivors by requiring police to inform sexual assault complainants 16 and older about the independent legal advice program and eliminating time limits on programs that provide funding for mental health supports for people who allege they have been the subject of sexual

abuse by a person regulated by the regulatory body, among other measures.

When it comes to victim services, there is more this government can do to support victims. I know the government continues to fund victim services through grants. When you continue to do this, this puts organizations in precarious positions and means that staff spend a lot of time working on grant applications when they could be providing more support and providing more help to the survivors. Speaker, I call on this government to create a sustained annual funding program so that staff can focus their time and energy on supporting survivors.

I know that, again, this bill is also missing measures to improve the compensation system for victims. Right now, Ontario's Victim Quick Response Program has a tight deadline of six months maximum to apply, and its availability is very, very limited. Right now, the program is the last resort; victims are only eligible if there is no public program they can access. But as we all know, many programs have long wait-lists for services, which leaves victims without the supports that they need. The government should extend timelines to apply for the Victim Quick Response Program and expand the availability.

One of the things, too, is that this bill does not make changes to how effective restraining orders are for protecting survivors. Right now, it is not clear that restraining orders protect victims at all. Even when they are granted, non-compliance is very common, and there isn't an effective system for enforcing restraining orders. It is time for this government to take action. It is time for this government to improve how restraining orders are implemented and enforced.

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I also want to address the backlog in our courts. We know that this is one of the biggest barriers to justice in Ontario. Court backlogs have led to charges being dropped in countless cases, including cases of intimate partner violence. I know that in the north, we have fly-in courts. It could be on a quarterly basis, it could be a semi-annual basis where you actually fly in the court, and a lot of people get remanded because of access to legal counsel and limited access to the courts.

Speaker, I know that I try to visit the Thunder Bay district jail and also the Kenora district jail on an annual basis, sometimes twice a year. The one in Kenora is always over capacity. The correctional workers are short-staffed. Sometimes they'll fly people from Toronto to go work in Kenora. But the issue sometimes is the housing. They can't recruit. The recruitment and retention of correctional workers is an issue. Do you know why? It's because of the housing issues that we face all across Ontario.

And I think when I go to the jail—probably in the Kenora jail especially—it's probably about 99% of the people that I see in jail that are people who look like me. And sometimes I'm surprised by the people that I know in there. It's important that the court system, the justice system—whether it's policing, whether it's the court system, whether it's the corrections—works for the people that are in there.

I know that when we talk about this bill, it's almost framed as a law-and-order omnibus bill, made up of very different parts of a whole system. That doesn't make sense.

Also, I just want to talk about schedule 12. Schedule 12 is a good measure that will make more courtrooms available. It has the potential to speed up and hopefully help clear some of the backlog, but we don't see it, and the impact will probably be a drop in the bucket of a bigger issue. The courts are part of the justice system, policing is part of the justice system, but also corrections are part of that system.

But there is more to this bill to talk about. There's just not enough time to try and explain everything, but for years, I think it's important to note that this government has been leaving victims behind, and Bill 119 does not change that. It does not put any new funding toward the supports survivors actually need. Organizations who provide important services to victims are still relying on grants instead of sustainable funding. There is so much more to do to make the communities safer all over Ontario.

I know that I'm also committed to continuously speaking out against the challenges facing Ontario's justice system and demanding better from this government, not just for Kiiwetinoong but for the people in this province. Myself and my colleagues in the official opposition will continue to push to clear court backlogs, to properly resource bail supervision and to make sure victims of crimes are compensated in the right way. Again, we will continue advocating for more investment in justice, mental health and social supports to bring more safety to communities.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Ms. Laura Smith: I want to thank the member opposite for his statement. I'm respectfully going to ask, through you, Speaker—victims of human trafficking are often subjected to unimaginable abuse. I used to work under the child protection act, and I've seen manipulation and exploitation. In many cases, traffickers leave their victims burdened with debts, and these were incurred through coercion and criminal exploitation. These financial burdens can make it more difficult for survivors to find housing, secure employment and rebuild their lives after escaping trafficking. Regardless of political affiliation, I believe everyone in this house wants to see victims supported, including the member opposite, rather than punished. Bill 119 would help address these debts and support recovery.

Through you, Speaker: Does the member opposite agree that survivors of human trafficking should not be forced to carry debts that arose from their exploitation?

Mr. Sol Mamakwa: When we talk about victim services, when we talk about victim compensation, we need to be able to ensure that there's increased victim services funding through grants rather than sustained annual funding, meaning that no staff should be able to spend time filling out grant applications instead of helping survivors.

And I know it's important that with human trafficking—I spoke about Thunder Bay that over 2014 to 2024 had the highest rate of human trafficking in northwestern Ontario—not just northwestern Ontario but all across Canada. We need to make those improvements to make sure that they have access to these services.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

MPP Catherine McKenney: Thank you to my colleague from Kiiwetinoong for that. I very much appreciated your analysis around this bill.

There's no doubt that people feel less safe in our communities today than they did eight years ago, and I wonder if you see anything in this bill that will change that. We've got courts backlogged; we don't have proper bail supervision; we've got an opioid crisis that is raging across the province, but without the resources really required to address those issues. I wonder if you see anything in this bill that would address those issues, that would actually make everyone in this province feel safer?

Mr. Sol Mamakwa: Meegwetch to the member for the question. I know that specifically in Kiiwetinoong there's certainly an issue with trafficking, but also drug addictions and gang-related activities that are happening on-reserve. It is very important that we understand that these people that are coming to sell drugs on-reserve are coming from southern Ontario, and they are very young people as well. It has an impact. They're being trafficked in that way to come on-reserve, take over a house, and sell drugs to the people.

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I think that those are the issues, and I don't see—

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Response?

Mr. Sol Mamakwa: —within this bill to be able to try to address the issue of drug trafficking, make sure that communities are safe.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): I recognize the member for Toronto–St. Paul's.

MPP Stephanie Smyth: The member was talking about the crisis of human trafficking in the north and how, in fact, First Nations women face the highest rates of human trafficking.

You did mention that there are some supportable steps in this bill that the government has presented, but you also said that it's providing trafficking survivors nowhere near the type of action that is needed to really address human trafficking, and I'm wondering if you could be more specific about just what the government missed when it comes to that.

Mr. Sol Mamakwa: I know, back in 2014 to 2024, Thunder Bay had the highest average annual rates of reported human trafficking incidents in the country.

I spoke earlier on about, again, taking some steps to support people with restraining orders in other jurisdictions, many of whom are survivors of intimate partner violence. I think that's one of the things that we do not see within the bill. We do not see any measures in this bill to address the rise in targeted extortions which some communities have been facing.

Meegwetch for the question.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Hon. Michael S. Kerzner: Bill 119 is not one and done. It is part of our government's commitment, morning, noon and night, to be progressive, to work across the aisle, to meet with our stakeholders.

Last week, I was in Thunder Bay and met with the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service. We came up with an important announcement, to come forward to help fund the border control initiative, to do exactly what the member opposite said needs to be done: to reduce the amount of drugs coming into our First Nations communities.

I welcome the member to join us as we work in this Parliament to strengthen our public safety and to keep all of Ontario, and especially First Nations communities, safe.

Mr. Sol Mamakwa: Meegwetch to the Solicitor General for the question. I'm quite aware that he was in Thunder Bay, as well, to ensure that the borders of this pilot that's going to happen—I think it's about five or six First Nations—to be able to provide some border control for some of the things that are coming into the communities. As of now, as you know, you cannot really search—the mechanisms to search, when you go to Thunder Bay airport, Toronto airport—the security that's required there. When you go to northern First Nations, you cannot do that. We don't have the technology and we don't have the equipment to be able to do that. So I think, again, that's in the right step, but I think, then again, that it's only—in Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory, there are 49 First Nations, and I think to start with five or six is just a start, but I think we need to be able to get more resources to be able for me to support that.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Mrs. Jennifer (Jennie) Stevens: To my good friend from Kiiwetinoong, first of all, I want to say to you—and I hope that you can pass the message on from the official opposition—our thoughts and prayers go to Jerry's family. It's unfortunate that Jerry took his life by suicide. Our thoughts and prayers are with him. So please pass that on from the official opposition and, I'm sure, everyone in this House.

One and done—let's talk about that.

Well, Clare's Law was brought to this floor, and it was voted down. I think Clare's Law would have made it very, very safe within—in this House and for women across Ontario.

Lydia's Law—voted down. I think that that would have made a big difference for individuals in Ontario.

Now, my question to you is—and it's really shocking and alarming; you brought it up three times, that the highest rise of human trafficking is in Thunder Bay. I want to know: When the minister was in Thunder Bay, was that addressed, and did you have a conversation? Were you able to discuss it?

Mr. Sol Mamakwa: Meegwetch to the member for the question regarding Lydia's Law.

I know, even though it was an Ontario NDP bill, which is Lydia's Law, the government voted down—which would have improved the tracking, and also the acting to reduce criminal case delays. I think that's one of the problems that we have in this place, is sometimes, no matter which party that we represent, we don't agree on how we get there.

I think, based on the question of if the Solicitor General was able to deal with the trafficking issue in Thunder Bay while he was there—I believe not. I think he was there for a different matter, related to the border control of First Nations, making sure that the drugs are not coming into First Nation communities.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate?

Mr. Stephen Blais: Good afternoon, everyone. As always, it's a pleasure to rise in this place on behalf of the residents of Orléans.

This afternoon's debate gives us the opportunity to look more closely at Bill 119 and consider how it could, if passed, affect the people and communities we represent.

Bill 119, the Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act—now, Madam Speaker, with a title like that, there is certainly a lot for this government to live up to. There's a lot packed into this legislation. There are some 16 schedules that cover everything from policing to adoption to human trafficking and vulnerable sector checks.

Frankly, some of the issues in this bill deserve a debate all on their own. We, of course, would normally have had time to do that. But in order to have time to do that, in order to have time to give these issues a fulsome debate, the government needed not to take 146 days away from the Legislature over the course of the summer and the fall.

Mr. Speaker, the government has increasingly relied on omnibus legislation such as this to bring forward a wide range of policy changes all at once. We've seen it time and time again: legislation covering a long list and a wide array of policy ideas, often with very little connection one to the next.

In many cases, the government has introduced lengthy bills such as this on one day and forced debate on the next. This approach leaves members of the Legislature very little time to review legislation, to understand potential consequences, to consult with stakeholders and hear from people that we represent. That's not how legislation, as the Solicitor General said, intended to reach across the floor should be written and presented to the people's Legislature. It's a sign of a government that's trying to slip things through. I think time and again we see that the government is caught doing just that.

Mr. Speaker, there's another point worth raising when we consider the government's handling of this specific bill, and that's the fact that we spoke to second reading of this bill on June 1. The very next day, the government decided to adjourn the Legislature. I believe it was a week early this time that they adjourned the Legislature. Of course, they kept us out for the summer for 146 days. I don't believe they travelled the bill over the summer. I stand to be corrected on that, but I don't believe they travelled the bill for the summer, the 146 days we were away from this place. So we're now debating it, obviously, nearly six months after it was introduced.

The government has spoken at length about its priorities and why they need to move this legislation forward. But if this is truly about moving their priorities forward, if it was truly so urgent, they would have stayed in the spring and early summer and finished debating this when they first adjourned it. Instead, as I've said, they adjourned the Legislature for nearly five months.

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As elected representatives, we have an important responsibility not only to participate in these debates but to come prepared to understand the legislation before us and to speak for the people who have sent us here. When the government puts 16 different schedules into one bill, that makes it very challenging to have a compelling conversation in what is 20 minutes, so I'm going to pick a couple of small sections of the bill to talk about, and hopefully we can get some issues on the table. There are measures in the bill that I believe address legitimate concerns and problems facing our province, and I want to spend my time discussing them, as I said.

I'll begin with schedule 9 and the financial consequences of human trafficking. This is an issue that my friend and colleague from Ottawa–Vanier has done a great deal of work on, and I want to take the time to acknowledge her and her work on this. In 2023, she introduced Bill 41, the Protection from Coerced Debts Incurred in relation to Human Trafficking Act. It's legislation that I supported at the time because it addressed a problem that had not received enough attention.

Now, we often talk about human trafficking in terms of exploitation, abuse and, of course, the loss of personal freedom, but there is also the financial side to human trafficking that can be just as difficult for survivors to overcome. Traffickers don't just take control of where someone goes but also who they spend time with and what they can do. They often take control of their finances, using personal information to leave them in debt—a debt that they never agreed to take on for spending they presumably never benefited from. A victim might discover that several credit cards have been opened without their knowledge; they might find out they have loans that have their name on them, and now they will be facing thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars in debt. When they leave that situation, they're often the ones left holding the bag.

Mr. Speaker, having access to good credit and a clean financial record can make all the difference in a person's life as they're trying to rebuild and move forward. Buying a house, financing a vehicle, qualifying for a loan, qualifying for things like OSAP so they can increase their

education and better their lives—all of this relies heavily on having a clean financial record and good credit history. These challenges have real consequences for survivors of human trafficking. They make it harder to find housing, to access credit and, potentially, even to go to school.

Now, I remember discussing this issue during the debate on Bill 41 and sharing the experience of a survivor named Kelly. Kelly escaped a terrible trafficking situation and found out that her trafficker had racked up huge debt in her name. Her personal credit was damaged, leaving her to deal with financial problems that she herself had never created. What stood out about Kelly's experience is that even after she escaped her trafficker, she was still left dealing with the financial consequences of what had happened to her. She had already taken the difficult step to get out, to leave. She was trying to regain control of her life, but instead of being able to concentrate on her future, she had to spend time dealing with the financial damage that was left behind.

That is a difficult position for anyone to find themselves in, of course, especially after they have already gone through the trauma of being trafficked, and it raises a fundamental question: Why should a survivor have to spend years fixing their credit because the trafficker used their identity to commit financial abuse? I'm sure we all agree—I hope that we would all agree—that the person responsible for the debt should be the person who is held accountable for it and that the survivor should not be left paying that price. At its core, that is what schedule 9 is about: giving survivors a fair opportunity to rebuild their financial lives. I strongly support that objective.

Bill 119 establishes a process to help survivors dispute coerced debts and have them removed from their records. That is an important distinction. We're not talking about someone who wants to avoid a financial obligation for debt they incurred for spending that they presumably benefited from. They are, of course, trying to get a clean slate from their trafficker who abused them in many ways, including financially.

The next measure I want to speak about is schedule 4, which would allow restraining orders issued elsewhere in Canada to be enforced here in Ontario. Ontario is home to people from every corner of Canada. We are, in fact, at the very heart of the country. People move here for work, to be closer to loved ones, to go to school or to simply start a new chapter of their lives. But for someone who has experienced domestic violence, harassment or threats, moving to another province may be about something far more important; it may be about their personal safety.

Obtaining a restraining order, unfortunately, is not always very simple. It can take time, require significant effort and be an important step in protecting someone from further harm. When someone moves to Ontario, Madam Speaker, they should be able to count on the same legal protections they had achieved in their originating province.

Consider a parent who leaves another province with their children to get away from an abusive partner. They may be coming to Ontario to live near relatives who can provide support and help them get a fresh start. They've already gone through the process of obtaining a restraining order; they should not have to start navigating that process again simply because they have moved and tried to get away. The same could be said for someone who's relocated for a new job, or someone who's trying to establish a life in a different community after experiencing abuse.

The circumstances that led to the restraining order do not change simply because someone has moved, and the need for protection does not end at the provincial border. Schedule 4 addresses this by making restraining orders from other Canadian jurisdictions enforceable here in Ontario. It's a straightforward change, but one with important implications for the people affected. It reduces the uncertainty that someone might face when moving here and avoids putting them through more legal steps to maintain protection they already have.

Madam Speaker, our legal system needs to take into account the fact that people move between provinces and their need for protection doesn't change when they do. Canadians move from one sea to the next, from one province to the next. Families relocate. People take jobs in different communities. Someone should not lose the benefit of an existing restraining order simply because their circumstances require them to move.

So I support this measure, because it addresses an important gap that can have serious consequences for people who depend on these protections.

Finally, there's another practical issue addressed in the bill: It's the vulnerable sector checks under schedule 8. This is an issue that doesn't often get a lot of attention in public discussions, but it affects a wide range of workplaces and organizations across the province. Many of our institutions depend on properly screened employees and volunteers. This includes schools, hospitals, child care centres, sports organizations and community groups where people work with children, with seniors and other vulnerable communities. Vulnerable sector checks are an important part of that process, but they also need to be completed in a reasonable time frame.

Think about a school board that's hired an educational assistant to support students. That individual has accepted the position, completed all the necessary paperwork and is ready to begin at their new school, but they can't start until that vulnerable sector check has been processed.

Consider again a local sports team preparing for the start of a new season. They've recruited volunteers, organized teams, scheduled practices, rented fields or courts, but some of the volunteers are still waiting for their checks to be completed. Those practices, those games can't happen. The money to rent that space is now wasted. The organization simply can't go on and ignore the fact that the screening requirements haven't been met yet. They have to wait.

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These delays affect more than just the person waiting for the clearance; they affect everyone else in the organization, their teammates, other people that are relying on them—and obviously, there may in fact also be a financial implication.

In a province where employers and community organizations are already working hard to recruit and retain their team, I think we've all experienced that volunteerism across the board is on the decline. We should be looking for ways to avoid unnecessary administrative delays.

Schedule 8 would allow police services in other jurisdictions to assist with processing these checks. That's a positive improvement. These changes will help manage demand, increase capacity and reduce the delays that can arise when local police services are overwhelmed with too many requests.

Of course, we need to maintain proper screening, but we also need to make sure that the process itself isn't creating unnecessary barriers for people who have offered to volunteer or work with vulnerable people. If additional police capacity can help process these checks more efficiently, that is of course worth pursuing.

Madam Speaker, many of our community organizations rely heavily on volunteers. Many of them operate with limited budgets and depend on people who are willing to give their time. And so, this measure is about ensuring that the process is designed to protect the public, but also working effectively for the public. So I support the objective of schedule 8 and the effort to address unnecessary administrative delays.

Now, Madam Speaker, I've focused on these three schedules today, but there is a common thread running through all of them. In each case, we're looking at situations or a situation where people are facing an additional challenge that could be addressed through very commonsense changes.

Survivors of human trafficking should be able to focus on rebuilding their lives, not spend years trying to recover from financial harm caused by their traffickers. A single mom from Manitoba who obtained a restraining order should not have to question whether that protection will continue when she moves here to Ontario. And someone who wants to work in a school, volunteer with a hockey team or contribute to a community group shouldn't be left waiting longer than necessary for screening to be completed.

These are practical concerns that affect people's ability to move forward, to support their families, to engage in their communities in a meaningful and positive way.

I also think, Madam Speaker, it's worth recognizing that progress on these issues does not happen because of any one government or any one political party. The work of our colleague MPP Collard on coerced debt is a good example of that. An opposition member identified a problem, introduced legislation and advocated for a change that addresses the experience of human trafficking survivors. That is a key part of the work that we do here in this place.

The government does not have a monopoly on good ideas, and members of the opposition have an important responsibility to bring forward solutions and push for improvements when and where they are needed.

So with that, Madam Speaker, I'm happy to take questions.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Mr. Guy Bourgouin: Thank you for your presentation.

The government likes to talk a big strong talk when we talk about trafficking, but when we proposed Lydia's Law, they voted it down, which would have improved tracking and acting to reduce criminal cases' delay. Improved tracking and criminal charges being withdrawn requires the Attorney General to review the level of support of supervisors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking provided by the Victim Quick Response Program versus the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

My question to you is, what else—they voted against Bill 41 also. But in your view, why is this government not bringing what we proposed or the official opposition has proposed? Why didn't they introduce it in their bill, which would have helped a lot more people that are being trafficked?

Mr. Stephen Blais: This, of course, is something we've seen consistently from this government since they came to office in 2018. If the idea doesn't originate on their side of the aisle, they don't want to see it implemented in the province.

It was interesting, on human trafficking—I was at the reception this afternoon with the Salvation Army. I have often thought of human trafficking as mostly women and girls for sexual acts etc., and the Salvation Army was calling attention today to trafficking for labour, the new form of slavery, often involving young people and others with developmental disabilities. I think there's a lot that the government can learn from stakeholders, and I think there's a lot that the government can learn from members of the opposition; they just have to be willing to open their ears a little bit.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Hon. Michael S. Kerzner: I'll repeat it again: Bill 119 is not one-and-done. It's our government's incremental approach to keep Ontario safe.

I'll say to the member opposite that when it comes to fighting human trafficking, Bill 119 speaks to a problem that exists: that people who are being coerced into debt, who are being trafficked, have taken on a debt that should not be theirs. Bill 119 recognizes this, and I hope the member opposite will support it, because it's the right thing to do.

Mr. Stephen Blais: That's a classic example of what I was just talking about. I spent nearly 12 minutes talking about that particular section of his legislation, and I said

explicitly that I supported it and thought it was a good idea. And so, if the government is willing to open their ears a little bit and listen, I think on more than an occasional basis they will hear good ideas coming from this side of the aisle, and they might actually be able to move the province forward a little bit.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Mr. Sol Mamakwa: Meegwetch to the member for his presentation. Just quickly, facts and figures: According to Ontario's Domestic Violence Death Review Committee, between 2003 and 2021, a quarter of the 563 people murdered in acts of intimate partner violence were murdered by someone who was known to have breached a restraining order. That is a type of a protective order. That's one fact.

Another fact is between 2016 and 2023, 580 criminal cases in Ontario were stayed for unreasonable delay, including 145 sexual assault cases. Does Bill 119 address some of these issues?

Mr. Stephen Blais: Court delays are happening because courts don't have the resources to actually go to court, try the cases and ensure that people who commit these crimes face consequences for their actions. So no, I didn't see any additional money for the court system in Bill 119. We haven't seen additional funding for the court system in the budget or the mini-budget or anything, really, over the last eight years.

You would think, Madam Speaker, as they let prisoners out of jail accidentally, they would understand that investing in these resources, whether it's for courts or jails, might actually help protect Ontario and make it safer.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Ms. Laura Smith: I want to thank the member opposite for accepting and agreeing with some of the portions that we've brought forward. I worked pretty hard on Bill 138, which was the Change of Name Amendment Act, which stops heinous criminals from making application to change their name. Heinous criminals, under Christopher's Law, were actually capable of changing their name, and we stopped that with the safer streets act. And that's just one increment of what we're doing.

Bill 119 would establish a centralized notification website to improve public awareness. Through you, Speaker: Does the member opposite agree that Ontarians should have straightforward access to public availability of safety information concerning offenders who may pose a significant risk to communities?

Mr. Stephen Blais: I agree that Ontarians should be aware of those in their community who might be interested in causing them harm. That's why I think we were all alarmed when the government didn't inform the public of some eight prisoners they accidentally let out of jail.

So if the government wants to actually act on their rhetoric, they need to invest in systems—whether it's in the court process, whether it's in our jails, or whether it's in public communications processes—to actually inform people that there might be dangerous individuals in their community, especially when this government accidentally lets those dangerous people out of jail.

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The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): I recognize the member for Toronto–St. Paul's.

MPP Stephanie Smyth: To my colleague: You mentioned that there are still some issues that need to be addressed—legit concerns facing the province right now. We've heard from the minister that this is a bill that is not "one-and-done"—he just said it again—and that it's all about further consultation. You mentioned some areas you've supported. What about some areas that you wish they could consult further on, that stand out as red flags to you?

Mr. Stephen Blais: Well, this is not a violence safety issue, but I think we have perhaps all seen it in our communities—and being home for, as I said, 146 days over the summer, I saw it quite a lot: We have a lot of young people riding those motorized scooters, whipping through neighbourhoods at all sorts of speeds, without wearing a helmet and without safety lights. I believe the Minister of Transportation announced that he was going to bring forward legislation to address these things—yet to be seen, of course. Again, that's another example where sometimes the government's rhetoric isn't actually backed up by their actions.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Question?

Mr. John Vanthof: I listened fairly closely to the member's speech, and a lot of it, I agree with.

I have a correctional facility in my riding, Monteith, and I've toured it several times. The last time I toured it, three quarters of the people in that correctional facility had never had their day in court.

Do you think that the government could maybe do more to actually improve the court system so that people who are—never proven that they are guilty of a crime. We're talking about cash bail. But these people have never had the right to have their day in court. Do you think the government could actually do something about that and could have done something about that in this bill?

Mr. Stephen Blais: It seems to me that the solution to that is to ensure that courts have more resources to process those cases, whether that's judges or JPs or prosecutors. That requires an investment of money to actually get those people through the system—because, yes, innocent people should not be spending more time in jail than is absolutely necessary.

It's interesting, though, what this crime-and-punishment government is doing, as it relates to jails. In eastern Ontario, we're in need of a new jail, because the jail in Ottawa is over capacity. There have been studies and reviews of this going on now for well more than eight years. I've learned that the new eastern Ontario jail, originally budgeted for something like $200 million, is now

approaching nearly a billion dollars, I think. That is the report that I've received. So when they take their sweet time doing things, it's not shocking that they become more expensive.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Further debate? Further debate?

Mr. Kerzner has moved third reading of Bill 119, An Act to enact two new Acts and to amend various other Acts.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? I heard a no.

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed to the motion will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Interjection: On division.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Carried on division.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

Third reading agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): Orders of the day?

Hon. Steve Clark: No further business, Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (MPP Andrea Hazell): There being no further business, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 17, at 9 a.m.

The House adjourned at 1645.

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